

Senate Standing Committees on Environment and Communications

Thursday 08/09/2011

**Submission for maintaining and expanding arts coverage by our national broadcaster**

Dear Inquiry members

It is vital for the cultural life of regional and urban Australia to retain the ABC arts unit and to continue to produce arts programs from both inside and outside the ABC. It is important to produce television from and for the whole country that is not commercial. Many important Art forms are represented and explored on Art Nation, one of the few broadcast arts programs in our country.

As an Arts educator, I find the ABC art programs to be a vital source of material and inspiration for my students. For young people living away from large urban centres, this kind of exposure to the cultural milieu of our people is crucial.

I implore you not to dumb down the ABC and to keep the ABC Arts unit.

Thank you for the opportunity to have a say on this matter.

Karena Gregory