

Dear Senate Committee,

My submission shall be brief as my concern is simple yet important. I am a professional artist who practices in Warrnambool, a regional city in Victoria where I live with my three young children and my husband. I am preparing to undertake a PhD in Visual Arts next year, I will have to study correspondence and travel to metropolitan cities to gain access to this education unless I choose to leave my community. Arts and cultural opportunities in my town are limited. I rely heavily on the arts content presented to me primarily through the ABC- I have only recently heard that Arts Nation has been cancelled, this troubles me. I do not know how I will gain quality information about contemporary Australian arts practice, this will greatly disable my own practice.

Arts and culture are underrepresented in our media. I cannot understand the decision to reduce Arts Broadcasting when it seemed apparent that we actually deserved an increase in air time.

This is an industry that is already marginal, especially in a regional areas. The decision to reduce ABC arts broadcasting will greatly disadvantage this industry. I work many hours for very little recompense to contribute to the cultural fabric of my community. ABC Arts broadcasting has served to present new Australian ideas and practices throughout Australia, this has helped to promote a sense of cohesion in an otherwise dispersed cultural sector. Arts seeds innovation, it produces cultural capital, it contributes to our national identity and forges connections across diverse social sectors.

Please, please, please increase arts broadcasting on the national broadcaster. Please.

This really matters.

The most sincere regards,

Rebecca Nevin Berger