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Senate Standing Committees on
Environment and Communications
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Re: INQUIRY INTO RECENT ABC PROGRAMMING DECISIONS

I am concerned about recent losses of ABC facilities, such as the Natural History Unit and the outsourcing of TV documentaries and other productions to the private sector. The planned closure of the New Inventors programme and intentions to disband the TV arts unit would lead to great losses to Australian audiences.

It appears that the ABC is being transformed into a platform for programs that are made by the companies that produce commercial television content, with an eye to commercial sales after screening on the ABC. The result will be the loss of the ABC as the innovator and producer of quality programs of cultural value and intellectual integrity that it is meant to be.

I expect the ABC to be a producer of innovative quality programming in all areas. This requires that:

- The ABC be less dependent on outsourced programming.
- The ABC be funded and rebuilt, so that it has strong specialist units to produce high levels of quality and genuinely local in-house programming, for radio, TV and online.
- The public broadcaster be able to focus on diversity and quality, NOT RATINGS.

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