

Submission to ABC Senate Inquiry 2013

As a loyal viewer of ABC TV I have noticed that most high quality programs (Four Corners, Foreign Correspondent, Rake) are made in Sydney. This is an increasing and alarming trend.

Tasmania used to produce Collectors, Gardening Australia, Auction rooms and others. Perth used to produce Can We Help. Queensland does Landline and Australian Story. Melbourne had a strong history of producing high quality drama with Phoenix, Sea Change and many others and previously the iconic Countdown.

I don't understand why this should be the case. The ABC is a national broadcaster. Australia has some of the world's leading broadcast journalists, producers and production crews. I am deeply concerned that this trend in centralising program production in Sydney will be at the detriment of Australia's existing broadcasting skills base.

In addition to what I see as an erosion of Australian talent, the closure of the ABC's Natural History unit does not make economic sense to me. Melbourne used to make Natural History - a show that sold well overseas and therefore was probably quite profitable for the ABC.