

TO: The Chairperson of the Senate Inquiry into recent ABC program decisions

I am writing to express my very deep concern at the recent decisions concerning ABC programming.

The ABC is clearly a national treasure as long as it is able to fulfil the role it was originally established to fulfil. Recent program decisions are a massive undermining of its capacity to do that. How can we allow such a valuable institution, so vital to a thinking and informed population that is capable of supporting the true values of democracy, to be discarded as if all the work it does is worth nothing more than a sneeze on a spring day?

I expect the ABC (our, ie the people's, ABC) to be a producer of innovative quality programming in all areas.

I desperately want:

1. the ABC to be less dependent on outsourced programming
2. the ABC to be funded and rebuilt so that it has strong specialist units to produce high levels of high quality and genuinely local in-house programming in all program genres on radio, TV and online
3. a public broadcaster that is focused on diversity and quality, not ratings

Australia's public broadcaster is being transformed into a platform for programs that are made by the same companies that make commercial television content, and with an eye to commercial sales after first screening on the ABC. The community is rapidly losing the ABC as the innovator and producer of diverse programs of cultural value and intellectual integrity that it is meant to be.

I feel that all of this significantly reduces my quality of life as well as my love for my country as our traditional ABC is integral to that love.

It is URGENT that the ABC's PRIVATISATION by stealth be STOPPED.

Yours faithfully,

1. Adrian Smith
2. Kathrine J. Farn