

2nd October 2012

Letter to the Editor, Age & SMH



Dear Editor

Re: Erosion of ABC Radio National – ABC Priorities & Inadequate Funding

ABC Radio National, renowned for programs of quality on a wide range of subjects, is being diminished.

This year, generalist talk programs, traditionally a feature of local radio, took the place of specialist programming in some time slots. Now some specialist programs will be axed, including radio plays and book readings, and others will have to be produced in less time to meet a \$1million cut to RN's 2013 budget.

Despite a myth that is perpetuated by opponents of independent public broadcasting, the ABC is seriously under-funded.

As a result, the traditional high quality of ABC programming is suffering. ABC management is neglecting the resourcing of radio, instead directing more funds to television, particularly TV programs which it expects to be of broad popular appeal, rate well and be saleable to other networks.

People who feel passionately that the ABC should remain a distinct and innovate broadcaster producing a challenging and exciting range of programs need to let the ABC Board know they will not accept funds being cut from Radio National.

They must also let their local members of parliament know that in the forthcoming Federal Budget they expect the Government to fund the national broadcaster so that it can meet *all* of its charter responsibilities.

Yours sincerely

David Risstrom
President
Friends of the ABC (Vic)

GS: media folder