

17th April, 2009

Mr Mark Scott
Managing Director
Australian Broadcasting Corporation
GPO Box 9994
Sydney NSW 2001

Dear Mr Scott,

At this week's meeting of the Executive of Friends of the ABC SA, it was resolved that we should write to you in regard to the loss of specialised production units from ABC television.

We are aware that the ABC is intent on further outsourcing TV productions and request that you re-consider this strategy.

Money going out from the organisation to private production facilities, which must by definition include profit margin in the costs paid out by the ABC, would provide better value if spent in-house. Ultimately, this loss in funds will result in a loss of expertise amongst existing ABC production staff, and quite likely the loss of those staff either via retrenchment (with associated extra costs) or resignation to pursue a more satisfactory career elsewhere.

The ABC also loses flexibility by outsourcing. Although the ABC might purchase a licence to screen a privately produced program it does not provide the rights to sell DVDs or to sell the program overseas, thus further reducing income.

Additionally, ABC TV would become even more dependent on overseas drama productions, thus reducing local content.

We look forward to your response.

Yours sincerely

Hon. Sandra Kanck
State President
Friends of the ABC SA

cc. ME&AA, CPSU, Peter Hurley