

Subject: Please reconsider recent ABC program decisions
Date: Wednesday, 7 September 2011 2:01:24 PM

Dear Sir/Madam

I was dismayed to hear about the ABC's plans on cutting its Arts programming. As a PhD student in Visual Arts, and also a curator, I think the ABC has provided a wonderful range of arts programs, but over the years I have watched these diminish in frequency and lament this latest short-sighted decision. The ABC is known for the quality of its vibrant and innovative programming in all areas including the Arts, but I confess it seems to have become more conservative over the years, and this latest decision will begin aligning it with commercial stations with their bland, broad, populist ratings-based outlook. The Arts are not just a luxury - in these troubled times art provides a way for people to reflect and comment on their world, and to share their stories, and to provide solace and even hope. Art provokes and questions and inspires.

As one of the last bastions of independent television, and as a national network, I think it is critical that the ABC continues to produce shows inhouse, with its wonderful range of experienced and dedicated experts. Ideally it would be fantastic if the ABC could 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.

Please reconsider this decision, and stand up for quality programs for everyone.

Yours sincerely,

Sarina Noordhuis-Fairfax