

Friends of the ABC



Media plays an important role in our lives.

In modern times media is the gateway to information. It determines what the public will and will not know about all range of matters. Television, in particular, has a significant influence on our culture.

A healthy *independent* and *comprehensive* national public broadcaster is critical to Australian democracy and culture. The ABC's independence - from political and commercial influence - enables it to report without fear or favour. The ABC is responsible to promote Australian culture and, as a comprehensive broadcaster, to cater for a diversity of interests in the community. Importantly, it broadcasts to other countries programs that encourage awareness of Australia.

Friends of the ABC

As one of the most important producers and disseminators of culture and information in Australia, the ABC is a body with which the entire community is vitally concerned.

Friends of the ABC is the major organisation representing the public's interest in its national public broadcaster. FABC is politically unaligned. It works for the best interests of independent and comprehensive national public broadcasting, challenging governments of any political persuasion that fail to support the ABC or attempt to interfere with its independence.

FABC is a critical supporter of the ABC. Friends speaks out on occasions it perceives the ABC Board or management not to be acting in the best interests of public broadcasting.

FABC's objectives are to support the maintenance and advancement of the ABC:

- to fulfil to a high standard its role as an independent and comprehensive national public broadcaster;
- to be adequately funded by government to fulfil its role;
- to remain independent of government influence, commercial sponsorship and advertising; and
- to promote Australian culture in all its diversity.

Friends of the ABC -

- engages in a range of activities at national, state and local levels. These include: informing the public, communicating with Members of Parliament and media, presenting submissions to government reviews and inquiries, addressing public meetings, conducting rallies and publishing newsletters.
- has a diverse range of members. Income is earned from membership subscriptions, public donations and fundraising activities. FABC receives no government funding.
- exists in each state and territory. FABCs are independent, non-profit community organisations which work together in national campaigns. Some state-based FABCs have local groups that operate in regional and some metropolitan areas.

There are huge pressures on the ABC. Increased concern about its future as an independent and comprehensive broadcaster has resulted in Friends of the ABC (FABC) becoming a large organisation with a growing membership.

Friends of the ABC (Vic) is the largest Friends of the ABC body, and the only FABC to have an office and staffing. It can provide contact details for FABCs in each state and territory.

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