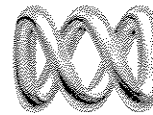
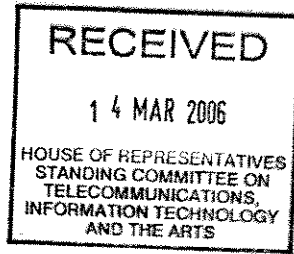


10 March 2006



ABC
Australian
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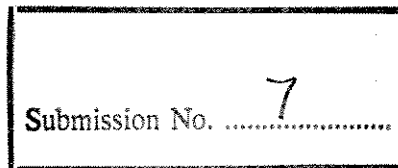
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Dr Anna Dacre
Secretary
Standing Committee on Communications, Information Technology and the Arts
House of Representatives
Parliament House
Canberra ACT 2600



Dear Dr Dacre

The ABC thanks the Standing Committee on Communications, Information Technology and the Arts for the opportunity to contribute to the Committee's inquiry into community broadcasting.

The ABC does not believe it is appropriate for it to provide substantive comment on matters relating exclusively to other broadcasting sectors, in this case community broadcasting. However, the Corporation makes the following general observations.

The ABC believes that the vitality of Australian broadcasting depends substantially on the existing balanced structure of national, community, commercial and subscription sectors, each of which is unique and complementary. The community broadcasting sector thus makes an important contribution to media diversity in Australia.

The ABC also acknowledges the important role that the community broadcasting sector plays as an opportunity for individuals to test their interest in radio and/or television. Over the years, a significant number of talented people have come to the ABC from community broadcasting.

Should you have any further questions, the contact officer in relation to this matter is Dr David Sutton, who may be contacted on (02) 8333 2429 or by email at sutton.david@abc.net.au.

Yours sincerely

Russell Balding
Managing Director