

Subject: ABC cuts.

Dear Senate Enquiry, I am writing to say how sad I find it that what resources the ABC has left are being wasted on the outsourcing of program production often with very mediocre returns either by way of entertainment or cultural value. Often ABC money seems to be doled out to producers of either dubious talent or experience with the results being programs that would be better suited in quality to the standards of the lowest of the commercial stations. What few quality shows that are still made as a co production are inevitably so underfunded that they barely make it through the production process without ending up looking threadbare in quality once on screen. The art of film and TV maybe in the smoke and mirrors, increasingly at the ABC it feels like just the smoke with not much substance behind it. The ABC still has a great reservoir of talented staff but increasingly they are becoming marginalised by their own employer, which is a great waste of skill. One supposes as it is an aging workforce of permanent staff that management is awaiting the die off of employees through retirement. With no permanent staff left you can outsource all one likes.

The characterisation of SBS as being staffed by someone with a desk a phone and a cheque book will within a few years also be true of the ABC. The "here's the money you bring it back and we'll put it on air" attitude can also lead to a degree of economy on the side of the co producers which often affects the quality of what ends up on screen quite apart from the ability of staff to work effectively on the production. I am sure some of the inexperienced producers that fall under the ABC's largesse and orbit will eventually be the creators of content of quality in the future but for the interim much of what is made seems half baked by the time it gets to the screen.

Perhaps the ABC is spread too thin, multiple channels and radio stations, internet platforms and orchestras, all this out of a yearly budget that would be hard pressed to run channel nine for a year. Whilst I am sure that some would regard it all as value for money sometimes more isn't always better if all those media have is a bit of mediocrity with a few highlights to show for it all.