

**Subject:** Senate Inquiry into recent ABC program decisions  
**Date:** Wednesday, 7 September 2011 12:08:41 AM

---

**Submission to the Senate Inquiry into recent ABC program decisions.**

I am extremely concerned about the recently closed Natural History Unit in ABC TV and the plans to axe various programs such as *The New Inventors*, *Collectors*, and *Art Nation*. The ABC has a significant role in producing and presenting innovative and quality programmes in all areas. I am appalled if it will contract programmes out to private companies who produce similar programmes for commercial channels. It is important that as a public broadcaster, the ABC focuses on the production of diverse and high quality programmes and should be funded to do so.

Ratings should not be an issue. Ratings are significant to commercial channels but should not be to the ABC. The ABC should be providing excellent programmes ( funded by Government), not seeking to produce high rating programmes, whose content is at the level of a very low common denominator.

Gillian Johnson