

Committee Secretary
Senate Standing Committees on Environment and Communications
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Australia

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Tuesday, September 06, 2011

Re: Senate Inquiry into ABC Program Cuts

Dear Sir or Madam,

I am concerned about the cuts to the ABC programming.

The ABC is not a format to get ratings it is an avenue to help keep the people of Australia informed about all aspects of life, politics, the arts, sport, the environment, education, innovation, business as well as local community activities an important connection in times of trouble such as world events and adverse weather conditions.

There is a plethora of light entertainment on other media outlets we the committed ABC audience are looking for the in depth coverage the ABC has always provided in all aspects of life as stated above.

Some of the things of particular concern are the closure of the ABC Arts Unit and the axing of *Art Nation*, the ABC's flagship Arts program, axing of the *New Inventors*, the long running program that showcased innovation and design. The proposed axing of local sports coverage, lawn bowls coverage and local football coverage (SAFL and WAFL).

If Sydney based production houses, private sector production is to be used regional voices will be lost to the people who most depend on the ABC, rural communities. This will also mean a loss to the ABC (and public ownership) of the rights to the programs it has paid for, loss of effective editorial control over the outsourced programs and I presume the revenue from the sale that some of these programs has generated in the past. I would also presume these outsourced programs will cost more than the efficient production houses of the ABC. Of most concern is that all of this would probably mean a higher cost to tax payers as the ABC will have to source extra funding for these more expensive productions.

Does this also mean the ABC about to abandon the ABC Charter of responsibilities?