

The ABC is one of few public broadcasters left in the world and as such is a national asset that should be preserved at all cost, not for its own sake but because it is bound by its charter to provide programming that reflects the culture of Australia, through arts, science and sports to name but a few.

I have been employed by the ABC for over half my life and have been privileged to work with people who are dedicated to fulfilling the obligations of our charter. I've seen cut back after cut back rob the ABC of so many talented and dedicated content producers, craftspeople, technicians etc and a gradual disintegration into a cynical chase for ratings which as a public broadcaster we should not be concerned with.

Outsourcing programming while so much talent exists within the organization is indefensible. The ABC culture, which encourages cross-pollination of ideas between content areas and media, is dying. The production staff still surviving are stretching small budgets and dwindling resources to the limit, working long hours, often unrewarded monetarily, to produce consistently high quality content.

Turning to outside producers motivated by profit and beholden to who knows what commercial interests will see important programming for specialist audiences replaced by more 'light entertainment'.

The ABC holds a mirror to our society and is the only media organisation in Australia that can truly reflect that vision without the shackles of commercial constraints. The internal culture of dedication to the principals of the charter should be preserved and grown to ensure that the precious resource that is our ABC survive for future generations to be educated, challenged and surprised by.