

## **Inquiry into recent ABC programming decisions: submission.**

I am concerned about the current move to commercialisation of the ABC.

The ABC has closed its acclaimed Natural History Unit and outsourced all TV documentary and drama, and according to Friends of the ABC now plans to:

1. Sack program-makers and outsource more television production to the private sector.
2. Axe *The New Inventors* and 'rest' *Collectors*.
3. Axe *Art Nation* (its only TV arts magazine program)
4. Disband its TV arts unit and so diminish the ABC's role as an archivist of important Australian artistic achievements.
5. Close TV production units altogether in some states.
6. Consider reducing Radio National arts programming by almost one-sixth

Australia's public broadcaster is thus being transformed into a platform for programs that are made by the same companies that make commercial television content, and with an eye to commercial sales after first screening on the ABC.

I expect the ABC to be a producer of innovative quality programming in all areas.

The community is however rapidly losing the ABC as the innovator and producer of diverse programs of cultural value and intellectual integrity that it is meant to be.

I want:

1. the ABC to be less dependent on outsourced programming
2. the ABC to be funded and rebuilt so that it has strong specialist units to produce high levels of high quality and genuinely local in-house programming in all program genres on radio, TV and online
3. a public broadcaster that is focused on diversity and quality, not ratings.

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