

I have happily worked for the ABC in South Australia for more than a decade after previously working in commercial media and with the BBC. During more than 25 years in broadcasting I have seen and been involved in a spectrum of programs from light entertainment to serious documentary.

The beauty of the ABC is that it is everywhere in this country not just in the capital cities. This organisation has had a commitment for generations of quality and context. It is the reason that stories are told of Afghan descendents in Marree, miners from Broken Hill and rocket scientists from Woomera. I have seen cricket documentaries made from Adelaide that are feted among lovers of the game internationally.

Content in South Australia at other organisations has shrivelled up. There are many labels given to this including cost cutting/saving – editorial redirection – greater choice for viewers. It all means the same thing that people in this part of the country do not get an opportunity to tell their stories.

The ABC has continued to shine out in this landscape of reduced content.

There should be alarm at moves now by the ABC to redirect programs away from its own people to independents for this simple reason – everyone in Australia contributes to the ABC so everyone in Australia should have their stories told. Taking the money paid through taxes and given to independent producers seems unfair. It is unfair to staff who will lose their jobs and also unfair to viewers. My experience is that when independent producers are involved they chase ratings – that isn't their fault. What they don't have is an ABC commitment to Australia.

I can't speak for other states but I might suggest you could insert Tasmania/Western Australia/Queensland, Northern Territory for South Australia and the feeling might be the same.