

Support the rebuilding of your ABC (and protect SBS)

'Don't let our public broadcasters be wrecked'

Malcolm Turnbull as our new Prime Minister has promised a "more innovative, open and outward-looking Australia". Such a country, though, needs a fully independent and properly resourced national broadcaster that can inform, analyse, entertain, and reflect the nation to itself and to the world.

Damage to the ABC during the Abbott Government years (and, of course, while Malcolm Turnbull was Communications Minister) has been extensive. Despite pre-election promises, cuts to the ABC have resulted in some 500 talented employees being lost to us, plus hundreds of millions of dollars taken from operational and programming budgets, yet the ABC must be able to compete in the rapidly changing media world.

The decision to break the ABC's contract for the Australia Network has muted our Australian voice into Asia and the Pacific, and with it our capacity to understand and engage with these key neighboring countries.

The cuts have meant many programs and services have been forced to close, or truncated, productions shelved, planning tentative and provisional, and ideas and people are going elsewhere.

Yet the ABC is required under its Charter to serve the needs of all Australians - through regional and rural coverage, authoritative news and analysis, drama, the arts, children's programming, entertainment, documentaries, international reporting and sports.

Reduced funding has led to the centralisation of ABC operations in Sydney affecting reporting of issues involving rural, regional and provincial Australia while also downgrading capital city centres.

Appointments to the ABC Board have become politicised, with concerns over next year's choice of the Corporation's new CEO.



Help us to restore the ABC's capacity to inform, educate and entertain our nation and communicate with the world.

Lobby national & state politicians to

- > Restore funding to levels existing before the Abbott cuts
- > Ensure independent and transparent processes for appointment of ABC Board members and the new CEO
- > Restore the ABC's Australia Network contract so we have a credible voice in the Asia Pacific region
- > Preserve the multicultural Charter of SBS by not substituting budget cuts with even more ads. (For more info. go to: www.SaveOurSBS.org)

Here's what you can do to help

Join your local or State ABC Friends group, and work to build an ABC voice respected by all.

We need you, though, to give to the ABC Friends National Fighting Fund NOW to allow us to defend our National broadcasters against those that continue to try and weaken them.

So, please become an ABC Supporter, or join ABC Friends, and donate either by going to our website: www.abcfriends.org.au or by speaking to our volunteers via 3 dedicated phone lines:

0498111258 0498111259 0498111261
Or call campaign headquarters (03) 9682 0073

Log on to our website or phone us to talk to a Friend so that you can help the ABC and SBS to flourish and provide what is needed – independent, strong and diverse voices, with top quality Australian programming. (In the case of SBS, it has a major role in countering home grown terrorism, religious intolerance and racism).

Graeme Connelly (President ABC Friends Vic.) GPO Box 4065, Melbourne, Vic 3001), Mal Hewitt (President ABC Friends NSW & ACT), PO Box 1391, North Sydney NSW, 2059