

I am an avid listener of ABC radio and when I watch TV it is always the ABC channels. Now that I am retired I have more time to listen to the radio and because I live in North East Victoria the only radio channel that I can obtain is the frequency 106.5 FM. Whilst this channel does have some dedicated broadcasters it lacks the professionalism of local radio 774 in Melbourne and this is very disappointing. My major criticism of both radio stations is when they take the same feed at the weekend including Friday evening and it is all sport. The inane broadcasting of football commentary is "driving me insane". My suggestion is that all sport should be broadcast on a dedicated channel whenever it is broadcast and have other channels for local radio to undertake similar program broadcasting to that covered during weekdays. There are several TV channels available for the TV watcher so why not the same for radio? I am not against sport as I always listen to test cricket broadcasts from the ABC and, when available, the Australian Open tennis which is very well covered.

Radio National is not available in the Kiewa Valley where I live and I am reduced to downloading podcasts for later playing through an iPhone or from a CD. I should add that this means that I have to download a lot of data through a not very fast internet connection and also an internet connection that charges for the data downloaded. I ask that you and the Board consider country listeners and remember that we also willingly pay our taxes so that the ABC can survive as an independent organisation of high quality.

I have become aware that some of the ABC TV programs e.g. Collectors, New Inventors, lawn bowls and Art Nation are to be discontinued and I find that this is most disturbing. Only the ABC broadcasts such quality programs and I am most disturbed that the ABC is moving towards the more inane commercial broadcasters in quality.

My last issue for this submission is the continuing self-advertising that occurs in both radio and TV programs. The style and frequency of the advertising promos is appalling and most upsetting to a dedicated ABC listener and viewer.

I sincerely hope that the Senate Committee accepts my comments as being of genuine concern and whilst I appreciate that the ABC has to compete for limited Government funding it must remain truly independent and strive for quality rather than an imitation of its commercial rivals.