

Dear Sir,

The ABC is important. I'm not a big TV watcher, or radio listener (I like live music, events and silence in my life), but I still greatly value the ABC.

Recent programming decisions undermine the ABC's crucial role as supporter of the arts and national broadcaster.

I therefore submit that the following are poor decisions which should be reversed:

- closure of the ABC Arts Unit and cessation of *Art Nation*, the ABC's flagship Arts program;
- cessation of the *New Inventors*, the long running program that showcased innovation and design;
- cessation of local sports coverage. Lawn bowls coverage is to be axed and local football coverage (SAFL and WAFL) could be cut.

Furthermore, care must be taken not to:

- abandon ABC Charter responsibilities;
- lose regional voices in the national broadcaster by allowing production to become concentrated in private sector, Sydney-based production houses;
- lose ABC (public) ownership of the rights to programs the ABC has paid for;
- outsource programs, losing effective editorial control;
- chase ratings at the expense of committed specialist audiences, and mirroring the light entertainment programming of the commercial channels;
- embrace higher costs by making programs outside the ABC's highly efficient production houses;
- run the ABC at higher cost to taxpayers.

It's not all about money. Our ABC provides, and must continue to provide, a different voice, that is in the nation's interest.