

Sender: Brett Franklin

Renewal of ABC coverage of WAFL football

I wish to make a submission regarding the continuation of the above coverage.

In brief the negative effect to my elderly parents and their friends of removal of this coverage cannot be over stated. My parents went to the games for years but over the past few years the television coverage is the only chance they get to see the WAFL.

In one of my roles for my employer I speak regularly with many people in remote and rural WA (we have 99 agent offices across WA I am responsible for). Many of these people have relayed to me the devastating effect of removal of services and entertainment to their communities, specifically the importance of sport to their communities. Having a swimming pool helps their community survive so does a football team.

The hopes and dreams of these people is built in some ways on regular telecasts of their favoured sport (not all communities have access to AFL coverage).

I note with interest a recent story on the 7.30 report which highlighted the start of a business which involves local people making footballs by hand and developing the business across the top end of Australia. Without some football television coverage, I fear for the success of this endeavour.

Please think seriously before removing funding for this essential service.

Regards,
Brett.