

Subject: Senate Inquiry into recent ABC program decisions
Date: Wednesday, 7 September 2011 3:28:56 PM

Sirs,

Australia needs the ABC to supply quality, well researched programming in all areas. It must keep its team spirit in order to keep producing world-class programming.

The ABC has always provided a space where production staff could grow, imagine and generate new ideas. They build relationships which enable cross pollination, and some brilliant programs have come out of that over the decades.

We know the pay is not brilliant, but clearly when you add to the mix the strong team spirit, good people stay at the ABC and they develop there, and we get a brilliant service as an outcome.

The ABC must not emulate the commercial stations, it must not be profit driven, it must be education and thought driven. It must lead, not follow.

Outsourcing of programs means losing the great team of people in the ABC, those in front of the camera/microphone, and those behind.

Radio, Television, Online, all of these need funding by the government to keep quality programs coming. It's only the ABC who can lead, the commercials just follow ratings.

Specialist units have been whittled away, we used to have great in-house production on a program such as Catalyst, now the quality has fallen, it's OK, but it's not the program it was.

And who else would have made The Collectors? It's brilliant, it draws in people who haven't been interested or knowledgeable in the areas, it is fascinating.

Thank you for your attention.

Barbara Darvall