

To the Chair
Senate Standing Committee on
Environment and Communication
Parliament House
Canberra, ACT.



09/09/11

Dear Senator and Committee,

It is important to have a well-funded and independent Australian Broadcasting Commission. The nation needs a return to the policy and values held by the founders of this government-funded communication and entertainment organization. This was in 1932, and the ABC has had a remarkably fine history, until recent times. Since market economics took hold, making money for someone or other became a value in it's own right. The actual ideas of the professional staff, both reporters and entertainers, who grew to work as a team with the interests of Australians at heart, have been farmed out to outside media units. Whoever, probably, gives the lowest quote. Whilst good work is often done, we cannot be sure who is funding the work, always.

The shrinking of the home staff of the ABC, and currently in particular the axing of arts programs, is disappointing. In particular, the reports of "resting" the program "The Collectors", is sad. It is so refreshing to have a program which is inclusive of a wide range of tastes and is gentle, polite and friendly.

What on earth is happening? Please consider also, the importance of our political correspondents, both here and overseas. They do a great deal of excellent work. As we now know, the Murdoch media empire has been capable of "spin", and a certain bias in reporting. We need the ABC, and for it to remain well funded, to make sure it remains independent; giving a balanced assessment of different points of view.

Regards,

Jenny Ellis