

17th September 2014

Letter to the Editor, Age & SMH



Dear Editor

Re: **The ABC is vital** (Prof Stanley article, Age & SMH 17 Sept)

The headline on Professor Stanley's article in *The Age/SMH* sums it up: "The ABC is **vital** to the nation". (Comment column 17 September)

Australians are fortunate to have a public broadcaster that is not a propaganda tool of government.

The ABC informs and educates the community on matters of public importance. Uncompromised by political and commercial influence, we depend on it to scrutinise the actions of governments and other powerful bodies.

The national broadcaster also enriches our lives with programs that inform and entertain. It maintains our unique Australian culture. The service it provides to country people in times of crises like flood and fire is critical.

However, the ABC has powerful enemies: The Murdoch media empire views public broadcasting as a competitor for its audiences. The Institute of Public Affairs wants it privatised.

Both have the ear of the present federal government which has cut the ABC's funding and international service and is threatening further serious cuts.

It's time the people had their say. If you want the ABC to survive, let alone thrive, now is the time to let every politician know.

Yours sincerely

Glenys Stradijot
National Spokesperson
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ABC Friends is a national campaign. It comprises ABC Friends and Friends of the ABC organisations across Australia.