

Committee Secretary
Senate Standing Committees on
Environment and Communications
PO Box 6100
Parliament House
Canberra ACT 2600
Australia

6th September, 2011

Dear Senate Inquiry,

ABC Programming Decisions – Axing of Art Nation and effective closure of ABC Arts Unit

I am writing to express my dismay at the dismantling of crucial elements of our Australian National Broadcaster. The ABC's plans to outsource arts documentaries and pursue a mantra of – 'Entertainment' at the cost of effective and crucial programming that specifically serves the Arts sector and audiences, is insulting and disturbing. ART NATION is one of the few national forums for Arts in Australia. Half an hour on a Sunday afternoon should be a minimum requirement. How can this move be justified? It is not enough to say that programs will be outsourced. The ABC production crews have decades of experience that ensure that editorial and production values are second to none...in the world. Resources will be wasted and the quality and diversity of programs will most certainly be compromised.

My husband manages an Art Centre and tours home grown art product all over Australia. For him and for independent producers like myself (and regional producers everywhere) this is a killer blow.

The loss of this program and others cut in this process is a clear abandonment of ABC's charter responsibilities.

Please force the ABC to reconsider its latest programming decisions.

Yours sincerely,
Gwendolen De Lacy