

9<sup>th</sup> September 2011

The Secretary

Senate Inquiry – ABC programming

Parliament House

CANBERRA 2600

Dear Secretary,

**Response to possible changes to ABC programming**

I am responding to some of the terms of reference to indicate my concern at the possible changes to ABC programming. This submission conveys the need to keep diversity and integrity of programming at the ABC.

Kind regards

Carolyn Eccleston

## **Inquiry into recent ABC programming decisions**

### **Terms of Reference**

That the following matter be referred to the Environment and Communications References Committee for inquiry and report by 12 October 2011:

The decision by the television management of the Australian Broadcasting Corporation (ABC) to significantly cut the number and amount of ABC-produced programs, jobs (including through forced redundancies) and potentially affect resources, as announced on 2 August 2011, with particular reference to:

(a) the implications of this decision on the ABC's ability to create, produce and own its television content, particularly in the capital cities of Brisbane, Adelaide, Perth and Hobart;

(b) the implications of this decision on Australian film and television production in general and potential impact on quality and diversity of programs;

Out of respect for the late Andrea Stretton who presented the ABC's Sunday afternoon arts show I would stress the importance of the integrity of Andrea's presentation. Clearly, there are new ABC interviewers who could also contribute to diverse programs.

Recommendation: That the ABC does not cut jobs but finds new programs where interviewers can display the skills that we grew to respect from Andrea Stretton. There are a number of male and female presenters currently working for the ABC channels who could continue the tradition.

(c) whether a reduction in ABC-produced programs is contrary to the aims of the National Regional Program Initiative;

(d) the implications of these cuts on content ownership and intellectual property;

(e) the impact of the ABC's decision to end internal production of Bananas in Pyjamas and to outsource the making of a 'Bananas in Pyjamas' animation series to Southern Star Endemol Proprietary Limited;

'Bananas in Pyjamas' belongs with the ABC and has helped young presenters and actors start their careers not to mention the interest created for a vast audience of Australian children.

Recommendation: That this program continues to be produced internally and is not outsourced.

Dramas that could be sourced from Australian writers and produced internally need to be continued. A past example would be 'Seachange'.

(f) the future potential implications of these cuts on ABC television's capacity to broadcast state league football and rugby;

and

Super Series Bowls competitions

Recommendation: Please reconsider the withdrawal of funds for this program watched by many bowlers.

(g) any other related matters -