

Senate Environment, Communications, Information Technology and the Arts
References Committee
S1.57 Parliament House, CANBERRA ACT 2600
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Re: Inquiry into the independence of the ABC.

Dear senators,

I don't think the ABC is impartial, and I don't think it can be or should be in this current political climate for the following reason.

The ABC is a public body funded by public monies for the benefit of the public, this means that it must conform to the aspirations of the Australian community, to assist it, to guide it through complex social issues, to educate the community on environmental, scientific and political matters in a manner the majority of Australians can understand.

I would argue that the universal declaration of human rights to which Australia is a party necessitates that Australia disseminate information which promotes human rights and equality as apposed to the creation of wealth, which out of necessity abrogates the same, the preamble is in itself a telling reason especially the last paragraph-

Universal Declaration of Human Rights

PREAMBLE

Whereas recognition of the inherent dignity and of the equal and inalienable rights of all members of the human family is the foundation of freedom, justice and peace in the world,

Whereas disregard and contempt for human rights have resulted in barbarous acts which have outraged the conscience of mankind, and the advent of a world in which human beings shall enjoy freedom of speech and belief and freedom from fear and want has been proclaimed as the highest aspiration of the common people,

Whereas it is essential, if man is not to be compelled to have recourse, as a last resort, to rebellion against tyranny and oppression, that human rights should be protected by the rule of law,

Whereas it is essential to promote the development of friendly relations between nations,

Whereas the peoples of the United Nations have in the Charter reaffirmed their faith in fundamental human rights, in the dignity and worth of the human person and in the equal rights of men and women and have determined to promote social progress and

better standards of life in larger freedom,

Whereas Member States have pledged themselves to achieve, in cooperation with the United Nations, the promotion of universal respect for and observance of human rights and fundamental freedoms,

Whereas a common understanding of these rights and freedoms is of the greatest importance for the full realization of this pledge,

Now, therefore, The General Assembly proclaims This Universal Declaration of Human Rights as a common standard of achievement for all peoples and all nations, to the end that every individual and every organ of society, keeping this Declaration constantly in mind, shall strive by teaching and education to promote respect for these rights and freedoms and by progressive measures, national and international, to secure their universal and effective recognition and observance, both among the peoples of Member States themselves and among the peoples of territories under their jurisdiction.

The ABC must be able to expose human right abuses, to expose governments that do nothing to fix abuses and that continue them, so that the people can rebel against such tyranny.

The ABC must remain in public hands putting out a message, which conforms to our international obligations, which should be local aspirations.

The ABC can't do this by conforming to the wishes of a conservative government.

Conservative governments are the enemy of public unbiased reporting, all public bodies must be privatized under a conservative government - that is their ideology, which is therefore- as it impacts on the ABC against our international obligations under the universal declaration.

What drives conservative governments is wealth creation for those who pay their electoral expenses, therefore, conservative governments should put there agenda through the commercial media which has the same agenda, at there own party's expense, and leave the ABC alone.

There is another example I would like to bring up, a simple comparison between programs; I would compare the ABCs "Landline" program and the CH9 "On The Land".

What is striking about the differences, even now, is that the ABC may assume the role of the CH9 program under the conservatives in the future.

The “On The Land” program is sponsored by agricultural companies, which have as their agenda the creation of wealth through the sale of fertilizer/ pesticides etc, and its motivation is the same. Therefore the industry would promote a culture, which has at its core the ideal of mass consumption of dangerous chemicals. Which are mostly harmful to the earth and its inhabitants and sensitive marine ecosystems .

“Landline” however, as a program made by THE public broadcaster, must educate the people about the dangers of chemical use and ways to avoid it. Together with this to promote environmentally friendly farming and land use together with providing unbiased rural news and even stock reports, this unbiased reporting may be justly biased simply because its agenda by necessity is opposite to that of the national party- so be it.

Thus what we have is again *wealth creation v a social and environmental agenda*, the law must be, where public broadcasting is concerned, that wealth creation be left to the commercial media, excluding new ideas which compete with current dirty technologies which may not get much of an airing on the commercial media.

The ABC must put forward a socially just agenda that is its role that makes it the enemy of conservative governments because conservative governments are the enemy of the people.

Therefore in conclusion, I submit that the ABC cannot be unbiased towards conservative governments because quite simply the ABC must maintain a socially just agenda regardless of whichever government is in power, if that means that the labor party gets slightly less condemnation- it simply means that the ABC should respond to attacks upon itself- which usually come from the conservatives as a matter of course.

The ABC must maintain its socially just agenda (or management must return to it once this government is ousted) that means that the ABC must logically be biased against the conservatives.

Let the ABC be itself, this means of course that the right wingers will always cop a serve, but **you get that** , so , cop it sweet right wingers and buy your support with your dirty money on the commercial networks.

P.S is it just me or is the ABC becoming ANGLO centric , and will this mean more young Australians will be named Winston ?

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