

Our ABC

Senate Standing Committee on Environment and Communications

Dear Senators,

We regard the ABC as one of the great institutions of our society. We value its objective broadcasting of news, its provision of programs that present the whole range of Australian culture, and its willingness to be innovative even if not always successful in terms of ratings.

It pains us to see it having to compete for ratings rather than having to fulfil the terms of its charter. We grieve that it is so impoverished that it has to outsource much of its programming.

As our nation's public broadcaster it needs to be sufficiently funded from our taxes so that it is completely independent of commercial advertising and the pressures that brings.

We are very concerned that the Government has awarded our overseas broadcasting to the Murdoch organisation (surely a disgraced body) and not to our national broadcaster.

We urge you to recommend a massive increase in funding for the ABC so that it may truly fulfil the aspirations of its charter.

Yours sincerely,
Helen and John Howells