

The Slow Death of the ABC

Dear Senators,

I make no apology for my view that quality broadcasting resides for 90% of the time with state broadcasting. The Australian Broadcasting Commission continues to be a fine example of the genre but it is dying the death of a thousand cuts. After the tenure of the unlamented Jonathon Shier there has been a steady decline in the ABC's ability to carry out its role. I realise that the ABC is not popular in political quarters, concede that current affairs interviewers are often unnecessarily abrasive and understand that some small minded politicians may wish to punish the entire organisation to get even.

There is much more to the ABC than current affairs and now it is clear that many excellent programs are being axed and I suspect for financial reasons. Not every Australian wishes to watch a constant diet of 'soapies' or provide funds to the Murdoch empire in order to have something worth viewing. There is also the matter of Australia's broadcasts overseas to consider.

The survival of the ABC as a quality entity is something I feel strongly about.

This is a rich country and can well afford to fund a treasure like the ABC. As representatives of the best interests of Australia I call on you to provide the funds needed to do this.

Yours faithfully,
Martyn G. Smith