

Submission for Inquiry

To whom it may concern;

I am writing to convey my concerns re the announced changes to the ABC.

Speaking as a blind Consumer; I rely heavily on the radio and some TV for News, Current Affairs, Science programmes and numerous Documentaries.

I seem to have the radio functioning from early morning and periodically till the end of the evening. Consequently the radio is running while I am engaged in household chores.

This practice has been a major feature of my day since retiring from employment 20 years ago at 60 years of age.

I do not consider myself resistant to change, but any diminution in the quality and substance of programmes is a real threat to my involvement and understanding of the world.

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

- the ABC to be less dependent on outsourced programming
- the ABC to be funded and rebuilt so that it has strong specialist units to produce high levels of high quality and genuinely local in-house programming in all program genres on radio, TV and online
- a public broadcaster that is focused on diversity and quality, not ratings

My hope for the future, is to continue enjoying the intellectual stimulation provided by the ABC. My Husband is profoundly deaf, and conversation is very limited. He relies on TV with or without Teletext.

The ABC is a central feature of my day, and for many of my friends. Radio National provides food for thought when communicating with those who are interstate as we hear the same programmes.

Although there are many constraints confronting the Programme Managers, I believe that every effort should be made to provide a service that attracts National and International listeners.

I cannot over state the importance of the National Broadcaster, and I urge the people considering these Submissions to preserve the major features of this most valuable Institution.

Signed by Margaret Tomkins PSM