

Committee Secretary
Senate Standing Committees on Environment and Communications
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Australia

Inquiry into recent ABC Programming Decisions

We think that proposed changes by ABC management to reduce arts programming and cease production of "The Inventors" are short sighted in the extreme.

Our nation needs to be able to think clearly and creatively rather than just react to the admonitions of the media and corporations. The issue is about creativity in our population.

Given the types of challenges which are with us now and will present in the future it is essential that we maintain a culture of creative thinking; along with clear and logical thinking whether this be in arts, science or innovation generally. It is not by chance that graduates from the visual arts are head hunted for corporate think tanks.

We believe that the government should be seriously concerned if the efforts by the ABC to marginalise, limit or eliminate arts programming are only in the name of increasing audience ratings.

We urge the government to insist that the ABC maintains arts programming to reflect the nature of our society, and its future needs. Arts industries in rural and regional areas are a major factor in tourism numbers. The amount of community activities in the arts is an indication of active engagement in our community surely a necessary ingredient in maintaining a democracy.

If current arts programs are not rating perhaps we need a better mix of arts programsperhaps more in depth examination of the ideas involved, in language audiences understand; looking at ways of challenging and involving audiences, the high end, the learning and educative role and community arts.

To get rid of these programs entirely is a bit like throwing the baby out with the bath water.....

Yours sincerely

John Clarke and Annette Minchin