

AUSFTA
Submission No: 55

RECEIVED
14 APR 2004

To the Joint Standing Committee on Treaties, BY:

I advocate cultural exclusion from the free trade agreement.

As an actor, I believe the Free Trade Agreement, as it stands at the moment, will limit the amount of television programs made in Australia, leaving me and many others with limited or no job opportunities.

Furthermore, as an Australian citizen, I would like to see our unique culture, people and stories represented on television (both free to air and pay tv). I do not want to be fed american programming. We need to increase the quota of Australian programming on TV, not limit or decrease it. We need to support the Australian industry, not over run it. I want to hear Australian voices. I do not want the future generation of Australians to be brought up with American accents.

I want to keep Australian kids programs, i will not be happy with less than 4% of kids' programs being Australian. And i want Australian news programs on pay television. I want to hear Aussies reporting on issues. As it is, American news broadcasts give little or no coverage of foreign news stories. Please keep Australia in touch with itself and the rest of the world - not just the US.

As a voter, I want my opinion to count, and i want to be heard. I do not believe the Free Trade Agreement holds enough benefit for the Australian public, whether actor, citizen or voter.

Please exclude Australian culture from the Free Trade Agreement.

Yours Sincerely,

Nicole da Silva