

Inquiry into broadcasting, online content and live production to rural and regional Australia

Submission I am regional Australian based musician and performer.

Dear Committee,

I would like to make some simple and basic comments to the inquiry.

Australian Broadcasting Corporation

The ABC is need of more government funds not less.

The present governments funding cuts of some \$254 million, has lead to redundancies of nearly 500 people many of which are highly creative. The centralisation of broadcast services is disconnecting and disadvantaging regional and rural Australia. This also results in less exposure to the work of our creative producers, directors, musicians and artists.

Most Australians according to Newspoll some 84% think our ABC offer good value for their tax dollar.

It is vital for our nation's democracy for this independent public funded institution to be ever present in all parts of Australia, no matter what political party is in government all governments should be neutral and hands off.

Radio National is vital and offers possible the world's best intelligent radio to all Australians. To have its Bush Telegraph programme axed was a negative to regional Australia. I feel RN over all has being dumb down due to cost cutting and we are seeing less locally produced radio shows now.

Live music in regional Australia

We have many music festivals of various types and music styles in regional Australia, many partly funded by governments. This is a good thing and should not be undervalued when regarding social or economic benefits. These festivals see original content encouraged, but sadly in other areas the music business seems all consumed with nostalgia.

We see mostly cover bands and tribute shows everywhere in our pubs, clubs and throughout performing arts centres. Tribute band, concept type shows that contain no original material are a cancer to creativity. They should not in any way be co funded by Governments.

They exist on mass everywhere with even regional performing arts centres sadly embracing them, these venues are often built with government money are supporting these mindless tribute bands/shows. This is not improving art or culture, it is nostalgia.

We need a plan that can encourages regional performing arts centres and theatres not rely on these types of shows, but rather try to develop an audience for original performers of different genres.

Some sort of programme that helps fund and encourage venues to take a chance rather than booking safe options that in the long term do nothing for our creative culture.

I don't know exactly what or how this can be done, but I can see a real need for this and it is worthy of more discussion.