

*Submission to Senate Inquiry on ABC*

*To the Chairman*

*Senate Inquiry into ABC TV/Radio*

*from*

*Janet Howie*

*Submission:*

*I have been a regular ABC radio listener and TV viewer all my life, combined with some SBS. Commercial TV has little appeal. The frequent ad breaks are appalling.*

*The ABC offers a wealth of cultural material as well as excellent news coverage, current affairs and political and social ideas and debate.*

*The ABC programs are original in content and style. The ABC must remain an innovator, and producer of diverse programs of cultural value and intellectual integrity.*

*I am deeply concerned about the proposed changes to both radio and TV that will diminish its contribution to our cultural life. Why close what is good? Why outsource programming to the private sector companies that make commercial television content?*

*I am particularly alarmed about possible changes to Ramona Koval's fabulous Book Show. This program is closely connected to the major Writers (and readers) festival across the nation. Thousands of us listen in and benefit. Do not shorten it to add art content. Let there be a separate art program.*

*As a hearing aid wearer, I often find it easier to listen to radio and TV (with hearing device and text) in the quietness of my home rather than take my chances at public gatherings where microphones, if supplied are often inadequate. Do not take this excellent service away from me, and many others who cannot get to outside events.*

*The ABC must remain true to its charter. Otherwise our nation's cultural life will be diminished, and we will be the losers.*