

Well over a year ago a programme idea was pitched from within the ABC. In accordance with Mr Dalton's policy, and under his instruction, the programme was not commissioned until the employee had left and resubmitted the idea from outside. The programme production began with ABC staff involvement limited to sound post production and final video post production. The production, however, started falling apart and the ABC was forced to bail out the production by supplying camera and sound operators (including interstate travel); producers, production co-ordinator, editors and editing facilities for substantial periods of time. Although there may have been some issues with the ABC changing instructions to the independent producer, those concerned have cited inexperienced personnel as a major hindrance to the external; producer meeting standards and deadlines. It would appear the ABC has ended up spending considerably more on the production than it would have cost if made in house, and has entered the deal having relinquished its ongoing rights to the production. Although the end product will undoubtedly be of sound quality, this will largely be due to the input of ABC personnel who are now, with the current cuts to TV, leaving the ABC or heading interstate. It also raises questions over appropriate use of public funds and whether this model of production is best practice for the ABC.