

Review of the ABC and SBS

ABC SBS Review

Department of Broadband, Communications and the Digital Economy

GPO Box 2154

CANBERRA CITY ACT 2601

The ABC should be a comprehensive broadcaster in the modern media environment. Access should be for everyone free of charge.

The ABC charter does not need major amendments to be made contemporary, and should remain a statement of broad principle. Some changes are needed, in particular advertising should not be permitted on ABC Internet sites. Also, advertising of ABC products and programmes on radio and TV should be restricted.

The production of quality Australian drama should be increased. Fewer joint productions with commercial drama companies would result in the expansion of employment and training of people in drama within the ABC. The result should be more independence from commercial and other media interests.

The ABC should endeavour to provide good children's programming in Australia as there is almost none from other sources.

Radio National, being the ABC's ideas network, does not need to have large popularity ratings. It is a valuable part of Australian culture, and should not be neglected in favour of sport and light entertainment.

ABC funding should be increased to the same order as the BBC in UK so as to reclaim the losses under successive Liberal and some earlier Labor governments.

Adrienne Parsons

