

ABC Senate Inquiry

Dear Sir:

I am writing to air my disgust with the Mark Scott/Dalton Model of programming for the ABC.

The ABC is being dismantled, and as a result will eventually become a transmitting station only. The ABC are currently negotiating to build a brand new studio at Southbank, I am sure which will be for rent only as there will be no internal programs or staff employed to operate it. So why build it?

The ABC for years has operated on a shoestring budget with its programs and with skeleton staff. They have done an amazing job under the circumstances. With Mark Scott & Kim Dalton stating that they will be saving money by buying the programs in cheaper from independent producers is a furphy, as nobody would be able to meet the tight budgetary conditions that the ABC has worked under for years.

Axing the Arts programs – TV & Radio and Lawn Bowls, and the intended WAFL, SANFL & perhaps TSL Football codes is a mistake. Sport and Art programs have a select audience, and it is in the ABC Charter to provide for these audiences. Where else do these selected audiences view these types of programs on free to air television? Lawn bowls has a viewing audience of 200,000 people, which will probably be aired now on Fox Sports, which is great if you are financial enough in retirement to afford the fees.

If the ABC want to save money in South Australia, why not produce the ABC children's show currently filmed in the South Australian Film Corp's studios, at the ABC. The ABC studios remain empty, while the SA Film Corp's studio is being utilised.

There is total lack of transparency in decisions made by senior management and the board. The money in S.A. could be saved and diverted to the SANFL, currently listed on the chopping board.

There is such a public outcry as to what is happening with the ABC. The Board and Senior Management need to be seriously questioned as to the motives of their actions with the resulting implications that the ABC will cease to exist, as we know it, and will solely become a building of accountants, senior management and program buyers. The ABC & the charter which it has always worked under, will be lost to audiences all around Australia.

Thank you for receiving my submission.

Regards
Sue Floyd