

9 April 2006

The Committee Secretary

Senate Environment, Communications, Information Technology and the Arts Committee

Department of the Senate

Parliament House

Canberra ACT 2600

Sirs/Medames

Inquiry into the Australian Broadcasting Corporation Amendment Bill 2006

Increasing numbers of the general public who are constant viewers and listeners of the ABC programs have for some years become dissatisfied with the loss of quality programs from that Broadcaster. We have observed with concern the decreasing financial support from Government, and the decreasing number of knowledgeable people experienced in broadcasting appointed to the Board. Any move to reduce this quality further must be viewed with suspicion of another unspoken agenda.

Tied up with these inferior results, are the loss of our best Australian local ingredient stars - actors, authors and television producers who are dependent on the quantity of Australian work originally provided through the ABC. This previous percentage has diminished to the point that our best people are seeking bread-and-butter from commercial advertising. This is a national disgrace.

Where is any forward planning for our culture? Why are we subjected to the American dream of violence, soapies, and inferior 5th grade dramas of an entirely different culture? The Australian Broadcasting Corporation has been the life support and encouragement for many outstanding Australians. This is where they should continue to look for support.

The departures soon of two or three of the present Board members gives an opportunity for these problems of the past to be successfully addressed. Quality, conviction, and visionary planning should be the basis of new appointments. The Staff representative on the Board should continue, and be a person with great knowledge of the Art which is Broadcasting. They should be reappointed and listened to as a respected member - representing practical experience of the Arts and the people who produce them for us.

Competing beside other broadcasters, the ABC should retain its independence and be returned to its previous respected position in the Australian community.

Yours sincerely