

ABC programming inquiry

To the elected senators conducting this Inquiry,

I am seriously concerned at the apparent direction in which the ABC is going with regard to programming, particularly the serious, ongoing reduction of local in-house productions by talented local teams in all program genres for radio and television. I can only assume that, at least in part, this is due to decreases in funding.

The ABC has been famous for its high quality productions and programming, but the gradual, (inexorable??) move away from local in-house content is such a backward step, and will only serve to disadvantage those who depend on the national broadcaster for accurate information and comprehensive, diverse debate.

As a former secondary teacher, I am aware of the value to our educators of the sort of content made available through ABC programming, and am concerned that much of the commercial version can be, and is, 'skewed' to benefit a particular point of view.

We deserve, and expect to have a public broadcaster that is focussed on diversity and quality, not ratings. We expect to have the ABC adequately funded to continue to produce innovative, quality programming across all genres. There are many areas of importance in our society which only have unbiased exposure of any value on the ABC - like indigenous affairs and arts, public debate on politics and current environmental issues, to name but a few.

We have faith in these Senate Inquiries to get to the 'nub' of things, and trust that this will be no exception.

Helen Verity