

Subject: Re The Australian Broadcasting Corporation's commitment to reflecting and representing regional diversity
Date: Saturday, 19 January 2013 3:41:43 PM

Hi

My family got our first television in the 1960's. I learned a great deal about Australia from ABC programmes. I clearly recall my enjoyment of the 15 minute (or so) "Weekend Magazine" at the end of a shortened news telecast on Sunday evenings. So much I didn't know about in this big country, and stories from more remote areas where few people went.

It made me feel I was part of a wider community and also a nation with an identity. I realise now it was a very big part of forming a notion of myself as an Australian (I am 4th generation Australian born of Anglo/Irish heritage).

Later there were shows like This Day Tonight, and Monday Conference. Four Corners from early on was also excellent and informative.

The ABC taught me a lot about the world but especially about Australia and Australians through its good programming.

I wonder if there is enough of this type of showing Australians what's going on in other parts of the country being broadcast today, and introducing people, native animals and plants and activities we do not come across in our usual routines and environments.

I think the ABC has moved to the right, too. I am well aware the ABC's detractors accuse it of a left bias. However it seems to me that the ABC has become more timid over time about tackling certain issues than it was in times past.

The ABC used also to be a beacon for the arts. No more.

It is a great pity its funding is tied to the whim of whoever happens to be in power, or who might be next in power, in Canberra. I don't want to see the ABC muffled by any political party, politician or corporate influence. When it is, it is no longer "our ABC" for our country and its inhabitants.