

submissions

During the bush fires earlier this year it was the ABC who I turned to when bushfires started not far from my home at East Hills. It is the ABC I turn to in the event of flood forecasts (my home is in a flood zone) and it is the ABC I turn to for news (unbiased and factual - unlike some of the commercial sources e.g. the Murdoch press). As such it is the ABC that keeps me sane, safe and informed. Funding for this vital service must never be cut, but increased in times of emergency.

John B

VIC 2213

There are so many reasons why I need the ABC and why I believe we, Australians, need the ABC. Here are some of these:

1. Our ABC gives us Australians access to real - and uniquely Australian - voices and stories.
2. Our ABC tells those real - and uniquely Australian - stories in uniquely Australian ways.
3. Our ABC produces quality Australian radio, podcasts, television, film and video.
4. Our ABC showcases Australian talent in a huge variety of creative, academic, scientific, technical, medical, and many more disciplines to the entire world.
5. Our ABC is paid for by our taxes, and this gives us ownership and pride in its offerings.
6. Our ABC gives us local and global news, current affairs and varied and diverse perspectives on these.
7. Our ABC allows us to be well-informed about the world, but it also educates, stimulates, inspires and elevates us.
8. Our ABC unites us, gives us a sense of community, and comforts us during troubling times.
9. Our ABC is inclusive and reaches out to as many Australians as it can: people of all ages, with diverse orientations, interests and backgrounds.
10. Our ABC practises what Australia preaches: fairness, tolerance, friendship, dialogue, inclusivity, diversity, depth, breadth, richness, community.
11. Our ABC is us; it is AUSTRALIA.

Commercial channels are a dime a dozen; most content is biased, spin, shallow or American.

We don't want to become the USA's little brother; we want to become the best version of Australia we can be. And we want our ABC provide us with our role-models - and to be our mirror.

Thank you!

Evie L

VIC 3148

Hello,

I feel that retaining and even enhancing funding for the ABC is vital. As a previous resident in a bushfire area with family and friends still living in fire risk areas the ABC is a vital source of emergency information when fires break out. Earlier this year we constantly monitored ABC reports as fires threatened the homes of relatives. We needed an up to date reliable information source.

Also during the Covid19 pandemic the ABC has been our main information source. We aimed to avoid the hysterical and sensational information provided by other sources and simply wanted reliable facts.

Also during this time of pandemic my children have relied heavily on the ABC to supply quality children's programs. Whilst they strictly limited media usage by their children they were determined that any media that was used was quality, both entertaining and informative.

Thank you and I hope that you listen to the voices of many like me.

Davina Lohm

Davina L

NT 3939

To whom it may concern,

I am writing to vehemently oppose funding cuts to the ABC. The ABC provides me and my family with trusted news and information; I use the print, tv, radio and podcast formats at different times depending on circumstances. I would be lost with this source.

I also love the ABC for its dramas and reflection of Australian society. There is nothing else like it. I am scared about my daughter growing up in a world where a very small minority hold the monopoly on news and information. Please give the ABC the respect it deserves and fund it properly.

Regards

Ailsa MacFie

A M

QLD 822

The ABC is a core foundation of our democracy which is key to our collective prosperity. Without the ABC, the bias in the commercial news cycle will move Australia to the hard right. Both sides of politics have something to offer and a balance between progressive and conservative ideas is the secret to the best governance. History proves this. The ABC is the vehicle that best informs the citizenry of this country and brings us together culturally. Defund the ABC and you imperil our country and greatly weaken the resilience and effectiveness of our democracy. This is a very dangerous time to be considering do so.

Aaron H
NT 4031

My large extended family all use the ABC's news and other programs as a vital means of accessing accurate information and in-depth facts and analysis - this has been especially important this year with the terrible bushfires, as two of my sisters and their households were under threat at various times during the fire season. This was extremely worrying for them personally and for others of us living interstate and overseas, and accurate, rapidly updated news from the ABC (radio, TV & online) was our lifeline.

Subsequently, during the pandemic this year we have all relied on updates and info provided by the ABC as we advised and supported each other from afar.

We support an increase in funding for the ABC, our favourite and long-trusted broadcasting organisation, and absolutely condemn any government cuts.

Please look after our ABC!

Thankyou, from the Spiers & Martins family

Abbie S
NSW 841

I object to the cuts to ABC, SBS & NITV that have occurred since 2013.

Murdock and The IPA don't run our country but the the way the LNP bow down to them you couldn't be blamed to think they did.

I rely on the ABC for reliable unbiased news and current affairs information, content that doesn't treat me like I'm an idiot and that promotes an Indigenous voice.

I have lived in a bushfire prone area for 25 years and relied on their fire updates to be able to plan for the safety of my family.

Abigail H
NSW 2148

I have had depended on the ABC for up to date information about the COVID 19 epidemic. Particularly what I can and can't do up to now. The other thing I have depended on is entertainment during the long period of the lock down. Since I am over 70 I still need to restrict the time I spend away from home, knowing that I can be well informed and entertained by ABC radio and television is very important to me.

Ada Mackay
Concord West

ada M
SA 2138
We love our ABC

Adam M
QLD 5157

We live in regional SE Qld on a small acreage. Our home is in a very bushy area with only one road in & out. Mobile phone signals are virtually non-existent, dropping in and out, so cannot be relied upon at the best of times let alone during an emergency. During the 19-20 bushfire emergency the Peregrine fires came to less than 1km from our back fence. Information on the Fire Service webpage was deeply confusing as areas were often mis-described. This meant we needed a reliable & up-to-date service to keep us informed. We found that in ABC Local Radio and ABC News 24 TV. Their information was accurate & timely and allowed us to make clear decisions about the level of threat our area was facing. Unlike commercial outlets media conferences were screened in full, not just 20-second sound bites. This in itself provided us with invaluable information. We would not have been as informed as we were during this threat to life & property that was posed by these enormous bushfires if it had not been for the ABC. It is not just a media service. The ABC is an essential service. During normal times it entertains & informs & educates. During times of crisis it is a rock-solid source of reliable information.

Adam W
NT 4562

The ABC had been my primary and most trusted source of news and current affairs during this very tumultuous year. I really don't see any alternatives to the ABC for the very important role that it plays.

Adji R
VIC 870

The ABC to me this year is no different to any other year . Since my childhood the ABC has been a television station that I trust to be truthful and unbiased . And no more so than now in a world of corporatisation and privatisation is it reassuring to know there is an outlet that delivers consistently on reflecting our common values . This is an important aspect of building solidarity and reinforcing community spirit . These important concepts can't be entrusted to the free market as it has no vested interest in ensuring their protection . As funny as the shows are and always have been , perhaps a little less BBC but definitely no more USA content and Canada and NZ is ok if we must align ourselves with English speakers . After all we must become a republic soon , it is inevitable and necessary . The ABC and SBS are my only two stations . Ruin them and I won't be engaged with television media at all .
Adrian Barry 11-03-1965

Adrian B
NSW 3444

I have found the ABC to be invaluable in this year of catastrophes. I was feeding drought stricken cattle in January during the bush fires. I was driving to our farm at Braidwood twice a week at times to put out feed and ensure water was available to the stock. ABC local radio kept me informed and alert to the changing conditions and kept me safe. ABC TV has been a constant and reliable source of Covid 19 information, helping us to make decisions in this difficult time.

Adrian C
NSW 2068

The ABC, has been the cornerstone, of Emergency Broadcasting, this summer of the fires. Also it is the voice of Covid19. Q and A and 4 Corners, keep the politicians and corporations honest. It has been Australia's Education for children during Covid19 ! That is still in progress, and probably will be, for the future, as the SOURCE is not being dealt with ! The ABC, has been shown, time and time again, to be the most efficient, per dollar government body, bang for your buck, org. in Australia. When these current, old conservative, fuddy-duddy's, drop off the planet, the new generation will overrule the current trend to kill the ABC, all to protect certain politicians, agendas and corporations/individuals - but remember, the people cannot be made ignorant and are far stronger and in numbers than the hypocritical religious political corporate machine - your days are numbered, simply by logic, educated masses and the internet world of communication
Thankyou Adrian

Adrian M
QLD 2500

I have always trusted the ABC to bring the non commercial story to me. They have a proven track record to bring the honest and truthful story to it's listeners and viewers. Any interference by any political party will be not be looked on kindly by citizens of Australia.

Adrian O
SA 4020

Accountability is critical to a democratic society. The ABC has assisted accountability in Australia by, for example, exposing the roting of travel allowances by South Australian politicians & the theft of water from the Murray-Darling system. Adequate funding of the ABC is so important if we are to maintain our democracy.

Adrian W
VIC 5251

Hi
During the bushfires, before the Mirrison Govt. gutted the ABC budget, this was the one station we relied upon for up-to-date, information about where to go, what to do and how to be prepared for an emergency. More impirtantly, the ABC kept my family informed about how probable that emergency was. Now we have to rely on twitter.

Agent S
NSW 3060

To Whom It May Concern,

My name is Ahmed and I want to tell whoever is reading this what the ABC means to me. I learnt to read and write before schooling by watching Sesame Street and Play School. I grew up watching a lot of children's shows before and after school. I watched BTN at school. I currently read and listen to ABC News everyday. I watch Media Watch, Q&A and Four Corners. I watch documentaries. News 24 and I View are great. Out of all the major news outlets in Australia the ABC is the best (along with SBS News). The ABC is a treasure in not just Australia but the world. This is because it shows the strength of our democracy. The ABC shows a just balance can be struck between government (which funds the national broadcaster) and the independent journalism that holds governments to account. A rarity in the world. The ABC is not perfect. But it is up there with the best Australia has to offer.

Please reinstate the funding of our national broadcaster.

Thank you for reading this.

Regards,

Ahmed Sayedahmed

Ahmed S
NSW 2195

I've been living w/ ME/CFS for 17 years. It's forced me into home-bound reclusiveness. The ABC is my lifeline. I listen to many hours of radio through the day, Classic and RN. And enjoy iview in the evening. Local news reports about the local bushfires was invaluable.

The wonderful RN music programming is now long gone. I dread what else we'll lose w/ new cuts. The Coalition's opposition is cruel and ongoing. They seem to want a total Murdoch lockdown of our media.

I've long ago lost my ability to articulate and communicate, another way my illness has narrowed my world. Rich, healthy, powerful people can have no idea how much the ABC means to us.

ahmo g
ACT 2448

I am a retiree living in a regional centre.

I rely on the ABC to hold those in power in Australia accountable. This includes politicians on both sides and also private enterprise. Without the ABC, there is no doubt that Australia would be rife with corruption.

The ABC also reflects back to me my countries culture thru quality drama, comedy and its commitment to Australian stories.

Currently the ABC is the go to media for news and information on the Coronavirus, just as it was essential for keeping up with the horrific bushfires earlier this year.

With the withering away of the private media, we desperately need the ABC to keep us informed and knowledgeable about what is happening in Australia.

The ABC is also the most reliable and honest of the media available.

Aileen J

ACT 2641

For the whole of my life I have been able to rely on the ABC to be able to provide me what I need in terms of truthful, non-partisan news and thoughtful, useful documentaries about Ausralian life, Australian drama, wonderful children's shows and so on.

The ABC started changing as soon as Ita Butrose was appointed, the rot began to set it, the agenda being to stop Australian's having access to our own institution which we pay for to provide us with what we need.

Murdoch does not want us to have this benefit from our own public good and so this government is taking the money away from the ABC and giving it to Murdoch.

Shame on all of those who support this deplorable behaviour in our government.

Australian politicians are our employees, not the employees of the super rich, but we who pay our taxes. The super rich do all they can to get as much of our tax money and pay no tax.

Save the ABC from this disastrous move to destroy the ABC, which is our Australian lifeblood.

Aileen W

VIC 2601

Hi, it has been part of my life for so long. It has consistently provided reliable and timely advice for emergencies. I was in the flood event of 2010-11 in Charlton, Victoria. I relied on updates from ABC plus their stories of local events to keep me up to date and engaged with those around me. I could not use my phone so for one of my daughters in Melbourne, it was how she found out what was going on. Thank God for the ABC and their wonderful team of reporters and presenters.

Alan B

VIC 3672

Growing up with the ABC / SBS and working around Australia my family has had a respected friend where ever we had resided, quality programmes, informative documentaries and there for support during a crisis.

I find it extremely abhorrent that their budget continues to be cut particularly in the light of what Australia has endured in the past years while being asked more and more of the ABC / SBS Staff!

There has been handout over handout to the private sector even though their quality continues to dumb down our population and they appear to answer to nobody for their indiscretions irrespective of the degree of these along with at times lack of honesty, integrity and accountability.

The statement that all sectors, private and public need to rain in their respective budgets is a total furphy as the private sector is free to report on or omit any thing they wish to and at times known to falsely embellish information presented while the ABC / SBS has a duty to the Australian people to make it self available to report honestly all that effects the Australian way of life.

Could you please consider my submission when making any decisions relating to the ABC / SBS in the future.

Kind Regards

Alan Boyington

Alan B

NSW 3939

I like ABC because there is no fake news . I trust the news they broadcast. They give us the real facts

alan b

QLD 2015

There is no comparison between the news service provided by the ABC and those provided by commercial TV channels. The ABC news service is self-evidently better balanced, more reliable and less subject to the bias that so readily undermines much of the commercial media (electronic or print) in this country.

Being a Grandad, I am also enormously appreciative of the kids programs which the ABC provides, whether for entertainment or education.

I regard the ABC as one of this country's most venerable institutions, and I regard the parsimonious funding to which it is increasingly subjected as a major indictment of the government of the day.

Alan D
NSW 4061

We live in Sawtell on the Mid North Coast and during the 2020 horror fire season, we constantly listened to the Local ABC for updates and stories.

This became critical to us when we had a large number of family members move in to our house when most of the western side of Coffs Harbour was evacuated during the worst period of bushfires in the district.

While we did make great use of "Fires Near Me" from the RFS, we all took great comfort from listening to situation reports over the air.

Thank you ABC

Alan G
VIC 2452

Having lived country and city I have to say that Australia's ABC is essential media. It was created for the people of this country to be a source of news, sports and events that is available to all communities. Unbiased and open to all color and creed without exception. Its OUR ABC, NOT Politicians! The peoples of this country are outraged by the stealth of government in cutting budget to the SBC in an effort to downgrade its brand and then eventually fump it and along with it dump the only independent media in Australia. A shocking legacy if eventuates. Resist this ploy by LNP at every turn.

Alan g
NSW 3163

The ABC is the most reliable source of unbiased news in Australia, I watch it every morning and most evenings... As an Australian tax payer I value the ABC more than any other government service. And they also provide interesting and amusing documentaries and shows without the endless annoying adverts on those other 'free' to air channels.

Al

Alan H
ACT 2120

I live in Albury/Wodonga during the recent bushfires the commercial TV media coverage stopped at the Border, so depending on which state TV channel you watched you had only half the info, so we relied on ABC TV and Radio for updated and full coverage info

alan m
VIC 2640

The ABC is to me the backbone of constructive journalism in this country. They are there for all Australians through drought, bushfires and now the Covid19 crisis. If the Federal Government can gift money to Fox Sports there is enough in the kitty for a reputable institution such as the ABC. Thank you for this opportunity to voice my concerns. Alan

Alan P
TAS 3015

I rely on the ABC for accurate news and general information.

With the reduction of numbers of newspaper journalists and the unreliable news from commercial sources a well resourced ABC is increasingly essential.

Alan S
VIC 7015

The ABC is like a reliable friend of assurance; help; guidance; and intelligent information - very relevant and important for living in regional Victoria! From bushfire details and now Covid19 pandemic, my family and I rely on all things ABC-and that's not even mentioning it's entertainment value. Hands off the ABC PLEASE!

alan s
VIC 3461

The ABC was our intellectual lifeline when we lived in the NT for thirty years, giving us access to the latest local, Australia-wide and international news, science, music and culture. Now we live in regional Victoria, and in the current pandemic, and during the bushfires, the ABC has become more important than ever as our trusted source of critical information about our health and safety. We trust the ABC implicitly to bring us factual, balanced and non-partisan news and investigative reporting, essential to our democracy.

But the ABC is more than this - it is the heart of our nation. It creates a sense of community among its audiences. And we can't live without it!

Alan and Joy P
VIC 3747

We live in a bush fire prone area. Twice in the last twenty years fires have burnt our property. We managed to save the house and surrounds both times. Let us state that the ABC was an invaluable aid to help us fight those fires and keep us constantly updated and informed during the now longer fire season.

We demand that no cuts be made to the ABC in the upcoming budget, in fact we urge that funding be restored.

The ABC is a trustworthy organisation that we rely on for accurate information and a variety of entertainment. Please do not deprive rural and regional listeners and viewers of this vital media outlet.

Yours sincerely,

Alan Hewett & Joan Jones

Alan/Joan H
NSW 3688

I'm extremely concerned at the consistent reduction in real terms of ABC funding (freezing in nominal terms).

The ABC is the most trusted news organisation and disseminates non-partisan analysis and reporting.

I regularly watch Media Watch & Planet America to know the stories that aren't covered in the most popular fora.

Albert Z
QLD 2068

The ABC has always been part of my life. It was the only radio station of my early years. I grew up listening with my mother to The Country Hour and Blue Hills. I looked forward to Jason and the Argonauts, and was enthralled by radio plays and serialised classics such The Fortunes of Richard Mahoney and Les Miserables.

When we had children of our own, Sesame Street and Play School and later Doctor Who were family favourites.

My husband and I would be lost without AM and PM and the Science Show and Late Night Live.

ABC stands alone in the delivery of unbiased reporting of domestic and international affairs.

My husband is now in home Palliative Care and we find that ABC Classic is an essential part of our lives, bringing as it does support, comfort and hope in these difficult times.

Aldyth L
ACT 4051

The ABC has been a saving grace in 2020. I know how important their news and emergency services were during the bushfire crisis over the summer, and while we were not personally affected by the fires we were impacted by months of smoke, so I can understand why so many relied on the information they received from our national broadcaster. During the coronavirus pandemic I too have come to rely on the ABC for news that I can trust. But I also continue to turn to ABC Kids every day to entertain and advise my family. The new episodes of Bluey dropped each day for the first month of the first lockdown, and provided a sense of routine and relief to the day. I will be forever fond of and grateful for each of those episodes. The special Hello Friends Playschool episodes were invaluable in explaining the new normal to our little ones. And even our school relied on Behind the News and other content to help with home learning. I honestly cannot imagine how we would have coped in such strange times without the steady anchor of the familiar and reliable ABC. I have always been a staunch supporter of the ABC and the idea of a public broadcaster, but I am even more inclined now to consider the support they receive from the government when I go to vote in future elections. The ABC is a vital resource and must be provided for in every federal budget.

Alethea W
WA 2614

We rely on the ABC for unbiased, fact based news. We rely on THE ABC during times of crisis and bushfire season alerts. Fund it properly, we cannot get decent reporting otherwise!

alex h
QLD 6111

I count on the Drum for interviews with people who are expert, and up to the minute in their field or area of interest in current affairs. This is not available on the other television stations. It is information I can trust not to be politically or commercially biased. I also rely on the broad spectrum approach of Insiders to be informed and stimulated to think critically. I believe that programs like Foreign Correspondent keep Australians in touch with the rest of the world and Four Corners has changed legislation in areas such as banking and insurance corruption as well as environmental and social issues.

Please continue fund such quality television. When I was in the UK last year I could not find programs and News broadcasts of the same quality as we enjoy on ABC Australia; precious and important.

Alex P
SA 4554

I rely on ABC for sensible, balanced news about COVID-19. It is the antidote to garbage news posted on social media.

Alex R
VIC 5008

I am Alex Furman and a lot of people I connected fully depended only on the ABC to hold those in power accountable at a time when deception is easily overlooked and giving really trustful information during the different crisis and difficult times like now. So, all of community I belong to, demand no cuts be made to the ABC in the October 2020-21 budget.

alexander f
NSW 3183

Never has my public broadcaster been more important to me than this year. Through fires, I relied on their coverage to monitor how my nephew and his young family were managing in the fires near Jinden. As a teacher with an Executive role, ABC ensured that I had informed and clear information to inform our community even before the message filtered down through various peak bodies, during COVID. Intelligent and as balanced in their approach as is humanly possible (as journalists and broadcasters must be human), the ABC has led my family through the low-down on COVID, protests and financial uncertainty. I shudder to consider where we would be with a narrowing of content. The ABC has shown me creativity, imagination, information and lifted me up amidst such shaking times. They are vital to our recovery as we look ahead.

alexandra i
NSW 2502

I am almost 78, and have relied exclusively on the ABC for my whole life - it was the first and only radio channel turned on each day, the music has shaped my understanding and my taste regarding classical music, I trust it above all else for news, for truth and for intellectual stimulus!

It must be preserved for the sake of all Australians. Forget the ideology, the partisanship, the costs - it must stay with us! I can never vote for any party that threatens this station and the perspective it gives us on life!!!

Alexandra Sharp
18 Albert Street
Wagstaffe

Alexandra S
NSW 2257

WE URGE NOT TO CUT ANY FUNDING TO ABC,ABC HAS KEPT IS INFORMED ABOUT DISASTER WHETHER IT BE BUSH FIRE OR CORONA. WE DO NOT SUPPORT ANY CUT TO ITS BUDGET DR ALI SARFRAZ"

Ali S
QLD 2171

Every morning and every night, and often several times a day, I check my ABC News. Especially in 2020 it has been the only News site I rely on and trust for accurate and fast online updates regarding the bushfires and Covid-19. I simply can not be without it. The fact that it is a free service too is most important and just amazing. Every Australian should be able to keep free access to ABC News, but with budget cuts on the horizon, this simply won't be possible anymore. I can not stress enough how important ABC News is for us!

alice b
NSW 4341

My name is Alice Scott, I'm 80 years old. I'm am my 84 years old sisters carer. We live in a very bushy area of the Northern suburbs of Wollongong. My sister is disabled, and needs a walker, or wheelchair to move around. During the bushfires, although they weren't close to us, we worried our area could be next. My mobile is very old and wouldn't accept the bushfire app. We had our radio tuned to the ABC 24 hours a day. We were kept informed of where the fires were. At one stage they were at Bulli tops, not far from us, as we are up in the escarpment. Thankfully the ABC gave us peace of mind during a very worrying time. Note ad of taking money from the ABC the government should be building it up. Why would anyone ruin such a wonderful organisation when so many people rely on it. Lives are more important than money

alice S
VIC 2506

The ABC is my pre-eminent and trusted source for Australian and international news, current affairs information, informed opinion, and investigative journalism, presented with supporting evidence, without bias and almost always without hyperbole or sensationalism. It is of even greater importance during crises such as COVID-19 and bushfires, when accurate and timely information provided regularly both locally and nationally not only reassures an unsettled population but can be lifesaving. SBS is a similarly trusted close second in this 21st century era of seemingly increasing "fake" news and "alternative facts", with unfortunately disjointed presentations resulting from advertisement breaks. These 2 organisations provide essential comprehensive and complementary services to Australians, including diverse entertainment and educational documentaries. The ABC should also be presenting Australian lifestyle, and interpretation of domestic and international affairs to overseas listeners and viewers, particularly to neighbouring countries in Asia and the Pacific. Diminishing capability in recent years resulting from reduced government funding is hugely regrettable and not in Australia's best interest.

Alice & David B
NSW 3280

This year, more than ever, I have been relying on the ABC for even-handed and factual reporting of our latest crises, ie the bushfires and COVID-19. I need to be well-informed in order to know how to behave responsibly during these difficult times. The IPA wants to bring down the ABC so that commercial media entities such as the Murdoch Press have free reign over the Australian public, peddling their right-wing, destructive ideas and producing buckets of swill for mindless consumption. Our national broadcaster must have the means to offer its full information services to the public.

Alisa P
NSW 2350

The only television channel we watch is the ABC, the current government must support the ABC, period.

I have faith and trust in this broadcaster and the ABC has not failed me.

In the last election I voted for Scott Morrison, first time vote for the liberals, I have been hugely disappointed in the current government and regretted ever voting for him.

Please Mr Morrison help the ABC and prove to me that my one vote that put you into power was worth it for me.

I will be forever grateful.

Thank you Mr Morrison for not cutting the ABC budget so I can continue to watch good and honest reporting that I enjoy during my retirement time.

Alisi

Alisi H G
ACT 2230

I have always listened to different ABC broadcasters from my days growing up in PNG where we had the ABC overseas radio networks & I was an avid listener of The Argonauts & my parents to Blue Hills! All our news is always from the ABC in one form or another. My children were only allowed to watch ABC kid's shows until the middle of primary school. I learnt to sing from ABC radio broadcasts for children (also broadcast in PNG). During numerous natural & other disasters the ABC has always given me all the relevant information I needed, except for the Dec/Jan fires on the South Coast of NSW where we wanted to listen to the ABC but network coverage was abysmal. We missed the friendly advice from the ABC when we were out of range. When we were in range it gave us timely advice that enabled us to evacuate safely back home. So while I cannot say the ABC has saved my life, it has always been there for me & my family telling us how it is. It is fundamentally not the ABC that has changed, society has changed & what is expected of it & I believe sometimes the ABC has been forced to go down the wrong track by politicians & bureaucrats. So, it is more vital that we need a well funded & locally oriented ABC with joint overseas coverage using journalists with independent credentials. Local news resources have been cut drastically, especially for TV news so now it is very hard to find up to date visual coverage of local events. I am an avid ABC supporter & I think a public broadcaster such as the ABC is vital to any Vibrant, democratic nation. It won't be infallible & it will cost money but it is a vital social resource & institution. Stop eroding the ABC & forcing it to become redundant & useless!

Regards, Alison Crawley, Googong

Alison C
SA 2620

We were all watching and listening to the bush fire coverage and then the coronavirus coverage, you can trust the information is correct coming from ABC. This is when we rely on them the most, but also we rely on the ABC for comedy, arts coverage (although I would always like to see more) and Aunty was deemed safe in our household growing up and the only one we were allow to watch as it didn't have commercials.

Alison C
WA 5031

The ABC has been there throughout Covid 19 here in Perth. Whether it was Dr. Norman Swan explaining things, or daily radio programming that kept us entertained, informed and most importantly, connected to the rest of Australia. We have a daughter (21 years old with a serious medical condition living in Sydney) and through the ABC reporting we were able to feel less anxious and more informed. We have always believed that being informed is being empowered- and the ABC provides good information. The federal government should be increasing the national broadcaster.

Alison D
QLD 6100

I live in Brisbane and to find out what the developments are in COVID behaviour parameters that relate to me, the ABC is the source I rely on. With local media – the Courier-Mail and even the online Brisbane Times – using paywalls/registration strategies purely to make money AND being owned by the likes of Rupert Murdoch whose personal agenda has proven that his outlets are chief contributors to spreading inaccuracies and even fear-mongering conspiracy theories, I not only can't rely on them for factual information but often find they add to the distress we're all already feeling. So without the ABC, I wouldn't know if I needed to comply with changed restrictions and particularly which areas have been found to be new hotspots. So I wouldn't know if I needed to isolate or get tested and could therefore find myself contributing to the spread of a deadly virus when my highest priority at the moment is to do just the opposite. If we are to save lives and minimise the damage to others, we need regularly updated, readily available factual information. In a world that suffers significantly because of ignorance and the resultant fear, a media outlet that can be relied upon to educate and inform with truth and objectivity is essential. Its funding should align with the fact that it is genuinely an emergency service. AND it's not insignificant to add that during the periods of isolation that are affecting our mental health significantly, a source of quality entertainment that is free and COVID-free is a truly valuable resource as well. The ABC does both these things and many many more. A lot of lives would be different without the output of the ABC in 2020.

Alison E
NSW 4007

Especially now during a time of social distancing I rely on the ABC for balanced, informative programming that speaks truth to power as well as providing uplifting and inspiring entertainment. Please do not muzzle the ABC by cutting its funding.

Sincerely
Alison Hulett

Alison H
VIC 2061

Before the next budget is determined, please please continue to support the ABC.

ABC gives us news we trust. While so many have taken advantage of the crises of bushfires, covid and climate change to push their agendas. ABC (and the Guardian) have remained independent and therefore the news sources we trust and rely on.

ABC gives us intelligent conversation while we are in lockdown. it has brought conversations with politicians, authors, researchers, scientists into our loungerooms and home offices. Norman Swan has brought sense and practical commentary to covid and peoples questions, without commercial motivation.

Commercial channels dont schedule science and reason because it isnt commercially advantageous for them to do that. Without ABC where would nerdy but super informed specialists in obscure topics get a platform to share with the public? And without their sharing we would be lost in commercial world of dumbed-down nonsense filling the space between ad breaks.

ABC gives us the best classical music station that exists. As situations became increasingly unfamiliar and frightening in 2020 our household has relied heavily on the arts (in my case music) to connect us, pacify us, give us a focus, entertain us, stimulate us. I need music while i work, while i relax, while i exercise.

ABC has been there with intelligence and compassion.

Could I get all this from facebook channels? from commercial radio? from Murdoch press? No. No other source can be trusted to be balanced, intelligent, relevant, local, independent and accountable. Without ABC, who would have lead me through covid?

Alison MacGregor

Alison M
QLD 3500

ABC Classic uplifts, soothes and nurtures me, my life would be poorer without it, but for me the most important thing about the ABC is access to independent, quality news and current affairs. If this is lost or weakened, it will be less credible for Australia to claim that it is a democratic society. I do not want to live in a country where my access to news is controlled by a man who cared so little about Australia that he became American (Murdoch). Don't cut funding to the ABC - we all need it.

Alison M
WA 4551

After finally becoming jaded and fed up with the hysteria and blatant 'articles as advertising' from the mainstream news, I switched to the ABC.

The clarity and timeliness of the information presented is amazing, with no 'hype' or 'angle' to it. Just good, straight news.

Not only has it helped to keep me informed, it's removed a lot of the stress that was being caused by the sensationalism from the other media outlets.

Add to that the brilliant programs produced and / or broadcast by the ABC for both TV and radio, and you've got what is essentially the jewel in Australia's media crown.

We can't afford to lose the ABC, either directly or through piecemeal attrition (aka: unjustified budget cuts). Please protect the ABC - it's just too important.

Alison W
ACT 6164

The ABC is with me every day, for news, warnings, music and information about people, events and places. While I also tune in to other news sources including the BBC, but I return to the ABC for local and Australia news that I can trust from a non-commercially driven organisation.

Alistair B
VIC 2606

For many, many years I have trusted and relied on the ABC in so many ways...I believe it is a national disgrace to keep eroding the ABC by inexcusable budget cuts !!
The ABC is our National Broadcaster, unlike the vested interests of the Commercial Channels.
Protect and save our ABC by greatly increasing funding !!

Alister S
WA 3896

I have been extremely disappointed in the ABC this year. Their content has bordered on the same line as the mainstream clickbait/blogger journalism. Sure their editors get more of the spelling mistakes out but it seems. No it's bloody obvious that they are really toning things down so as not to offend the government during this "crisis" So much has been going on. So many suspicious laws passed that you'd expect something from the ABC but no. Nothing. They dont want their budget cut so they play nice. If this is the future of the ABC then good riddance. I used to rely on them. I used to believe they were above it all..

Allan C
VIC 6112

I rely on the ABC for genuine news and especially localised content, news and weather. For god's sake leave it's funding alone, or better still increase it.

Allan C
TAS 3551

I listen to the ABC936AM Hobart everyday,it is without fail the best medium for up to date News Local,National,and from around the world,it is also the best service in a crisis locally it is the only medium that keeps us truly informed across all that matters,whilst i dont always agree with some of the presenters in how they interpret certain issues i know that i can always contact my local outlet to voice my concerns,to me i could not be without my ABC

Allan K
NSW 7010

The pandemic has brought home to me the seminal importance of the ABC in our daily lives. Commercial media doesn't satisfy our need for indisputable facts. It doesn't satisfy our need for non sensationalist reporting. It doesn't supply us with calm and measured analysis.
Without the ABC we are rudderless. Their allocation from public funds should be increased significantly.

Allan M
QLD 2021

hello .I wish to highlight the work the national broadcaster has done for me and Australia in times of our greatest need.The cyclones we get in North Queensland are terrifying and the ABC.keeps the warnings coming to us. The bushfires are fresh in all our minds only the national broadcaster provided proper warnings so we could make safe decisions. The latest disaster of covid 19 has the ABC providing Australians informed about what WE need to do.Take politics out of the National interest keep reducing the ABC budget and you are putting our lives in danger.and look at the waste of money and lives all these disaster is costing us .No point having a national broadcaster in name only we are smarter than that.

allan s
NSW 4551

Couldn't live without ABC for detailed and impartial news and the homegrown comedies. Also the entertaining British crime and comedy. Most of all society needs the ABC as it exposes criminal behaviour via the great researched stories that quite often lead to Royal Commissions. Commercial TV seems to have little interest in exposing bad banks or child abuse or indeed corruption.

allan w
WA 2218

As a child growing up in regional WA during the 1960s and 70s, the ABC TV and radio was our lifeline to news, culture and entertainment.

As an adult, I continue to rely on it for up to date national and international news, to demystify science and technology, to hear open debates about current affairs, to watch, listen and learn about Australian and international arts and culture. Most importantly, to know that the information I receive has been well researched, that the growing ocean of misinformation and conspiracy theories are being debunked, and that I am being kept up to date with what is happening in our COVID19, climate change world of uncertainty.

Cuts to the ABC reduce their capacity to continue to provide quality programs that so many Australians rely on.

Please increase, rather than cut, their funding.

Yours sincerely

Allison Archer

allison a

VIC 6050

With my family, we were caught in the Mallee bushfire. ABC was our only reliable source of information. They need increased funding, not cuts. They are vital to Australia's wellbeing.

alma r

NSW 3930

I am an 84 year old pensioner who has been often alone during 2020 because of the virus. The ABC has provided a lifeline. It keeps me sane. It keeps me up to date with the latest reliable news which is needed in our ever changing world. I also appreciate ABC entertainment, especially those, fiction or documentaries, which have Australian content. The fact that the ABC is free of ads and does not show overly hysterical so called 'reality shows', is also a great plus. For the above reasons I would like to see the ABCs funding increased which is essential to counteract the 'alternative facts' sometimes shown on other stations.

Alva G

NSW 2478

Never mind recent years, the ABC has been an essential part of my life for more than 60 years for quality journalism, broadcasting and music. The increasing commercialisation of its services and presentation style to compete with others and to retain funding is a source of great annoyance to me. To lose it altogether to serve the ideological madness and stupidity of the conservative philistines in our government would be a national tragedy.

Alynn P

VIC 2071

I have enjoyed watching the ABC for so much of my life. I watched Play School daily as a young girl and today 30 years later, I find myself immersed in coverage of the bushfires, droughts, and covid-19 on the ABC. Shows such as Play School have provided important fun and education to Australian children for decades which commercial tv have failed to come near. More recently, the success of Bluey represents a new age of Australian creativity, art and imagination entertaining a new generation of young Australians.

ABC is one of a few Australian TV stations to have a culturally diverse representation of reporters, presenters and stories. It makes all people feel included and heard. While other TV stations bend to the demands and influences of their commercial sponsors, the ABC consistently delivers the hard truths which need to be heard. The ABC's recent reporting about the destruction of 46,000 year old sacred Indigenous site in WA is just one example of the ABC's unbiased, insightful and uncompromising journalism. Other additional important Australian breaking stories such as the live export horrors and Indigenous deaths in custody have been reported excellently by the ABC. Sadly these are not stories we would see whilst watching shows such as A Current Affair or Sunrise.

I always enjoy listening to ABC radio. During the 2019 bushfire season I consistently listened to ABC radio where I was overwhelmed with the thorough research, live interviews with Bushfire Victims and most importantly studies which directly related these fires to the effects of climate change across the country.

Other favourite shows of mine include The Weekly with Charlie Pickering and during these past few months of Covid-19 I have really enjoyed the mixture of important insightful and humorous take on the news.

The ABC is an important Australian institution which needs to be protected and invested in for its future growth and prosperity. Instead we are witnessing its neglect through short sighted ignorance and budget cuts. Its demise risks damaging the standard of quality Australian journalism which is imperative to the success of our democracy to the detriment of all people across our nation.

Kind regards,
Alyse

Alyse S
ACT 3037

ABC TV and radio was an essential source of information during the devastating bushfires here in the ACT. When we were terrified by the heavy smoke, no other media channel provided the timely coverage that the ABC did. The ABC belongs to all Australians, it reflects who we are and allows us to tell our stories. Don't starve the ABC because of ideology. Be proud of it as I am!

Amalia M
QLD 2602

For 20 years I have lived in a semi rural area on the Sunshine Coast. The ABC has provided the absolute best and most informative font of information throughout all the emergencies we have had during this time. It has been my 'go to' to find out everything I need to know during the disasters and weather events we have experienced. The ABC provided thorough information about road and school closures, and what to do, who to contact and how to prepare in times of emergency. And we all know the info is there in the one place. On top of that, without IVIEW to keep me and my family entertained and informed during lockdown, I'm sure my mental health would have been compromised. No other media source provides such an extensive range of news and Australian perspectives, as well as entertainment we can relate to. The ABC is the heart and spine of our country, it nourishes and supports us with its far reaching lifelines. Compromising its quality in any way will be the equivalent of destroying an integral part of who we are as a nation.

Amanda D
NSW 4561

The ABC has always, for as long as I can remember, been very important to me when I've needed up to date information. Whether it's floods, bush fires, natural disasters or information about important issues that affect the world I live in, the ABC has always had it covered.

I remember as a young child enjoying children's viewing without being inundated with brain washing commercials selling 'healthy processed foods' or toys I didn't need. As I got older, the ABC had my educational programs covered and I learnt so much from these. Today I rely on the ABC to report news and stories without the spin, from a place a neutrality. This is the only way news should be reported. The ABC is the only tv channel that I honestly value.

I know my thoughts represent many Australians, my peers and work colleagues. The ABC needs our protection, more funding and should be be the highest priority when it comes to its continuation. I couldn't imagine the ABC not being in my life.

Amanda E
NSW 2483

I have really enjoyed the real journalism that comes from the ABC. The many investigations into companies with wage theft and recently the Icare story. We don't get real Australian journalism on critical Australian issues from any other source. They are invaluable.

Please don't cut funding to our ABC

amanda p

NSW 2487

I have relied heavily on the ABC news to arm myself with accurate and up to date information during the current pandemic. It is crucial to me to have a news source that I can quickly access and easily check.

As the main carer of my adult daughter who is on the autistic spectrum and suffers from bi-polar, and her two children, it is important that I can quickly check details of stories that she may read on social media. If I can produce clear and informative information regarding covid 19 for my daughter it can and does reduce unnecessary anxiety which in turn helps her mental health. This is imperative for the well being of herself and her children.

This is just one small story about how our family needs the ABC.

During November we were visiting family in South West Rocks and once again needed the ABC for up to the minute information regarding the fires ravaging the mid north coast. By listening to their reports we could make a decision about when to leave so that we could come back home safely.

I trust the ABC for accurate, unbiased, news and can't imagine only receiving news from a source that has other interests besides information gathering.

Amanda W

WA 2251

As a retired academic, a cultural historian and educator, I know that the ABC is the one broadcaster that will give me balanced, in-depth and reliable information on national and global affairs, unlike their commercial competitors that are often biased towards their sponsors', or even their owners', personal views and rely on sensationalist reporting and populist appeal.

Of the news-based programs I'd say The Drum is my favourite: I usually watch that even if I can't watch the actual ABC News and 7.30 Report. Monday night current affairs programs like Four Corners, Q&A, and Media Watch are without parallel. Australian Story, Back Roads and Foreign Correspondent are unsurpassed. The ABC also provides me with top-quality entertainment programs: drama and satire and comedy, including Shaun Micallef's unique perspective, top British crime (Vera), innovative Australian programs such as Webtworth and The Heights and the daring new program Retrograde (mirroring life in lockdown for urban singles), and now, on Sunday nights, The Sound. Coming soon are The Fight for Planet A and Anh's Brush with Fame.

Our best - our very best - actors have all been nurtured by our national broadcaster.

I live alone, and I thank God for the ABC.

Dr Amanda Yorke

Amanda Y

QLD 6330

I can't tell a long story. I am healthy, happy and vegetarian. During the lock down, and all the time before and after, I listened to the ABC. Why? As an intelligent, educated person who can think for herself; knowing that the ABC is very careful about the truth (it is constantly scrutinised); having presenters who are leaders in their fields; a wide range of programmes, which are always interesting, even when I had thought they might not be; having interviewees from around the world who are surprised, gratified or impressed by the clarity of question, the knowledge shown by presenters, and the intelligence to interpret the information given by the interviewee, gives me great pride. Pride that we are able to rise above the dirty world of false news, and the 'me' stupidity of some Australians; the ABC gives us clear, informed information and analysis. The ABC should be funded lavishly, and it should continue stamp our role in the world: our intelligence, integrity and genuine interest in our world. The ABC does this in spade.

Amber G

TAS 4217

The ABC is a huge part of our daily life. We watch and listen everyday. It is important for keeping abreast of current issues, including emergency situations such as COVID-19 and the bushfires. We trust the ABC and rely on it to present the most balanced and accurate information. It is also a source of comfort that we have an independent, state funded news source, that is not open to influence, bias and corruption as can be seen elsewhere with privately owned media empires. This is particularly critical to ensure transparency, accountability and good governance in the contemporary world. The ABC must be properly funded and resourced to continue to provide the best quality news as well as quality entertainment content. The quality of children's entertainment is also so much higher on the ABC. In our house we only watch ABC, SBS or streaming services. It is important as a basic human right/equity issue that our whole community has free access to quality programming and information. PLEASE don't decrease funding to the ABC!

Amelia J
VIC 7007

I have relied heavily on the ABC right through from my childhood and particularly this year. During a time of complete turmoil, rumours and fear mongering, it is through the ABC that I have found solace and truth. Reliable and factual stories that have provided a clear understanding of expectations of society and how the whole Covid-19 situation is being addressed by both federal and local governments. It also provides an amazing platform of entertainment and education for my 3 year old daughter. Shows that I trust to allow her to watch for these purposes. And not to mention the ABC apps which are second to none. ABC must continue as a non bias and reliable source of information.

Amelia P
NSW 3121

We watch and rely on the ABC to keep us UpToDate during the coronavirus crisis. We rely on their balanced reporting and accurate information. Save the ABC!!

Amrita R
NSW 2047

In December, while our PM was holidaying in Hawaii, ABC journalists were reporting continuously from the frontline of every fire zone in the country. As always, their coverage was thorough, informative and timely - invaluable as we all struggled to keep up with the unfolding disaster. 2020 has been a dark year and the ABC is a point of light. We trust it.

Amy S
VIC 2130

The ABC is more than the comfort of morning radio (that's not afraid to tackle issues). It's more than TV shows I know are ok for our kids to watch (without aggressive advertising for products and concepts that they really shouldn't have in their lives yet). It's more than the amazing documentaries we watch with them as they get older. It's more than a reliable news broadcaster through one emergency after another. It is all these things but it is more. Please protect the ABC from further cuts. Thank you

Amy V
NSW 3185

I'm a teacher living in the Illawarra, originally from the Bega Valley. The ABC's coverage of this terrifying bushfire summer was essential to me to keep up to date with what was happening in my hometown, providing unbiased, regular updates. In this COVID-19 time, the ABC is the only source of news I use regularly, and I rely on it to understand the ever changing situation and restrictions. In my work as a teacher, I use ABC resources on at least a weekly basis, with ABC Education providing valuable curriculum materials to support my students in their learning. BTN (Behind the News) remains one of my students' favourite parts of the week, and I consider it essential viewing to inform students about what is happening in the world and provide a catalyst for discussion and debate. On a personal level, ABC Life, iview and Triple J enrich my life and it wouldn't be the same without them. We are so lucky to have this wonderful national broadcaster, and I call for funding to be maintained, and cut funding restored, in the upcoming budget.

Sincerely,

Amy Vos

Amy V
NSW 2515

The ABC has suffered a significant cut to its funding for decades:

A report funded by GetUp members¹ found by 2022, the total funding cut to the ABC since 2013 will be over \$783 million.

It is now operating with the smallest budget since the Howard Government's extraordinary 2% funding cut in its first budget.

A thousand jobs have gone since 2014.

Lateline and state-based versions of The 7.30 Report have been axed. Radio current affairs programming via The World Today and PM has been halved. Specialist programming on Radio National has been cut, and over 100 ABC websites have been shut down.

The ABC no longer covers local sport on TV. Its local production units, other than for news and current affairs, in Adelaide and Perth have been closed, along with five regional local radio newsrooms.

The ABC was a vital resource during the bushfire season of 2019-2020.

Research shows 60% of people in affected areas relied on ABC's emergency broadcasts to stay safe.

ABC local radio was essential when digital and telecommunications failed in bushfire zones.

One in two Australians used it as their main source of information during the summer crisis.

People trusted the ABC's channels and websites more than commercial outlets.

When the organisation's emergency broadcasting policy was created in 2011, the emergency division ran for six months of the year – now it runs for the entire year.

Anastasia K

NSW 2206

The ABC has been particularly valuable to me and my family during the coronavirus crisis. I am a firm believer in the ABC anyway, but this crisis has shown how reliant I am upon the ABC as a source of trusted information for keeping up to date and making decisions based upon what I learn from the coverage. I have watched the news and 730 report on ABC far more often than I did previously. It has been comforting, reliable, informative, extremely interesting, and has helped me to make sense of the risks related to corona and helped our family to make decisions about childcare, holidays, social distancing, and travel. In addition, we have had our child at home more often than usual during corona while still attempting to work at the same time. This has resulted in our child being more exposed to television than usual, which I am not comfortable with - but having ABC programming available alleviated some of my concerns. I can trust the content that my child will see on ABC Kids, far more than I could trust the content that might be found online streaming services, or websites like youtube. It has been a relief to be able to complete some of my work, knowing my child is safe with an episode of playschool. I can't stress enough how important the ABC is to me and my family- but also how important it is to SOCIETY to have a broadcaster that is not beholden to corporate interests and investments and whose independence cannot be doubted. I love the ABC and wish it to be protected and valued by all sides of government, with adequate funding provided to ensure its ongoing success and quality programming.

Andrea F

VIC 2050

At the moment I check the ABC news twice a day for updates on the coronavirus because I know I can trust it for accurate and up to date information. I also listen to Coronacast every day. I enjoy the podcasts Awaye and Offtrack and have found them helpful in coping with lockdown. Please do not cut the ABC budget any further. Many of us are relying on the ABC to help us get through each day.

Andrea M

VIC 3802

To whom it may concern,

I am writing to you to voice my true concerns about ongoing cuts to the ABC. The ABC is vital to so many lives and especially my own. I have relied heavily on the ABC during bushfires; including and especially the 2011 Richmond/ Eagle Hawk Neck bushfire (Tasmania), where we had to take refuge at Port Arthur for 5 days and more recently the horrific 2019/20 New Years Eve bushfires where again we relied heavily on the ABC for up to date communication and warnings to keep us safe while fleeing Bermagui and NSW South Coast to Canberra and onto Melbourne. No other service has 24 hour updates and service reliability like the ABC.

We have also relied on the ABC for up to date information, much needed entertainment, to stay connected to community and to lift our spirits during the coronavirus crisis. No other service provides such a diverse program and support to all ages.

We also trust and value the age appropriate, educational and multicultural programs available on the ABC to keep our child engaged, informed and curious.

Other networks and media platforms are so driven by making money that they blatantly spread propaganda, fear and hyperbole. We depended on the ABC to research into the true facts and hold those in power accountable.

Please reinstate funding; and stop attacking and stripping down the ABC. It is a lifeline to so many Australians.

Andrea R
VIC 3072

My name is Andrea Vincent, I live in HIGHETT Victoria and employed by a multi national company for 32 years, am married and raised 2 children.

I was raised on a farm in North East Vic and still connected to the area via family and travelling to regional and most Aussie states is part of our families life, mainly camping in caravan parks.

Cost cutting to the ABC is so distressing to me and my family, it's a big part of our lives, it provides reliable news reports, emergency broadcasts during summer seasons on fires activities present and past, current coronavirus crisis, lockdown information, it's there in the car when travelling, on our Sony transistor radio, on my iPhone ABC Listen app and ABC TV.

The ABC provides me with local, national and international trusted quality news service, footy and cricket, drama and comedy. I don't understand why there are cuts to the budget and when our nation is in such a crisis, when so many people are isolated, especially the elderly due to the coronavirus crisis, high unemployment and there is such anxiety for our communities.

The other thing I notice when I listen to other radio or TV channels during sporting broadcasts is the amount of gambling advertising directed to listeners/viewers our young kids must think gambling is like picking up KFC. The ABC offers quality sports coverage & commentators without gambling adds, another great community benefit.

Also rural newspapers are closing, so there is more of a need a reliable ABC service to these communities, keeping people connected.

I would hope that the ABC would get an increased to their budget to keep our nation together during these terrible pandemic times, when you see Aust States closed, and even the governments are starting to show there hate for Victoria and returning travellers, contractor employees etc. They also need to connect to those that are in or feel socially isolation.

Thank you for your time.
Andrea Vincent.

Andrea V
NSW 3190

The ABC has been my sole source of information during the fires and covid19. The hype and misinformation put out through mainstream media makes the ABC the only organisation I trust.

Andrew C
QLD 2285

The ABC has been a clear credible voice throughout 2020, in fact since I was born in 1965. My first recollection of a world event was when we crowded around a scratchy radio to hear that man had landed on the moon.

The ABC has been broadcasting devastating flood updates when I was growing up in Lismore and in 1974 we'd never seen water so deep in the main street. Again and again it has been there to report tragedy, keep me informed about current affairs and celebrate like we did in 1988! In 2000 as I drove around SW Western Australia we heard every event from the Sydney Olympics.

In early 2012 when Brisbane flooded and we had to lift all our belongings above the 1974 flood height, again we relied on the ABC.

Each election since I've been voting the ABC has given clear and detailed results.

This year it has been the only real source of consistent information. From the bushfires that ushered in 2020 to the pandemic which has swept across our nation.

Today I can receive my news from the ABC Facebook page, from a Listen App, and hear the same news my relatives hear in Melbourne and Sydney, all from the comfort of my home in Brisbane.

Whether it is the nightly news, whether it is current affairs, whether it is local stories, there is really only one broadcaster that is balanced and fair.

The ABC is the one and as misinformation is spread about COVID-19 or its treatment we need, now more than ever, balanced, unbiased reporting.

We need a properly funded ABC that can deliver news to my cousins in country NSW, my friends in regional Queensland. For them there is only one news service and the ABC must be retained and funded properly to deliver balanced news, which challenges, is thought provoking and gets me thinking.

We need balanced journalism which responds to a Charter, not recycled or extremist views, both left and right, which masquerade as speaking truth to Australians.

Australia needs a properly resourced ABC to provide information for our kids, our communities and our future. A public broadcaster not beholden to advertising is critical for Australia's future.

Properly fund the ABC in 2020.

Thanks

Andrew C
TAS 4051

I am a retired research scientist who lives in Tasmania.

The ABC is an integral part of my life. It provides accurate news and current affairs, quality investigative journalism and insightful discussion of world events. For me it is a trusted and reliable source of information: a vital service in a time of shrinking media diversity, increasing media bias and growing disinformation. ABC's radio, TV and web resources help to foster and elevate reasoned at scales from local to national and global. In the best tradition of journalism, and in a role that is crucial to sustaining democracy, the ABC holds those in power to account for their actions without fear or favour (e.g. Robodebt, climate policy, sports rorts, branch stacking etc). To me, the ABC combines facts, humour, art and current affairs to sustain our nation and foster a sense of national identity and pride with programs ranging from 4 Corners and Foreign Correspondent to Backroads and Australian Story plus entertainment from Mad as Hell to quality Australian drama (The Smack, Cleverman, Operation Buffalo) and documentaries (encompassing the rise of Putin, the East Australian Current, and advances in science).

At a functional level the ABC is my go-to source of information in times of disaster. The information and advice provided by their coverage of Tasmania's bushfires in 2018/19 and the radio and TV coverage of COVID-19 is reassuring, authoritative and trustworthy.

The failure of politicians to properly fund the ABC suggests that they would rather avoid scrutiny by national broadcaster. One can, therefore, only conclude that their role is all the more vital.

I beg you, please, properly fund our ABC to enable it's continued pursuit of excellence.

Yours sincerely,

Dr Andrew Davidson

Andrew D
QLD 7054

I'm an Australian living in the Philippines and the ABC is my lifeline to events happening in Australia. Its news is trusted, unlike the Murdoch Press. I watch Q&A and Media Watch every week via U-Tube. I have the ABC News website on fulltime. To defund this vital artery of information is an act of vandalism to all Australians. At a time when newspapers are closing along with many news channels, a strong, vibrant ABC is essential. Increase its budget, please.

Andrew E
VIC 4157

I am 82 and have been close to the media all these years - as a diplomat, international lawyer, a writer and now a woolgrower and public policy commentator. I depend on the ABC and the BBC for reliable information and news analysis. As an experienced user of the media I put the public broadcaster far ahead of commercial sources. It is curious why both the ABC and the BBC are continually being forced to justify themselves. The ABC should not have to constantly plead for funds or even have to argue against funding cuts. The ABC is a major contributor to what makes Australia a great country. Harm to the ABC equates to harm to the nation.

ANDREW F
NSW 3318

2020 has been a year like no other I have known in my 68 years.

First came the climate- change- driven catastrophic bushfires, then the devastating pandemic. The only certainty that you can bank on now is that the world will never be the same again. If we are to survive the twin pandemic /climate change crises we need to come up with radical and creative solutions.

Through it all, virtually my only trusted and reliable source of information is the ABC that shines like a beacon of hope in a dysfunctional world. A world ridden by the massive assault on truth evidenced by the demise of journalistic standards, the collapse of independent sources of information and the rise of Trumpian 'fake news'.

Locked down in my aged care facility in solitary COVID confinement, one of the few things that gives me hope is the comfort I get from the ABC. Trusted shows like the ABC News, Q& A and the Insiders help keep me centred in a world drowning in fake news about climate change and the pandemic.

What the ABC needs at this time is more funding not less. It is imperative that the ABC fulfil its vital role in maintaining journalistic standards and its commitment to the truth, which is coming under ever greater threat in this climate changed/pandemic world.

Andrew F
NSW 2088

The ABC is very important as an information and education agency. Just one example has been information about Covid 19 - in particular the daily Coronacasts with Tegan Taylor and Dr Norman Swan.

Andrew G
NSW 2107

One of the most important foundations of a functioning democracy is a well informed public. I rely on the ABC as one of few trusted news sources to keep up to date on current affairs on a daily basis. Beyond this, the ABC provides wonderful locally produced programming that is priceless to Australian culture. Commercial television cannot do the same job as the ABC. Australia would not be the same without the ABC

Andrew H
QLD 2430

Real news is what the country of Australia relies on and what this country needs especially in this current environment we are in.

Andrew H
NSW 4556

As an Australia overseas during the fire crisis early 2020 the only reliable coverage across eastern Australia was the ABC in finding out the wellbeing of friends and family. Similarly so with the pandemic. Any private of government push to defund the ABC is absurd and is contrary to our natural instincts to care for one's family, friends and the community.

Andrew L
QLD 2089

I have watched and listened to the ABC for most of my 66 years of life.

As child it entertained and taught me, Play School, Sesame Street, Dr Who, Count Down to mention just a few. My own children and grand children enjoy the ABC as well for the same reasons. You get quality local programming not something regurgitated from overseas.

Over the years the ABC has continued to entertain producing Serials, and Dramas and Comedy with a uniquely Australian voice and cultural point of reference, unlike the commercial channels that serve up programs from an American cultural imperialism context. Flowing on from this the ABC has been a rich breeding ground home grown talent both in front of the camera and microphone and behind the scenes in production.

The ABC provides a trusted voice when it comes to independent journalism covering issues that really matter getting behind things and exposing stories of great public concern and interest a testimony to shows like 4 Corners, Insiders, Q&A.

The ABC has balanced programming inclusive of country and city life styles, points of view and is often the lone voice in the media air waves, which quite frankly seems dominated by 1 or 2 big commercial multinational players.

The ABC reports on national issue like the recent bush fires and presently the covid19 pandemic in a factual way, with out sensationalizing and editorializing the news. There experts are experts not personalities.

Finally the ABC is accused by some elements in our society of being left wing bias. This I think speaks more to those individuals right wing bias. With much of the commercial media dominated by banal cheap reality TV and divisive opinionated shock jocks on radio ,the ABC provides an sane alternative in our society. Rather than cut ABC funding it needs to be increased to

maintain a healthy democracy in Australia.

Regards Andrew McIntyre Caboolture QLD

andrew M

VIC 4510

The ABC is a vital source of information for me on a daily basis. Both the ABC News and the ABC digital platform have provided me with up to date information on Covid 19. It has kept me fully informed about restrictions in my area. This an Australian institution that should be both protected and fully funded. I have watched the ABC News for 50 years.

Andrew P

ACT 3166

Dear sir/madam,

I feel it necessary to balance the self-interested suggestions of the Murdoch press for the Government to further starve the ABC, their business competitors.

Since the start of the fire season, the ABC has been crucial in reporting news that has been crucial to the well-being of folks all over Australia. And now with CoViD-19 they are again a shining sentinel of data-backed reporting.

But not only are their news services crucial to Australian life, their documentaries are of a consistently high standard, and - as affirmed again and again - balanced. As we can see with the Covid crisis, ignorance is not bliss.

And not only news and documentaries, Radio National's other programs and podcasts prove to be enriching to my own world.

So I'd gladly double my seven cents a day (it's now four, isn't it?)

Andrew P

VIC 2618

To me personally, as someone who seeks information as a source of entertainment, our ABC stands alone.

The quality of both information and entertainment regularly available from all quarters of the ABC is simply incomparable by way of contrast with it's commercial competitors - and always has been.

In the interests of protecting and preserving this outstanding quality of broadcasting, the funding of the ABC must be proportional and reflective of the true value of it's unparalleled contributions to Australian society and culture.

After all, it's our ABC.

Andrew R

NSW 3032

As a young 25 year old migrant to Australia, arriving by boat in 1968 I was excited by the idea of starting a new life in Australia, 15,000 miles from my old home in Scotland. I knew I would miss lots of things, but particularly the BBC which I had grown up with and listened to avidly from a young age. However I quickly gravitated to the ABC, finding that it was in so many ways similar to that organisation. Everything from its children's programmes to national and international reporting is carried out with the highest standards of journalistic reporting and integrity. I feel safe that I am honestly in the know when I listen to the ABC. It angers me more than anything when the government cuts more and more funding from the one organisation that keeps us honestly connected to the events that shape our nation. I, along with many Australians would take to the barricades to save our national broadcaster !!!

Andrew R
WA 2125

Hello,
My name is Andrea. I am retired and live in Geraldton WA.
The ABC is my gateway to unbiased reporting. Unlike other channels it is independent of third parties. Its coverage of Australian issues is second to none. They also promote Australia via drama, music, comedy and all the arts.
Please do not offend my intellect by persistently saying that there have been no cuts, when you give money to Fox.

Andrew S
NSW 6530

Here in New South Wales just 6 months ago we were in a terrible drought.
Then we had fires. Then floods, then Covid.
Through all of this I relied on the ABC for clarity and guidance.
I would not trust commercial media for this level of accuracy and truth.
I remember 2GB & Alan Jones downplaying Covid at its most critical point in Feb / March 2020. Recklessly irresponsible as they have been with anything that requires thinking up a level or two. Especially facts and science.
ABC online is my price source of news, followed by ABC TV and radio national, then the commercial stuff like Sydney Morning Herald.
Channel 9 etc are useful for sport. Remember that, sport.

We have a super-reputable public broadcaster in the ABC.
Give it what it needs to keep us together and to keep us informed and wiser. I learn a lot from the ABC and I trust it.
Thanks for reading
Andrew Woods

Andrew W
VIC 2541

We urge that our government seriously reconsider it's attitude to the Funding of the ABC. We consider the ABC to be an essential part of our lives contributing significantly to our health and sense of well being.

Radio National is a rich lifeline to the world. As a daily listener over the past 40 years of my life I would rate the quality and diversity of programming to be beyond measure.

One of my favourite programs would be Off-Track which explores the natural world of insects, birds, animals and ecosystems within Australia. Experts in their fields introduce us each week to another peek into the Australian landscape. I am fascinated by these stories of scientists in their fields examining the complex life that is all around us.

Country Breakfast is another program that has introduced me to life outside the city bubble. I am constantly intrigued by the resilience of farming communities and the innovations that are being made to improve yield and to adapt to climate change in various parts of Australia. It is programs like this that give us an insight into just one of Australia's essential industries and the lifestyles and challenges facing rural people in Australia.

As an avid reader I listen regularly to the Book Show to get information about authors and new books. Rear Vision looks anew at historical situations to give context. Again this is an essential service particularly in these current challenging times where we are all drawing on every resource to maintain good mental health.

Two other examples of quality broadcasting were heard today August 4th 2020. The first was about Charles Bonnet Syndrome which afflicts people losing their vision. It reassures people experiencing vivid hallucinations that they are not crazy. It can also reassure relatives of those afflicted. It gives the listener insight into unfamiliar experiences. The program also provides information about support services. These stories are rarely, if ever covered on commercial media.

The second example was a discussion about pandemics with an expert panel providing a greater level of understanding of how these events occur and how they relate to our current covid experience. Again this non partisan analysis is simply not present in the Murdoch media. This kind of informed content is essential in mobilising communities to act responsibly and effectively in response to health emergencies and disasters.

Without Radio National my understanding of the current world and and its connections to the past and future would be so much poorer and as a follow on, my sense of community and well being would also be much the poorer.

I don't want to listen to uninformed opinion such as exists on commercial radio. I value knowledge and nuanced opinion from experts in all fields. It is distressing to think that the only way I can access information is by way of some kind of commercial relationship. Is it too much to ask our government to provide for a media outlet that truly belongs to the people?

I would draw your attention the shamefully irresponsible commentary in the Murdoch press which has undermined government efforts to manage bushfires and the pandemic at every opportunity. They have presented dangerously false information which has the potential for great harm.

We urge you to commit to a healthy, independent public broadcaster. This is the government's opportunity to demonstrate a commitment to accountability and inclusion.

Regards
Jennifer Guilfoyle
Andy Tester

Andy T
NSW 3198

Stop trying to privatise everything, we need an independent and reliable news Broadcaster.
Murdoch Press cannot take over the whole market.
Shame Scott Morrison Government, life is not about accumulating wealth.

Ange E
QLD 2321

I have been kept sane in a rapidly changing world by knowing I can find on Radio National sensible programmes and regular news . It is a lifeline for people of my age [and educa toon} with serious topics of high quality. When in Timor Leste for a while I was able to hear Pacific Beat and felt in touch with happenings around thee islands. Where would we be without the ABC?

Angela C
VIC 4017

I have been a viewer of the ABC since I can remember. I am now 66 years old and "retired", after a fruitful life in education. Now I contribute in this area on a voluntary basis, in West Melbourne where I now live. I have appreciated and continue to appreciate the many cultural, educational, entertainment [drama, comedy, music and children's] and news programs.

The current wilting away of ABC programs, the vast majority made by Australians for Australians, is disconcerting. If we are to celebrate our vast cultural wealth we should be supporting local talent and content, not eroding the potential to stream it. Commercial stations provide programs from predominantly American companies, much to my chagrin.

Why should I have to watch content from elsewhere on commercial media when our Australian journalists, writers and actors should be acknowledged for their talents and skills in the TV and radio media?

The Coronavirus crisis is a case in point: the readiness of our national broadcaster to provide regular updates as our federal and state leaders and medical experts report on the situation is reassuring to say the least, not in a commercial break.

Furthermore, I applaud the unbiased stance of ABC's reporters in programs such as the ABC News Mornings, all ABC News reports, Insiders, Q&A, Four Corners, Foreign Correspondent, 7.30 Report, Business, The Drum.

Children's programs are too many to list here, but I as a child enjoyed them, and two more generations of my family since then have benefited from these programs. Now in the COVID era their educational content to complement online teaching has been invaluable in both primary and secondary education.

The number of documentaries presented by the ABC far out ways any contribution by commercial stations.

Finally, is criticism of the so-called bias of ABC reporting, a smoke screen to ignore commercial stations bias and their sensationalized reporting of events rather than giving the news for us to decide on our position?

No matter the politics of the government, the interviewer seeks to draw out the truth, not simply cow tail. Perhaps, this goes some way to explain why incumbent Liberal governments have continued to erode funding?

As a taxpayer and importantly, longstanding viewer of ABC Current Affairs, Australian drama, comedy, documentaries, children's programs I demand that ABC be funded appropriately.

The government in the Oct Budget needs to stop the erosion of ABC funding and in future budgets restore the independence of our national broadcaster.

It is disturbing that gradually the reach of the ABC is being eroded for what I can only deduce is the political bias of the current government and in the past governments of similar persuasion. I am concerned that the voice which has always supplied Australians with reporting often in emergency situations through radio and television for matters of national concern:

1. pending danger during our bush fire season; this year is particularly relevant in light of the government's disregard of the advice offered them by fire experts.
2. cultural events in all the Arts: music, opera, theatre, film
3. global events which will affect the Australian economy, way of life. Australia needs an independent voice not one dominated by vested interests in the commercial media."

Angela D

VIC 3003

I watch only the ABC and SBS because the content is more appealing and it's news more trustworthy than the commercial stations (and their vested interests). I can say the latter as I have worked inside commercial tv stations and seen those interests at work. At worst, they also dumb down news content, or cheapen it.... the ABC is our best "go to" for television news and current affairs. The role it has played during Covid has been extremely important- informing us, CALMING us, especially the input of Dr Norman Swann. Similarly across at RN - interesting conversations and the voices of so many Australians represented. It is grave to think this government would cut the ABC budget further when we have never needed the ABC more.

Angela h

VIC 3249

Hi,

My name is Angela McCarthy. I live in regional Victoria and travel quite a bit for work. The ABC is my primary news source around national disasters and general news. I rely on the ABC in times of fire and flood to tell me if and where it's safe to travel and in this time of coronavirus it keeps me updated on restrictions. I trust the ABC as a news source and frankly can't stomach most other sources that have to throw the word "bombshell" into every headline.

I find the ABC's comedy shows to be of the highest quality and I'm concerned they'll be cut and the content of the news I rely on diminished if the ABC isn't adequately funded.

I demand funding cuts to the ABC be restored and no further cuts are made to its budget. As a taxpayer I want my money to be used to properly fund the ABC.

Kind regards
Angela McCarthy

Angela M
VIC 3356

As a regional Australian with a global perspective I turn to the ABC whether it is for local, national or international news. The ABC is my trusted source of information whether it be that the bushfire is heading our direction, an update on the Covid-19 restrictions or there is conflict in our Asia Pacific region or further afield. I also rely on the ABC RN and ABC Local radio for intelligent, balanced commentary. I'm really not sure I could live in regional Australia without the access to the reliable information and wide-ranging stories that the ABC provides. In a world where it is increasingly difficult for myself, and in particular our younger generations, to decipher fact from fiction the ABC is invaluable. Please do not cut the funding.

Angela M
NSW 3660

Dear Government,

I urge you to reconsider further cuts to the ABC funding, as well as re-instate past funding withdrawals during your reign.

The ABC is my constant and trusted companion. Living alone as a 78 year old pensioner without a car, listening to Radio National and watching ABC TV is my most reliable contact to the world. It helped me bear a serious illness in 2019, the bushfires and storms in 2020 and now the Corona Virus isolation.

I find great comfort in the way our public broadcaster shows understanding and compassion for everyone; and I always turn to the ABC for objective news and factual information which is vital for my personal situation, my community and the Democracy of our country.

Angelika T
VIC 2780

I have ABC Radio on all day everyday. I live in a bushfire zone, and during the summer bushfires had to evacuate a camping site in far east Gippsland. During this time ABC was a trusted source of regular updates and warnings. During the COVID crisis, I have again really relied on ABC News for clear and factual reporting on the ever changing situation. I love seeing Australians on screen and hearing Australians on the radio, the ABC brings us all real Australian content. Life would be far less colourful and authentic without it. A strong national broadcaster is core to our identity. Please don't subject the ABC to more cuts!

Anita F
NSW 3442

I strongly support protection of the ABC.

From reporting on the horrific bushfire season to updates on COVID-19, I have found the ABC an invaluable, unbiased, non sensationalist source of information.

Kind regards,
Anita

anita T
WA 2088

X

Retiring recently has meant more time at home. I would be totally lost without the entertainment and knowledge I gain from listening to ABC's Radio National. Programs such as Awaye, Conversations and History Listen tell me Australian stories. Learning about Aboriginal culture has filled a huge gap not filled through being educated in Australia. When I walk, when I cook for the family I listen to podcast programs on current affairs, about Australia's place in the world. And during the pandemic lockdown I could share ABC entertainment on tv with my family and friends. Please do not cut funding to the ABC.

Ann B

QLD 6011

I am appalled that the Morrison government plans to cut funding to the ABC. I lived abroad in recent years and relied on the ABC for unbiased, well researched news. Their investigative journalism is so necessary on our present world. I trust the ABC.

Ann B

NSW 4066

The ABC is the only authentic and unbiased connection for Australians compared to the other media outlets. If we just relied on the commercial channels we would become brain dead! How do you compare the quality programs of Lateline, Landline, Australian Story, Back Roads, One plus One, Q and A, 7.30 Report, Four Corners etc to the superficial Big Brother, I am a Celebrity and the bachelor who is looking for a wife or the spinster who is looking for a husband??!! We cannot allow to have the government to dumb down our intellect because of a few dollars. The ABC is an investment in our intellect. With our vast country the ABC is the only link in us knowing what is happening to our fellow Australians and any crisis that is occurring. Be it in the recent past with the bush fires and now with the coronavirus.

Ann C

VIC 2323

As an older woman living alone in a rural township in NE Victoria prone area I have to say how dependent I am on the ABC and how much I appreciate the service and information provided during emergencies I appreciate and how hard their staff work in floods, bushfires and the Covid crisis. They continue to put the community first. The music they play during lockdown is carefully chosen and uplifting and the new TV show "The Sound" is providing an audience for musicians struggling during the crisis. They provide forums for ideas and allow us to look at issues in more depth than either commercial broadcasters and social media. The need to have accurate, timely information has never been more important than now. It alarms me to see the funding of this vital community service repeatedly cut.

Ann H

VIC 3746

The ABC is my go to station for up to date info on the latest news, whether it's fire, floods, accidents, road closures etc n now the pandemic. In many areas of remote Australia it has been the only station available!! To reduce funding to the ABC will be to the detriment of rural people who rely on it for all types of news. Please support the rural people its our go to station (reliable, dependant n up to date)

Ann H

NSW 3380

During the bushfires which we endured at the beginning of 2020, I relied totally on the Illawarra ABC station, to inform me of the proximity of the bushfires to my home in Exeter NSW. At the height of danger there were half hourly updates. It was because of this information I was able to safely evacuate my home twice. I listened to this station via a small battery radio, which I carried everywhere with me. I was also able to know when to safely return home. Regarding coronavirus, the comprehensive data and advice delivered by the ABC is second to none. Finally if the ABC were to become a commercial enterprise where would I get true and unbiased reporting. For me the media would be dead.

ANN M

QLD 2579

As a person living in regional Queensland, the ABC is integral to my being able to keep abreast of local issues; disasters, events, business developments and personal stories. Despite the constant assertions by politicians of all persuasions that regionalisation is important I have seen very little evidence of this being implemented. The news of the regions is only available ABC radio, especially now that almost all regional newspapers have become defunct. Any curtailing to the services delivered will plunge rural Australia - who generate the bulk of real income to this country- into a void of knowledge that will diminish our ability to contribute wholly to our future

Ann M

VIC 4650

I have listened to the ABC all my life. It has been a steady, entertaining, informative and reliable companion which has always given me a sense of feeling safe in the world. This year the ABC validated this sense by literally saving our lives. We were camping at Mallacoota with our daughter and little granddaughter after Christmas when the raging bushfires were howling towards us. Hundreds of people were sitting in their cars listening to the ABC because it was the only constant information source anyone could access. Our family made the decision to leave and we were the very last car to get out of Mallacoota before the road to Genoa was closed. We were absolutely terrified to hear the ABC warning everyone to seek shelter immediately as we neared Genoa and it was the ABC warnings and updates which guided us up through the mountains to Jindabyne to safety. We would have gone to the coast and been trapped again if not for this. The ABC is a vital, unique and indeed lifesaving part of every aspect of Australian life. We should support it with all our heart, soul and funding!

ann s
NSW 3556

So many older Australians rely on the ABC. So many in fact, that if I were a bureaucrat looking to be re-elected, I'd back the ABC to the hilt.

Ann S
VIC 2779

I always rely on the ABC for local and international news. It is indispensable to rounding out my knowledge and to understanding the conditions that are occurring in the places where loved ones live.

Last summer we followed the bushfire news on ABC closely most particularly because one of our sons and his family live in Braidwood, NSW, which was badly affected by fires. Fortunately winds changed just in time to avert his home being consumed. Others were not so fortunate.

Now, in Melbourne, where we live, we follow the ABC news concerning the spread of covid-19 closely and act according to advice given.

Ann S
NSW 3199

I live on the south coast of NSW.

During the summer of 2019-2020 our most easily accessible, up to date, regular and reliable information on the location of fire fronts, weather forecasts, road access, power outages, safe areas and access to other vital information was consistently provided by measured, well informed broadcasters and reporters on ABC Illawarra. No other source was as comprehensive nor as responsive to callers seeking clarification and in some cases seeking help.

Presently ABC Illawarra is keeping us informed about Covid 19, the risks and our responsibilities. we are hearing from well informed professional experts on a regular basis as to how we can best protect ourselves and others physically, emotionally and psychologically as well as providing contact details of agencies and personal in the event that we may need their support or assistance.

More than ever we need consistent, reliable and intelligent information presented without bias or hysteria. Social media presents a maze of ill informed and misleading posts that require too much precious (and at times) life saving time to get the required information.

Ann S
TAS 2758

We are based in southern Tasmania, in a rural area surrounded by bush. When we returned from a short trip in January 2019, bushfires were raging to the west and south of us, and most of the Huon Valley just over the hill had been evacuated. For weeks, the sky above was black, grey and orange, and it felt like the fires were almost upon us. But the constant and accurate updates from ABC radio reassured us that it was in fact nowhere near us, so we didn't have to abandon the property with horses, chooks and valuables. The ABC is an essential element of our lives and must be maintained and funded!

Ann W
NSW 7150

I live alone. Whenever I am feeling a little too alone I turn on RN. Their programmes are always interesting. Particularly, I hear The Health Report, The Business Report, The Law Report. I hear the news everyday and plan my days by their weather forecast. Life would be empty, dull and lonely without my ABC.

Ann Y
QLD 2008

I have relied on the ABC an enormous amount to -

1. Keep me up to date on Covid19. It has been invaluable in dispensing scientific information about how to keep safe and is the only information source that I trust for up to date information. The analysis of the situation in Australia has been wonderfully deep and without any sensationalism.

2. The bushfire news. There is no comparison it kept Australia safe. It protected Australians when there is simply no alternative news. To think of cutting the ABC as a lifeline of Australia is unthinkable. We, as Australians, owe a dept of gratitude to the ABC.

3. News I can trust. It is the only way to keep in touch with what is happening politically, culturally and socially with our news.

4. Wonderful Australian entertainment content. I simply would not see such brilliance any where else.

Anna C
QLD 4655

ABC is absolutely important for news on corona virus, especially for over 60s...but also at all other times. It is our most reliable source of news.

I would never again vote for a party that decreased its funding.

Anna D
NSW 4567

Dear Sir/Madam,

It is extremely important to me to have the independents of journalism provided by the ABC remains in place. I profoundly rely on the ABC as my source of information especially the news and current affairs programmes. In the absence of that I would be forced to access unreliable information from the internet. I also enjoy the ABC's excellent drama series. Please do not deprive me of my favorite TV channel for information and entertainment. Proper funding is essential for the ABC to maintain its high standard. Thank you for your consideration.

Anna Kotz

Anna K
ACT 2780

As I stood up on my roof watching the Canberra fire storm rolling to the suburbs killing people, billions of animals and infrastructure such as schools and veterinary hospitals and people's houses including the electrical substation down the road and the lower Molonglo sewage treatment works, it was the ABC playing in my ear telling me what the situation was.

Anna R
VIC 2605

The ABC has provided me with accurate up to date information on: the recent bushfires threatening communities in Victoria and NSW, coronavirus and everyday life. I am grateful to the ABC television team for news and behind the news stories especially that brought to us from Leigh Sales and Laura Tingle. Q&A is a consistently interesting probing program led by presenter Hamish Macdonald. I rely on the ABC News and ABC Radio National Breakfast show every morning. Presenters Fran Kelly, Geraldine Doogue, Hamish Macdonald, provide ongoing, lively dialogue and reports from a wide variety of points of view. Updates on the coronavirus are presented with every update with information from The Prime Minister Scott Morrison and Commonwealth Health Minister, and State Premiers and State Health Ministers. As well as all the necessary and serious broadcasts the ABC also provides me with support to get through isolation with arts programs, music, book readings and book reviews, and on-line theatre. I am so grateful for everything brought to me from the ABC this year!

Anna S
VIC 3057

The ABC is an integral part of my life. ABC CLASSIC filled my heart with joy all through the lockdown with Beethoven's 100 to celebrate the great man's 250 birthday. Now ABC Classic is my companion as the disaster continues. I get enough of the news so not to be overwhelmed and in the evening I am informed on relevant issues from a wide range of people on THE DRUM. I DON'T KNOW WHERE I'D BE WITHOUT THE ABC. I listen to the podcasts on ABC LISTEN every day and always going to sleep at night. In the evening again it's the ABC informing and entertaining me. Programme like FOUR CORNERS and FOREIGN CORRESPONDENT are world renowned and I am immensely of them. My Spanish friend said to me before returning home, 'I wish we had an ABC you are so lucky'. But it's not luck it is good planning and budgeting that gives us the likes of Norman Swan to explain COVID-19 or that guy who is challenging us to manage our waste. And it's here in these enormous challenges that our ABC has a vital role.

Anna S
QLD 3056

I have completely relied on the ABC for my news every year but this year in particular. I want real people giving truthful, non-sensationalised, factual news. I don't trust any other news outlet in Australia. I need to know the news is funded by the people not an individual. Please save the ABC.

Anna T
VIC 4870

I beg you to prioritise additional funding for the ABC. independent media is vital for democracy and globally democracy is threatened by fake news and heavily politicised opinionated news. We need to have faith in our information otherwise there is the seedbed for complete chaos. I also live in the Blue Mountains and the ABC kept me safe and sane during the fires.

Annabel M
VIC 3461

My day moves between ABC NEWS 24, radio RN, and Triple J. The ABC is the only place I trust to deliver the wide range of news, and current affairs I'm looking for. TripleJ likewise (with Hack and the different science programs), presenting the best of Australian and international music is my music station of choice. I've tried all the rest, now I only choose the best. Please keep it that way.

Anne A
NSW 3934

I am 76 years old and totally rely on the ABC for reliable, timely news - both on the radio and the TV. Reliable information is vital during times of bushfires and other emergencies - such as the COVID19 pandemic. Since the lockdown started in March I have tuned in to hear the Prime Minister and then the NSW Premier give us the latest information - and now we have Victoria struggling to maintain control. To keep the population informed and supportive, we need excellent reporters who we can trust. Funding the ABC is not wasting public money, it is an essential, trustworthy service.

Anne B
SA 2010

Yes, the ABC is integral to my life. I looked for news updates and found detailed information about bushfires essential last summer, as our property was threatened. Information on so much that affects daily life, presented in researched and interesting ways is massively helpful in time-short circumstances. News needs to be balanced and reliable which is the ABC. Then there is quality entertainment, commentaries, music, discussions, life enriching conversations to appreciate...truly it is Australian intelligent media at its best and that, to start with is radio ABC! Wonderful, essential.

Anne B
ACT 5045

My name is Anne Brennan and I live in Kingston ACT. I am a retired academic who lives alone. The ABC has always been integral to my life, but since I retired Radio National has been an indispensable part of my routine, never more so than this year, when I've had to spend so much solitary time at home, unable to visit my daughter and family interstate. RN's wonderful programming has not only kept me intellectually stimulated (Off Track, The History Listen, The Minefield, Conversations) but they've helped me to feel connected to a wider community of listeners. My sister lives in the US and subscribes to the ABC's program podcasts so that she can be a part of my life in Australia. The ABC performs a role in Australian life that commercial media cannot hope to perform: as a voice for and of the people, as a dispassionate disseminator of reliable news and as an irreplaceable instrument of Australian culture.

Anne B
VIC 2604

We live in rural Victoria the ABC was giving us information during the bushfires and when it came close to us helped us look after my husbands mother here. Also during the Covid pandemic it keeps us up to date without editorial emotion just facts. This has aligned well with government websites especially in the area I work. I have seen other coverage and am concerned about the oxygen given to misinformation to sell papers, TV stations trying to sensationalise. I watch it for balanced information and its documentaries as well as great Australian Drama content I can view ie Operation Buffalo and I watch Insiders have done for years. So much more my children grew up with it and now my grandchildren. Leave it alone

Anne B
ACT 3875

I listen to and watch the ABC every day. In the morning I listen to the RN Breakfast program to get a full rundown on everything that has happened and is happening in Australia and the world, and in the evening I watch The Drum for a very informed, diverse and balanced view of the issues of the day, then I watch the 7pm news and 7.30. I do watch other programs on ABC TV (eg Four Corners, Foreign Correspondent etc) and I am always impressed with the way the news and other stories are presented in an accurate and balanced manner. Without exaggerating, my mental health would suffer significantly if I did not have access to ABC news, current affairs, documentaries and emergency information. In these very challenging and dangerous times, PLEASE do not reduce funding for this most trusted source of information.

Anne C
QLD 2603

I would find it difficult not to be able to rely on the ABC every day of my life. From soothing classical music in times of stress to daily news via RN and the ABC TV news channels I cannot imagine life without this input. Every time there is a budget this government is cutting the ABC, did not the bushfires impact on their thinking at all? All Australians have relied on this invaluable service since it's first inception will you be the cause of it's demise simply to gratify the greed of the commercial sector? As you must be aware the ABC can and will always dominate journalistic endeavour due to the ability to attract the highest standard in their staff, will you deny the Australian public the right to access this?
If this is the case I don't have much hope for the country. Please ensure our access to this invaluable educational source no matter the cost, I would remind you that this is what you were elected to achieve for the Australian people.

Anne C
TAS 4573

I depend every day on the ABC for reliable, quality in-depth information about what is going on in my state, my country and the world. Radio National in particular is very good at presenting us with this kind of information and debate on an array of current affairs topics. Australia's culture would be vastly diminished if we did not have the benefit of Radio National's contribution to our national conversation. I also appreciate the crucial practical role the ABC plays when there are national crises to deal with such as the bushfires or the Corona virus pandemic. In an age age when one could easily drown in a sea of mis-information the ABC is a life raft.

Your sincerely
Anne Collins

Anne C
NSW 7000

During the summer bushfires we had to evacuate twice. Our local ABC was a reliable and comforting source of information about what was happening with the two fires that were threatening us. The dedication of the ABC reporters - tv and radio - was inspirational. Without the ABC we would have felt very alone.
And during the Covid lockdown, when so much misinformation was flying around, we knew we could rely on the ABC for correct information.

Anne C
NSW 2579

I am a 78 y.o. widow and I live alone. From my earliest recollection, I have always preferred the ABC (radio & TV) because of quality of programs and authenticity.
In last 3 years the ABC has increasingly become more like my friend since I lost my husband and I find it comforting to have this medium to stay in touch with the world. Aside from the actual TV, I take ABC everywhere with me - in my car and into my garden, by courtesy of an old transistor radio.
Since January 2020 connection with ABC has become critical to me and many other people, as my home backs onto deep bushland and I found the ABC my most reliable form of communication as I had my bag packed to leave the premises if my home was threatened.
Of course, in more recent months ABC reporting on the Covid 19 pandemic has kept me and my friends reliably informed with information that, we know from history, is authentic and constantly up-dated.
The ABC is as critical to us as a community as emergency services. I would be totally lost without it and feeling a lot less secure in my current circumstances.

Anne C
VIC 2258

I rely on the ABC, day in, day out, for professional, intelligent, reliable, non-emotive, far less-biased news than comes from other Channels.
So much more important to have this approach to news during Coronavirus. Please, give the ABC all the financial support required to continue this essential service.
Anne David

Anne D
QLD 3146

I rely on the ABC news app to update me on news events important to Australians and especially the latest coronavirus developments. It seems to cover a wide variety of news topics and is more even handed than most other sources of news. It doesn't make a practice of sniping at politicians for the sake of it or prioritising sensational content or issues. The fact-check is very worthwhile also. It's a respectful station, both to its audience and in the reporting it pursues, I'm ethically happy with that.

I relied on the ABC particularly during the bushfires, having relatives in affected areas and needing to keep track. I'm an older Australian (and there are a lot of us) so I appreciate the ABC's TV programs which often provide relief from the sensational reality shows that are enjoyed by other generations but not really by me! If I had to rely on the commercial stations for my media, I'd be much the worse for it. For the sake of my generation and for all of us who aren't too impressed with agenda and sensation driven news and TV, please keep funding the ABC adequately.

Anne E
VIC 4075

I live in regional Victoria and depend on the ABC for reliable and comprehensive news on Corona Virus bush fires and weather. This may seem like an odd combination but these topics are major issues for people in my area. We depend on accurate reporting of climate changes to plan summer activities. In times of fire we have always been able to rely on accurate information from the ABC. The dedication of their reporters and staff has been amazing.

At this time of lock down the ABC has been a life saver for us. It has not only provided accurate and timely information but it has also provided wonderful entertainment including Australian movies, crime series, fantastic music.

I strongly support increasing the ABC's budget so that the fantastic work they do in supporting regional and rural Australians can be strengthened. These communities have lost so much and it would be a tragedy if the ABC is added to this list of losses.

anne f
TAS 3550

ABC news & reporters are so valuable to us all in Australia right now. With fake news running rampant & even world leaders talking rubbish I have found the ABC news app and the fact-checks within it indispensable to keep up with the correct news items. It is balanced & well researched. The Drum offers different expert contributions. I have never watched more news items than in this Coronavirus era. I would not know where to turn to if the ABC were not there!

Anne G
TAS 7050

I can't imagine feeling Australian without our fully functioning ABC. This broadcaster is one of the big pillars of our society representing the voices of Australia. I have had this connection with the ABC since childhood and it's important to me that it's a non-commercial broadcaster, free from business self-interest.

For example, the ABC represents voices for our indigenous children, in children's shows like 'Thalia'. Which of the commercial stations would invest in a series that boosts self-esteem in a small Pilbara community, broadcasting an aspect of Australian culture that is hugely underrepresented?

During times of crises, eg the 2019 bushfires, it's the ABC who picks up the reins for our communities, in a supportive role, making a difference to people's lives and survival. Our ABC must be funded well, the ongoing erosion is already noticeably taking its toll. We must not lose this gem.

Anne H
NSW 7053

The last time in the history of mankind that the media was manipulated in favour of a dictator was in the 1930's in Germany.

The ensuing catastrophe of WW2 saw approximately 80 million people murdered.

80 years later the media - world wide this time, is being manipulated once again to suit the ways of certain governments.

I believe the ABC in Australia is one of the most honest, reliable and trustworthy media outlets of our time and I am extremely unhappy with the government of Australia for forcing them into ever tighter corners. You are committing a sin, just as Hitler did and yes I am drawing a comparison because there is a comparison. I lost family in WW2 - do not let me loose more because of your insecurity and government greed.

Anne K
QLD 2280

I have relied on the ABC many time sin the last 12 months to keep up to date & informed during bush fires near our home on the Sunshine Coast in Qld. and during the corona virus pandemic to stay informed about the current situations and precautions that I should be taking to help keep myself & my family safe during these uncertain times.

Living in a regional area we rely on the ABC to give us up to date & accurate information - a source that we can rely on and trust unlike the commercial media that go for sensational stories when what we need is the facts.

The ABC has also helped to keep younger members of my family engaged and informed as part of their at home learning while are closed interstate.

The ABC has also helped me to remain positive throughout the COVID crisis by helping me to stay connected through its radio & TV news, its drama and music and commitment to Australian stories.

I want you to guarantee that the ABC funding will not be cut further in the Oct. budget and that recent funding cuts will be reversed to maintain a viable rural and regional reporting network into the future with journalists based in the regions delivering stories about & for us who live in regional Australia.

Anne K
VIC 4567

i listen to Dr Norman Swan every weekday morning to keep myself informed about the current situation regarding the spread of Covid-19, particularly in Victoria, and what all Australians need to be doing to stem the spread of the pandemic.

This is only one small, but important reason, why I tune into the ABC many times every single day -Radio National and TV Channel 2 for ABC programmes

Anne K
QLD 3927

I have relied greatly this year and last year on the ABC, particularly the News Channel 24 and ABC rRadio National, for up-to-date news on the bushfires

. Later I relied greatly on the ABC, on those same channels, for frequent and up-to-date news on COVID-19, the rules in place, and the precautions to be taken. Without the ABC al would have been very m.

Please restore full funding that has been taken away from the ABC.

Yours sincerely,

Anne Lanhamuch more anxious than I was. I have also watched the ABC for up-to-date information on varous election results, given in an unbiased form. The AB is my major source of reliable news and current events

Anne L
TAS 4066

This year, like every year, the ABC is the media source I turn to for reliable, up-to-date news that provides the facts in a calm and balanced way. It's the most trusted media source in the country, and for a very good reason. I do not wish to imagine an Australia without the ABC and the broad variety of programmes it offers across all platforms. Lockdown during the pandemic was made more bearable with the wonderful programmes on offer through RN and Classic. Professional and supportive presenters kept the country informed and entertained. The ABC were also swift to realise the need for educational materials when students were forced to study from home. Our public broadcaster is brilliant, It provides an essential service, especially in regional and rural areas where commercial media don't always have a presence. It's time the federal government recognised the importance and value of the ABC to everyone in the country, and restored its funding. Our ABC is brilliant and listening to RN has saved my sanity through the horrors of the last 6 months or so.

Anne L
VIC 7252

ABC was there for thousands of us who fled the Batemans Bay bushfires on New Year's Eve - there was no internet and no phone. Please, no more cuts to ABC

Anne L
QLD 3461

The ABC is one of the few sources of clear scientific information about coronavirus. It also is an invaluable resource during other disasters. It supports a range of arts such as writing, music etc.

Anne M
VIC 4053

I only watch the ABC. I like morning tv and then from 7pm.

This viewing is essential to me. If I miss this update I feel that I have to catch up.

Knowing the main issues of the day is vital to me and I want Australia's official tv channel which is the ABC.

Also during any difficulty that our state or country faces I only want the national broadcaster. It is their job and they do that best. No other channel currently comes close although I do not watch for long but feel I must check other channels if their is a bushfire etc.

Anne M
VIC 3206

Our life in country Victoria is both informed and enriched by the ABC. My husband's daily life as a farmer is accompanied by ABC programs, including the news. He listens to them constantly as he drives around our farm. Mine depends on ABC FM. ABC television is also our nightly mainstay. Reduction of ABC services correspondingly reduces our lives, and those of our son and his family, who also live and work on the farm. I cannot stress the centrality of the ABC to our lives.

Anne M
NSW 3483

I am an ABC viewer and listener - always have been and I am now 81 years old. But I didn't realise just how important the ABC was to me until I moved to the Blue Mountains 27 years ago and have had to rely on ABC radio to inform and advise on where and how close bushfires were and when to evacuate - which I've had to do on three occasions. The ABC literally saves lives, whether it be in bushfires, or cyclones or floods or in any other disaster. All I can say is "Where would we/I be without the ABC".

Aside from saving lives in times of disasters, the ABC's investigative arm has through its hard hitting programs been instrumental in forcing Governments to hold Royal Commissions into very serious and damaging failures. One can't help but wonder how Governments would be held to account without the ABC!

Anne M
NSW 2779

EVERYDAY AND ESPECIALLY NOW WITH THE VIRUS FORCING US TO STAY INDOORS AS MUCH AS PRACTICABLE, I RELY ON THE ABC TO KEEP ME SANE, TO KEEP ME INVOLVED AND TO BE THE FRIEND I CANNOT HAVE AROUND ME ALL THE TIME. JUST TO BE THERE AT THE END OF A SWITCH IS A GREAT FEELING.

THANK GOODNESS FOR THE (NOT FAKE) NEWS, RADIO'S INFORMATIVE PROGRAMS, WONDERFUL MUSIC, ETC. NO ADS MEANS IT IS TRULY EASY LISTENING. NO INTERESTS BACKED BY BIG FRAUDS, NO VITRIOLE, JUST POLITE, NON-POLITICAL, ESSENTIAL INFORMATION.

THE TV SHOWS, TOO NUMEROUS AND AMAZING TO LIST, THE WEATHER, SPORTS, WHATEVER ONE NEEDS TO KEEP INFORMED AND FEEL PART OF OUR WONDERFUL COUNTRY.

PLEASE HONOUR AND THANK OUR ABC. THERE'S BEEN TOO MUCH PRIVATISATION AS WE HAVE LEARNED, TO THE DETRIMENT OF OUR SOCIETY.

KEEP UP THE GOOD WORK - ABC AUSTRALIA.

Anne M
NT 2088

Even without the Corona Virus at 80 with a mobility problem which limits my ability to go out of my home. I am relying more and more on radio, internet and TV for many things. I find ABC gives me most of what I need. A reliable news source, good documentaries and good radio channels - especially for one whose preference is classical and jazz. The ABC is really the only broadcaster that gives me the choices I want that gives me the life style and quality I need.

Anne M
VIC 870

Everyone in Australia needs the ABC to expand horizons, to link past and future, to make sense of bits of news. Country ppl cannot do without the ABC! AT any time, not just in bushfire season
Overseas ppl stream ABC to get insights into the world that are not available in their countries.
Don't take it for granted!!! Fund it heaps and heaps!

Anne P
VIC 3250

In my 76years the ABC has always been in my life; it has always represented the truth in news, the facts reported without political or commercial biases. I love the fact that I'm not bombarded by puerile advertising. I find the continuation of budget cuts to the essential services provided to rural users of the ABC isolating in the extreme, surely this government has seen the outstanding work done by the ABC in rural areas during the drought, the horrendous fires and now the Covid19 Pandemic. I have noticed that the Prime Minister has taken over the news on the ABC as if it is his personal new broadcaster to promulgate his views and decisions to the people of Australia, so why is he trying to choke the ABC to death? Please leave the ABC alone and give it the budget that the ONLY national broadcaster deserves.

Anne R
NSW 3747

I literally relied on the ABC for information right throughout summer to decide if it was safe to go anywhere as we were surrounded by bushfires. I also relied on it for local information as I had close friends in very dangerous areas where fires were raging and the ABC literally had reporters everywhere providing the only accurate information to be had. I don't know where people in rural areas would be without their info at times like that. I've also relied on the ABC for accurate information during the pandemic - they are my only trusted news source apart from the Guardian. All other sources are Murdoch related and just literally rubbish. Please fund the ABC properly - they are a vital public service right now.

Anne R
VIC 2031

The ABC, and particularly radio, is for me a familiar voice, an exploration of many viewpoints, learning about an infinite range of topics; it is something to feel proud of on the international stage. But most of all it is a reassuring, calming voice in my week. In difficult times the ABC, in its current form, is crucial to me in reducing my feeling of isolation, helping me feel informed and okay!
I feel it has already been diluted and can't be stretched much more without the quality of programs really suffering.
Regards,
Anne Shute

Anne S
NSW 3011

During the bushfire crisis, I depended on the ABC journalists to go into the regional areas and to tell it how it is, interviewing residents and firefighters. I saw how they were trusted by ordinary people seeking information, just as I trust them to counteract the spin and hyperbole of those who depend on dramatising news, rather than on presenting facts. With all the denial in some quarters, and the unwillingness to accept scientific and medical advice, especially during the current pandemic, it is vital that we support the ABC to give us the truth, no matter how unpalatable it is.

Anne S
QLD 2034

I am a 76 year old Queenslander who has several chronic health conditions, one of which is visual impairment.
I depend on ABC radio for up to date reliable news. I watch little TV but when I do it is the ABC News channel, in order to receive unbiased current news.
I urge the government to NOT reduce funding for our national broadcaster.

Yours sincerely
Anne Sutton
4059

Anne S
VIC 4059

The ABC is the only reliable source of information for our family in times of disaster, sadly becoming more common as the federal government refuses to take real action on climate change (please hear government)
So in times of bushfires, it is the only source of information that we trust.
Now sadly in these times of the covid pandemic, we receive timely news accurately reported.
We absolutely need the ABC

Anne T
NSW 3938

These days, with so much fake news and biased reporting targeting us from every side, it is essential that the ABC is given the funds to do the reporting that we can count on. That's where I go every day to learn about what is happening in Australia and around the world.

I do not know of any other organisation that I can count on to tell me the facts.

Anyone who is hoping to cut the ABC budget must be working toward goals which may be good for their personal bank account but harmful for the future of us all.

We're being told to work together to control the Covid virus. Lets also work together to support the ABC.

Anne U
TAS 2159

I totally rely on the ABC for independent reporting on events in Australia and abroad and would even like more local (Tasmanian) coverage. I believe good information is essential to a functioning democracy. I use the ABC every day and it is even more important when there are disasters like bushfires and Covid 19. We also need the radio, TV and internet co-ordinated with fire and police when there are bushfires (we were in the Dunally one). There is plenty of rubbish media.

annette d
QLD 7009

The ABC is the most trustworthy conveyance of news Australia has. Over the first stage of the coronavirus as I live on my own and my family is in another part of Australia, it was crucial that I received honest, first rate information. When the bushfires were happening, because I have friends living in the areas affected, I knew I would get the absolute facts - not the rubbish that comes from other radio stations where it is all about personalities, ratings and misinformation. The quality of people like Virginia Trioli, Michael Rowland, Lisa Millar, Leigh Sales and hundreds of others is superb. I also listen to Classic FM and the enthusiasm coming from all those presenters truly makes life living. The ABC should not be a political football and needs to be funded properly.

Annette R
QLD 4561

No, we've not been affected by bush fires, droughts, floods or even Covid 19. We are 77 and 78 and live on Bribie Island (pop. 22,000) which has a large retired population. The pandemic has passed us by as it has much of Queensland but we realise the situation can change overnight. Even though we're OK it's depressing and worrying to see what is happening to others in our country and indeed the rest of the world.

So for us the ABC represents good factual up to the minute news which in our opinion is unbiased despite the claims of the far right. During the recent horrific bush fires we relied on the ABC to know what was happening in the country and we found their coverage far superior to the commercial channels, in fact considering the budget cuts they are forced to endure it is amazing how broad their coverage of events is. The ABC also supplies us with decent entertainment programs such as "Vera" and "Shetland" to name but two. Keep up the good work ABC as eventually there will be a change in the political landscape and sanity will prevail.....hopefully.

Annette & Chris S
VIC 4507

#REF!

Dear Decision Makers

I depend on the ABC to provide quality journalism, investigation, and advice in times of crisis. When I found myself living in regional Victoria the loudest local issues of the day were cattle prices and who won the football on Saturday. Radio Melbourne and Radio National kept me in touch with the nation. When the Black Saturday bushfires hit our property I still remember watching all the fruit on the lemon tree burst their marmalade centres due to the heat. All the while listening to ABC updates and trying to determine whether we should leave and get through or stay and hope.

During COVID I have relied on Norman Swan, Fran Kelly, Q&A, and 4 Corners to get the facts. It is no longer good enough to rely on commercial news sources, and the likes of Sky News are downright treacherous.

I spent my youth studying and living in China not long after the end of the Cultural Revolution. I learned how dictators get a hold. Killing free speech is their first task. The ABC must always be held to account like all media, and integrity, ethics, and intellectual rigour must be guarded jealously for Australia to hold the line against tyranny. Sometimes the ABC needs to be criticised too.

Before Covid I used to visit Vanuatu frequently working on Aid projects. In a country of 275,000 people, it is not hard for a visitor to make friends with people of influence in that country. So many of them rely on Radio Australia for news, discussion, and quality journalism and entertainment. In this part of the world our relationship with our near Pacific neighbours is terribly important. PNG is extremely vulnerable to Chinese influence. We must stay on message with truth and journalistic rigour and broadcast it across the waves.

If politicians find it uncomfortable to be scrutinised and sometimes grilled by taxpayer-funded media, too bad. Those who don't support media freedom (with all its faults) should try living in Russia or China. I did it.

Anthea D
NSW 3815

I'm a mum of two boys living in the Southern Highlands of NSW, where over last Summer we were sandwiched between two mega fires. We couldn't go outside for weeks. At that time I relied daily on broadcasts from the ABC, both news updates on where the fires were in proximity to us, which roads were blocked and which evacuation centres were open, but also the sense of connection I got from listening to all the ABC content. You get a clear sense that they care, that they are there for all of us, that they're not just shock jock commercial journos.

CoronaVirus followed hot on the heels of the bushfires and again, listening to the ABC makes me feel safer than any other broadcaster. I like how they go into depth about the issues and are the most balanced broadcaster of all of them. And I appreciate how they are telling the truth about climate change, rather than denying and omitting it, as many other media outlets have done.

Anthea F
NSW 2575

The ABC supplies 99% of our NEWS and ENTERTAINMENT - both via the Radio and especially Television.

We were totally impressed by the variety of programs presented this and every other year, despite SAVAGE BUDGET CUTS in recent years.

With many friends in southern NSW, we were glued to the ABC right through the terrible Bushfire season, and greatly appreciated the professional, accurate, unbiased and immediate reporting provided. This gave us great comfort to check on our friends in the various locations.

In more recent times, the ABC somehow found the staff to keep us informed of the Coronavirus invasion. Excellent timely information, professionally delivered in easy to understand presentations.

THE ABC NEEDS INCREASED FUNDING TO MAINTAIN THIS WONDERFUL STANDARD.

Anthony & Fay Bischoff
45 Hart Street
Porrt Macquarie NSW 2444.

Anthony B
VIC 2444

We engage with the ABC for 95% of our news, entertainment and children's shows. All big or small stories are real, trustworthy and clean (without advertisements or cross promotions). The ABC has the highest integrity in our opinion and doesn't seduce our children in to desiring the latest unethical toys or entertainment.

Anthony L
NSW 3156

I suffer from a chronic lung disease so when there is air pollution around, as there was during the bushfires, or when Covid 19 makes me a vulnerable target I want to be sure I'm accessing the best available information about these issues. I want to be sure the information I get is reliable and unbiased. Like the majority of Australians I consider the ABC to be far and away the best source of reliable and unbiased information so it is the place I've consistently gone to in 2020 for information and guidance on keeping myself safe.

Anthony M
NSW 2022

I have been following the ABC daily programs for 64 years and have come to the conclusion that I cannot trust any other forum for News and other articles. I am almost 89 years old and still doing the same.

Anthony S
VIC 2560

We rely on the ABC for local news coverage on a daily basis. What other news outlets are covering regional Australia? What other news outlets are doing long-form investigative journalism about serious issues that require more than just a few token sound bites to explain? The ABC is more than a news service - they are also a key part of the democratic fabric of the country. This is exactly what our taxes should be funding. The only reason a government has to reduce the effectiveness of the ABC is because they have something to hide.

Anton H
VIC 3070

Every morning we listen to ABC over breakfast, as a pensioner, what I love about the ABC is that it caters for all age groups with real people sharing their stories of hardship and joyous ones. It allows one to hear about topics and issues that are kept hidden such as our Indigenous elders and how much they have to offer for us to learn and grow from. We need more transparency and honesty from the Government as the Covid19 issue has caused FEAR, confusion, uncertainty, anger, arguments, heartache, stress, major concerns for 5G and the Health affects of radiation in our environment that our children are born in, mental issues, and the greatest one of all is "SUICIDE" which the numbers are way and beyond the Covid19 deaths in Australia.

Antonia F
NSW 3088

The ABC cannot sustain ongoing budget cuts and freezes. Especially during times of an ongoing state of a National Emergency from bushfires to a world wide pandemic, the public rely on the ABC more than ever. For me personally, my very career depends on it. My company provides the music for many of the ABC television dramas and documentaries. It helps me keep a full time staff of five people and we employ numerous others from musicians and singers to arrangers and engineers. The income we derive via these ABC programs all feeds back into the economy through spending and taxes. To defund the ABC at a time when our film and TV industry needs it the most is short sighted and counter productive. We need to find areas to stimulate our economy not quash it. I urge you to increase funding not defund our national broadcaster.

antony p
QLD 2062

I generally watch tree TV Chanel's. ABC 2 and ABC 24 and SBS. Ever since my arrival in this country 38 years ago,when Conservatives where in power they wonted ABC to be Privatized and run by people favouring them.? Cutting funds is a simple way to get there and sux-seed?ABC and SBS. All other TV Chanel's are biased and run by their Owners.ABC is the only TV which will and can alert me when the next disaster struck"s. In particular when we become sandwich between USA and China?They will fight over our heads and not in their country.We would be the gynie- pegs and the losers. ABC is The only one which will inform me by telling the truth , where we are heeding?Therefore any one who things differently is an ignorant person and does not deserve my attention.He or she is not a real Australian,being politician or otherwise?ABC is the only one reliable in all aspects.If we lose it we are all guilty !Cheers!

Antun R
WA 4552

I can tell you in all honesty that none of our circle of friends watch or listen to commercial television or radio.
It's strictly ABC (and SBS) coverage all the way.
The rest are, by-and-large, garbage.
Dr Norman Swan was the voice of reason when no-one else knew WTF to do as COVID season kicked off.
May his shadow never grow less...

Arnhem H
NSW 6725

Although there are too many repeats on the ABC and there is definitely far too much of its own advertising - I rely heavily on the reports, some radio each day but preferably television at set times - I pay no attention to social media --and I no longer like all but small local papers
A Prowse

Arthur P
VIC 2333

I have used the ABC for over 40 years and rely on its honest, reliable, relevant and fearless reporting. Its role in reporting national disasters is unsurpassed. Its current affairs reporting is fair and balanced and its investigative journalism speaks truth to power. Repeatedly. The ABC is a vital cornerstone in our robust democracy. I appeal to the Morrison government to continue to fund it to fulfill its vital role in our proud country. Dr. Arunasalam .
Ambikapathy

Arunasalam A
NSW 3350

My whole life I have watched and listened to the ABC and I can't imagine a world without it. The world class content, independent journalism and no ads make it so much better than the commercial channels. During the pandemic I have relied on the ABC via TV and radio to keep me informed and that has helped a lot with keeping my feelings of stress and worry under control. I want to see the ABC receive more funding, not more cuts!

Ashar L
VIC 2455

As a busy person, I don't have a lot of time to be checking the news throughout the day turning into the ABC is a great way to access reliable content. I believe ABC is an important part of supporting the growth of Australian culture. These funding cuts will seriously impact all the wonderful work the ABC team does and the follow on impact very broadly.

Ashley P
QLD 3199

I am 82 years of age. I remember 4QR and 4QG for radio programs when a small boy. I remember the signature tune to the ABC News, now our national anthem. I remember U.S. Army trucks rolling by day and night to build what is now Brisbane Airport - and my parents glued to the 'wireless' for the ABC News such as when the Battle of the Coral Sea raged in May 1942.

The ABC is part of us. It is a large part of our history. We should all be so proud of this beautiful organisation and what it could now be if not for the stupid funding cuts since 2014.

It breaks my heart to think that people like Murdoch and right wing fools in the Conservative parties would, for whatever their reasons want to damage, degrade, lower the quality output of the ABC.

More than ever before the ABC is needed for the looming climate crisis, for education in the post Covid world. One despairs at the fools who are too stupid and too selfish to see the benefits to everyone of a healthy and vibrant ABC in all its various departments.

Athol Brown, The Gap, Brisbane

Athol B
NSW 4061

The ABC is the only reliable news and information source (other than SBS) where I am safe from tabloid like biased right wing propaganda. It was extremely helpful and supported the nation through the darkest times during the horrific bushfires with up to date I information.

I trust the ABC. Not Murdoch, not the other commercial channels and certainly not this current government.

Atsuko K
VIC 2010

The ABC, with their no ad til end of programs made the coverage across Australia throughout those tragic weeks/months. Their in-depth coverage is & always will be the best coverage of that horrible event
They don't bullshit & actually investigate their stories just to get ratings.

Audra N
VIC 3304

I rely on the ABC radio almost every day for one thing other channels are difficult to receive but the ABC usually comes through. Most of the programs suit my taste and without disruptions from constant advertisements , nonsense and rude jokes. The news and weather reports are straightforward and regularly on the hour and sometimes half hour. This was especially important during the fire emergency crisis at the end of 2019 and beginning of 2020. I look forward to the gardening talk backs on Monday and Saturday mornings and sometimes hear a gardening segment on a Thursday afternoon. Sunday morning Macka show is excellent - though lately I have been sleeping in and have missed it. I am out of the house quite often as I have a garden to maintain plus I help with other public gardens so I do not listen to the radio or television all the time. If however I was housebound the ABC would be a friend and a comfort. The ABC crew came to our town and listened to our stories which made us feel that we were not quite alone in the midst of strife. The community can rely on the ABC more than any other radio/television station.

Audrey v
WA 3888

I arrived in Melbourne as another (bl--dy) Pom in November 1950. I found the frequencies for ABC and 3LO and have been listening to them ever since. That's a lot of listening. This insidious reduction of funding by successive Governments is a national disgrace. In my opinion the only way to curb this endless assault is at the ballot box. We are increasingly governed by too many self-serving individuals who don't appear to realise that by diminishing our national broadcaster they are affecting our national image.. Using our current crisis to sneak through yet another downgrade is typical but they must be stopped, before we are reduced to an entirely 'do-as-you're-told' third world status. We deserve better!

Audrey W
NSW 6163

The only media that i trust to not be influenced by money or powerful lobby groups is the ABC. Except for Amanda Vanstone and the right wingers, Albrechtson et al on the board, the ABC is usually believable.

B W
VIC 2114

Hi I have counted in ABC over the years but more so during the pandemic to be kept up to date with the current changes over the year. As well as that I watch there amazing Documentary shows I also rely on it for my grandchildren during care for them over the pandemic.

Bambi H
VIC 3981

I have always relied on the ABC for fair and intelligent news and content. From my childhood in country Victoria to present. The abc can be relied upon to have content suited to and stimulating for all age groups

Barb T
QLD 3065

As an older, less active person in the community, I value the information and entertainment I receive from the programmes I watch. It was my lifeline during the lockdown and in my opinion provides reliable unbiased and factual reports. I enjoy interviews and discussions and like the drama and entertainment it provides.

Barbara C
VIC 4511

The ABC is always a huge help especially during crises re information, education, inspiration and up-beatism!
Please, they absolutely need & deserve the fullest possible government funding.
We love them!
Sincerely, Barbara J Fraser PhD

Barbara F
TAS 3125

I rely on the ABC for news from all over the world, news about the Covid 19 virus, and other disasters, and I trust the ABC to be accurate and unbiased.

Barbara G
VIC 7469

The ABC is absolutely central to my life. As I write this, I'm tuned to ABC FM - and this stays unless I switch to ABC television, usually at night, for news etc. I have it constantly playing - day and night, being a bit of an insomniac !
WHY do we have to have to keep repeating for Government that the ABC is central to so many of us, and a wonderful resource?
I still have an old T-shirt with SAVE THE ABC on it - Keep up your wonderful service - it's absolutely essential to my life!

Barbara J
NSW 3447

Most mornings I get up and switch on News Breakfast to get me into the day feeling not so alone. I don't need to watch for more than an hour and if I want more info I will turn on ABC Radio National or ABC website.
Throughout the bushfire season and now Covid19 and BLM I feel in touch with the suffering of others. COMMUNITY CONNECTION AND EMPATHY, A SENSE OF COMING TOGETHER, IS THE MOST IMPORTANT FEATURE OF A EMPATHIC AND FUNCTIONING COMMUNITY. ABC makes this possible.

Barbara K
VIC 2062

I write to inform you that ,as a mature age Australian ,I am absolutely dependant on the excellent news and documentary services provided by our national broadcaster the ABC tv and radio network.
The ABC has always followed a tradition of information based journalism and thus has not only kept us all well informed but has given us a standard from which to judge other types of reporting that can be in the service of vested interest.
Within that tradition of honest reporting is contained another aspect of the ABC invaluable to all Australians and that is Education.
The level of scientific literacy in this country declines with the decline of the ABC.
What other broadcaster was able to develop long researched documentaries about our own society and environment without having to pander to advertising revenue and broad based notions of popularism?
The tradition created by the abc is to be treasured it is part of our country's history and to dismiss this fact is to destroy the infinite possibilities that a tradition can foster especially in the youth to whom we owe inspiration and education.
The ABC inspired me to seek knowledge and understanding.
Thank you

Barbara K
VIC 3055

I rely daily on the abc news either on the radio on the TV or on my mobile or on my desk top computer. Basically where ever I am I have access to the abc news updates. During he Covid 19 troubles they are the media I rely on. I also used the abc when the bushfires were on. My family and I were on the NSW South coast and it was the abc that gave accurate info which allowed us to drive out via Canberra on New Year's Day. We only had a small window of opportunity and had I not had access to the abc I would not have had the confidence to leave.
Please do not cut funding to the abc - Please increase the funding and keep the standard high. We are a developed society aren't we?

Barbara K
QLD 3765

The ABC is the ONLY consistently reliable news and information source in the country. Especially in times of crisis. Like now. Because it is non commercial it can provide unbiased reporting by asking the hard and uncomfortable questions which is why it must be given MORE funding right now,not less!!! Duh!! And ABC Classical helps so much to keep me sane with the glorious music being played these past months. Best antidote to the increasingly depressing news :cry:

Sincerely
B. Maurenbrecher

Barbara M
NSW 4881

For many elderly people like myself the ABC is vital. The beautiful music on ABC Classic provides crucial comfort and company throughout the day. The TV evening news and current affairs programs keep me informed and feeling connected, while the local drama content as well as the British crime series provide excellent entertainment. In the current climate of fear and uncertainty the updates and detailed information consistently and clearly presented are also very helpful.

Barbara M
VIC 2088

I have been listening to the ABC and watching ABC since from about the age of 20. I am now 70. Over that time, 3LOo then 774 have been there to give me accurate news, information and knowledge on many different subjects and events. It is most important to me that where I receive my news from is not biased towards a sponsor or particular political party. It is most imperative that we the taxpayers are not subject to constant repeats of shows, so it is essential that more money be allocated to the ABC to have more local programs with local people, who do an excellent job considering the constraints of budget they have to deal with. 4Corners, Landline, Backroads, some of the local comedies, Q&A, please support our ABC in the next budget.

barbara o
QLD 3020

The ABC has been essential to my well-being for many years - especially in this past year of Covid-19. I have relied on ABC news for accurate information about Covid. Initially for the basic info about the symptoms, then accurate counts of cases in each state and the National & State reactions to the problem. It has been a benefit to read the facts without any slanted commentary or editorial designed to increase fear, rumour and misinformation.

In addition I have relied on the ABC for entertainment using iView (mostly). Effectively I have watched the ABC every night on my internet connected Tablet computer while I rest in bed.
Please support the ABC in every way possible. We are truly fortunate to have such a quality national broadcaster in all formats - electronic news, TV & Radio news, entertainment and music.

Barbara P
NSW 4655

Without ABC many cousin Kangaroo Valley would have been really panicked over January's fires. We had our little battery radio on all day reviewing all the warnings, alerts, fire reports as it got closer to us. ABS was a lifeline. With Shane Fitzsimons calm voice at all hours of the day on ABC we got through the most awful fire season ever. Please continue to support "Aunty" in order that we have an ad-free information service for the future.

Barbara W
VIC 2577

#REF!

On Saturday 4th of January this year, because of the fires, I was forced to cut short a holiday on the NSW central coast and return to Melbourne directly rather than through the NSW south coast.

The weather that day was extreme, hot and windy.

For almost all of trip south of Sydney to the Victorian border everything east of the Hume Highway was on fire. Then we were detoured off the highway at Violet Town to avoid a fire in Euro.

During the whole time we listened to ABC local radio moving from station to station as we travelled south. We were always kept up to date with the fire situation and knew where and when to look for detours. Without the ABC it would have been a frightening trip.

The ABC budget should be increased not cut. We need the ABC at all times but especially in times of emergency.

Barrie Morrison

barrie m
VIC 3206

All my life I have listened to the ABC on radio and TV, for reliable news and entertainment. It is there in emergencies, and available across Australia.

It is a vital part of my life and that of my family. I have a wife and three sons and four grandchildren. The ABC has helped them all to be objective and well informed.

The ABC is a vital part of being Australian. At age 82 and with an OAM and other honours, it helped make my life and my achievements. It must be funded! You will certainly lose my vote and that of my family if you defund it.

Dr. A. Barrie Pittock, PSM, OAM, etc.

Barrie P
NSW 3187

I live in Hong Kong.

Sadly, I no longer trust the mainstream Hong Kong news outlets, nor the commercial news services in Australia. I am convinced the former is compromised by political interference from greater China, the latter by big business/advertising influence.

Australia TV / ABC provides a vital voice in support of free speech, democratic values and Australian interests in our region (South East Asia) - a region that looks to Australian leadership, consistency and reliability.

I travel a lot in South East Asia.

I talk to a lot of people over here, and I know there is so much support for Australia.

These people look to Australia to defend their values and aspirations.

The exercise of Australian soft power is vital.

Please do not abandon the people in this part of the world.

Thank you Australia TV.

You really are the VOICE OF AUSTRALIA.

Thank you ABC.

Barry D
VIC 2227

I find the funding cuts to the ABC disgusting, they have the best journalists and TV presenters in the country giving quality information far better than the commercial stations. If the LNP finds that good journalism upsets their political agenda maybe they should try a bit of honesty occasionally. As Don said, keep the bastards honest.

barry i
NSW 3875

I am 74 and I've grown up with the ABC radio then TV and now also their online services. In all that time they have proven to be a reliable source of information I count on in my daily life. TV productions - made in Australia - are also part of the enjoyment the ABC has brought to me. I want them to have the capacity to continue to produce productions. The past months with fire, flood and COVID the ABC networks have kept me informed on the latest threats and instructions from Government to keep me safe. YES the Government knows the public trust the ABC and use its' service to disseminate timely information. The private media moguls who wield a lot of influence on Government through their political party donations selfishly would love to see the ABC funding cut and their competitors shackled. That is contrary to the public interest and definitely NOT what I want to see. I would rather see the ABC funding increased to properly allow the ABC get on with the job they have proven very capable of doing. They should be rewarded not cut back. DO WHAT IS IN THE PUBLIC INTEREST - NOT WHAT 'BIG MONEY' WOULD HAVE YOU DO.

Barry K
VIC 2282

My family and friends rely on the ABC for not only good quality intelligent news that we can rely on but excellent continuous information about things like bush fires and Covid19 etc. We live in a bush fire prone area and it is essential we get good accurate information that only the ABC provides. If there are any further cuts to our ABC I will not be voting for this government ever again....

Barry K
VIC 3441

My daughter lives in Nowra, her house came under ember attack. Then the fire was contained in wet lands only 100 metres from the house. Communication by phone was inconsistent because of the bushfires, & I relied on the ABC to stay informed of the situation. Because I was being kept up to date, I could keep the rest of the family informed & having information (good or bad), helped lessen our stress. The ABC must be given the appropriate funding required. This is a vital service to all Australians.

Barry K
VIC 3350

I have found the ABC to be the best source of information on the pandemic crisis. I have confidence in it being factual and science based and free of any political agenda. We desperately need a full funded ABC to fulfil this vital function.

Barry L
VIC 3224

+My wife and I have been married for more than 50 years and from the day that we set up our household we have depended on the ABC to keep us informed. Initially it was AR, or LO radio stations, until the establishment of ABC FM, from morning till sundown. and at night, ABC TV. No other outlets (sorry SBS for the occasional special programme). We trust the ABC for accurate information, from the Country Hour, the evening news and the excellent documentaries. The ABC is the one source of information where there is no spin, and we can trust what we are told.

barry m
NSW 3444

keep the abc going

barry o
NSW 2083

When the country hits a crisis, we all know that the one reliable, fast, efficient news source is the ABC. Boost its funding.

Barry R
VIC 2906

I rely on the ABC to give us the facts and be a independent watch dog to the Governments doings making them more transparent to their doings and should be left alone I find the present day governments attack of them as a attack on our democracy and should be " STOPPED "

Barry W
VIC 3880

Hello, our story is quite simple. There were 2 fires in our area ast year, one of which could have had significant impact upon us oersonally. Our first indication came from the ABC and was followed later by an alert from the CFA fire app on my phone. I have consistently found that information from the ABC has always preceded warnings on the app. In the 20 years in which we have lived here we have always listened to the ABC for information, with follow up calls to the then Victorian BushfireInformation Line as required. For many like us the ABC is crucial as to which of our fire plans we will enact and whether or not we will evacuate early.. This is a service which is indispensable and no cuts to ABC funding should be made to this service.

Barry & Liz C
WA 3351

I urge the Federal Government to fully and properly resource the ABC and SBS. These public broadcasters perform an absolutely essential function in Australian society. What follows is why the ABC and SBS is so important to me.

I live in a high fire risk area of south coast WA. The Local Great Southern ABC has provided an essential service during various bush fire incidents that have happened over the past year. It has also provided very valuable general information and updates on a wide range of community events and events, that represent the backbone of my civic society. Radio National and the ABC more general has provided an essential service to me and my broader community on how to understand and respond to the COVID 19 crisis. In addition Radio National's diverse programs and long with ABC, SBS (including NITV)'s documentaries provide me with educational and cultural resources to deal with the relative isolation and disadvantages of living in a rural and economically challenged region of Western Australia.

The ABC is a vital part of my everyday life, and strongly believe it deserves to be properly resourced.

regards

Basil

Basil Schur
21 Blackburn St
Denmark WA 6333

Basil S
WA 6333

I have watched ABC news, documentaries and current affairs as well as the original Australian movies and the Indigenous programs from the time I settled as a new migrant in Australia thirty years ago. I would like to pin point why the ABC is important to me and to every Australian from every age group and background:

1. As a farmer I rely on the ABC to keep me updated about all the natural disasters that may occur in my area and also its regular programs that give voice to people living out of the metropolitan area keep us connected.
2. As a teacher I rely on the ABC to keep my students updated with their excellent education programs that cover all areas of learning from nature, politics, art to our Indigenous and Australian history and science, maths or languages.
3. As a counsellor I rely on the ABC to inform my clients about the informative and up dated programs they can find on the ABC to learn more about their domestic violence, addiction, the Indigenous related issues that are perfectly covered on the ABC and you can only find on the ABC.
4. As a mother I have always relied on the ABC to keep my children safely entertain and also educated.
5. As a wife I have always relied on the ABC to find information or entertainment or life style programs to improve my family and community life the Australian way and to feel at home in Australia. The other commercial programs are too sanitised and too often market and money oriented to the point you feel like a mere customer to pay not a part of the community like the ABC makes you feel. You take our ABC you change the landscape of Australia, you truly chip away on the Australian essence.
5. As an Australian citizen the ABC is my home and it reminds me every day how lucky I am to live here.
6. I travel regularly overseas and wherever I am and I put on radio or TV or digital programs on I am hammered by the marketing and money making programs and I can not wait to go back home to my ABC that is not asking me to buy something or promote someone just to be myself....

Let us stay Australians the way we are, not everything is for sale and our ABC is not just your money making machine it never was...not everything that surround us is here to make us profit or be exploited for the best return, some of the things that surround us like our nature, like our ABC is here to make us who we are and keep us healthy, safe and true to our hearts and country...

There are and there will be many commercial stations and programs and digital providers but they are money making machines and the ABC was never created to be just that so keep it for our future because we are worth it Mr Morrison, your people are worth it to keep the ABC in place...

Beata Stasak

Beata S

VIC 6176

We live in a topsy turvey world right now...i need factual information from reliable sources to help me navigate my survival from anxiety and stress. The ABC is a trustworthy strong anchor for me. I lookward to my ABC news and 7.30 report and 4 Corners as a lifeline in these times.

Beatrice Day

Beatrice D

QLD 3915

I love the whole range of ABC programmes, news coverage and commentaries ; drama and documentaries

Beatrice Lane

beatrice I

ACT 4570

The ABC has always played a significant role in the life of my family. From watching Play School and the other creative children's programs to , BTN as a teacher. Now in these very different times, theABC has an even more important role in disseminating timely, reliable objective commentary. Reporting of the various disasters over a number of years , together with investigative reporting keeps listeners informed and thinking.I am sad and angry at the cuts which have repercussions across all the aspects of ABC programming.Insiders, The Drum ,7 30 Report,Planet America, Foreign Correspondent, Afternoon Briefings and the wonderful Dr Norman Swan are a must to help us have a broader and deeper understanding of the complex issues facing us all these days. The many other dramas,and comedy offerings are a balance to the hard news each day. ABCradio is my constant companion too, local news , Am and `Pm Night Life are excellent. I was diagnosed with heart issues before last Christmas so when the smoke came to Canberra, it was helpful to have regular updates and information on what I needed to do to be as safe as possible and then the virus followed . I have been in self isolation for some time only recently venturing out. I am grateful to have the ABC providing information and entertainment every day . The ABC must have appropriate funding to continue providing the essential services which are integral to life and living in an increasingly complex world.

Beattie H
VIC 2615

I'm a big fan of various ABC channels over the day and week. IN the mornings, I listen to Newsradio for a quick update; in the evening, I listen to ABC Melbourne when I go to bed to hear really interesting interviews. During the day, when I drive, I usually select National. Sometimes I cheat and listen to ABC in other cities, digitally of course. And iView is a fantastic source of intelligent movies and shows e.g. Operation Buffalo, which was sensational. Save my ABC

Bede D
VIC 3202

At the end of 2019 I went on a long awaited holiday to a youcamp at Merimbula. Bushfires that were hundreds of km's away suddenly got very close when new blazes started and cut off exit roads by the end of the day making it impossible to safely leave. After listening to the ABC nonstop we made the call to leave our campsite property and spend new year's even sleeping in our car in a beach carpark with many other evacuees surrounded by an eerie blanket of smoke. During this time our company was the emergency app and the constant updates on ABC Radio who made us feel confident we were getting the information needed to make decisions that would keep us safe in the scariest holiday of my life.

Belina N
VIC 3216

Here in Mallacoota we relied on the ABC as an emergency broadcaster during the bushfire. Our community radio station was without power and unable to broadcast as the fire approached the town. Without the ABC we would have had no information.

Belinda P
WA 3892

I value the ABC and are so disappointed they are cutting the 7.45am radio news bulletin. I've recently had my first child at a late age and it is the only opportunity I have to catch up on news & the 'outside world'. It helps me to still feel connected as the transition to being a stay at home parent has been hard.

The ABC is also incredibly important for its rural & regional content. Having lived in rural and remote areas of our state for more than half my life, it is vital to country life.

I understand cuts need to be made in these times but the ABC has suffered too much in recent years. When its starting to effect essential news services it has gone too far!

Bella B
WA 6162

As I am approaching 82 years being blessed to be an Aussie, the ABC has always been a great contributor to my life and my late parents. When my father was overseas WW2 the news broadcasts were listened to endeavouring to remember every detail. Likewise all new broadcast by the ABC of interest to my state of Western Australia, Australia and overseas. The weather forecast was also a feature of daily listening. Since TV became a feature of life in Australia, the ABC is always my favourite channel with up to date news, worthy Australian film products; likewise educational programs for kids - all of these continue today and it is vital the ABC be financed to continue its wonderful contribution to our daily lives.

Belle M
TAS 6401

In an age where there is more information than ever before and a corresponding lack of reliable sources, the value of those reliable sources can't be understated or underestimated. The ABC is a proven credible source and is among the best TV channels in the world. It must be protected!!

Ben J
TAS 7005

I have lived in this ash setting for forty years. Ever summer I rely on ABC Radio for my fire plan.
It is not dependent on vulnerable internet links.
It is with me in my house and car.
It is my reliable, essential friend.

Ben M
VIC 7155

I live in a remote area and rely heavily on the ABC for news, unbiased information and entertainment. I do NOT support any form of funding cuts and I support adding additional funding for the ABC.
Any body or person advocating for funding cuts to the ABC is short sighted and in my opinion has an agenda that is not pro ABC (the voice for the people)
I listen to ABC everyday and I enjoy listening to all aspects of the ABCs current affairs, news and all other programs.

Ben N
WA 3121

My wife and I have always relied on the ABC for news and current affairs. They are the only TV and radio that can be relied upon to tell the truth. Bias to please advertisers and constant barrage of ads make the commercial channels un-watchable for us.

The bushfires seasons have become increasingly dangerous and I live in an area surrounded by forest so the excellent coverage provide by ABC may be something I rely on some day. I also follow the coverage in other areas being devastated.

The ABC along with SBS are the only channel to give good coverage of climate change with excellent documentaries and journalism on the subject.

This to some degree counters the relentless climate denialism and lies propagated by the Murdoch media' which has started a trend of continual lying with impunity. I believe Australia needs truth in media laws to make this illegal. There is a new subculture of conspiracy theories which is spreading dangerously particularly among the young, gullible and uneducated. Anti-vaxxers and anti - maskers have already cost lives during the COVID pandemic. The ABC has called this out and carefully explains the real scientific facts that matter.

The ABC's Media Watch is the main way I keep informed of this egregious behavior by corporate commercial channels.

Many politicians have not, as I have, lived in the USA. A major reason for the parlous state of that country's society is the complete lack of government funded impartial TV and radio media. NBC radio is the only impartial truthful audio media; I used to listen to it regularly; it is broadcast from university campuses. It has to hold monthly fundraising drives just to keep its few radio outlets going! There are no impartial non-commercial TV channels. Commercial radio and TV over there is full of trash, propaganda and ads. I had to come here to get good TV coverage of what's going on over there (thankyou ABC Planet America!). This information is not available to Americans because TV media has been allowed to be taken over. Corporations running Congress for decades preventing any government funded media channels from being established. The erosion of funding for the ABC that we are seeing here is the way the corporates through the Coalition Government are doing the same here.

The ABC must have funding restored; > 30% funding cuts to the ABC over the last decade must be reversed. We have already lost Late Line and many other essential shows about world affairs. Emma Alberici was the ABC's best foreign reporter and she was forced out for political reasons.

This defunding of the ABC alone is enough to make us vote against the Coalition.

Sincerely,

Ben and Ima Rose

Ben R
TAS 6076

The ABC is a strong, fair minded, level headed, intelligent news source. Everything that the Murdoch press is not. As one of the leaders of our country, you simply must respect journalism with integrity, regardless of whether Murdoch lines your pockets. Govern for the good of the country, not the money!

Benjamin A
VIC 7054

Hey Scomo, Please leave the ABC alone .. I know you & the LNP are basically married to Murdoch empire but Enough is enough mate, come On! ABC is the only & ever will be the only trusted media in this country for everyone ..

Benny J
NSW 3070

ABC is my only go to news source that I trust to give me a sober and balanced view on local, national and international news. Stories not driven by sensationalism to the same degree as other news sources. Programmes are varied and generally to a much higher standard than commercial stations.

It is important to have independent tv and radio stations that we can rely on, and that can produce quality programs.

Bente S
WA 2290

I have spent my life listening and later watching the ABC. From the 1940's through to now I have relied on the ABC to keep me informed of local, national and international events. To not continue full federal funding would be criminal.

Bernard T
NSW 6036

I rely on ABC for every genuine logical, response for all major stories and emergencies, and they provide some of the best and interesting regional stories, and researched pivotal stories that lead the country. They need to be funded MORE, not less.

bernard v
VIC 2440

I would like to add my support for the ABC, I live in the SE suburbs of Melbourne. I receive ABC via TV, mobile app and computer.

My principal source of news and current affairs is the ABC and I am concerned about the ongoing budget cuts which impact on the ability of the ABC to deliver these services in particular but other services also. Funding cuts appear to be used as a constant threat from government.

I find the ABC news service to be far more objective and balanced than other news services - in particular print media.

ABC also offer services for children and youth with entertainment and music although I do not use these services I consider them important for their audiences.

The ABC is a national broadcaster and should be funded to meet the demands of differing regions and groups of the nation with current technology and platforms.

It should be unarguable that the ABC provides the absolute best coverage of national/ regional disasters such as bushfires, floods and currently Corona virus and does so with quality teams on the ground. This in particular should not be suffering from ideological budget cuts, it would be difficult to re-establish these services once they have been abandoned.

The ABC has also a highly regarded investigative program in Four Corners, which has done incredibly valuable work that is unlikely to have been undertaken by commercial stations.

The ABC also can serve a regional role through SE Asia to promote Australia and report events happening in our region.

The ABC must be funded to maintain the provision of their services and initiate/maintain their platforms, accurate information is at a premium.

Bernie F
NT 3805

I read, listen and watch a wide range of media. The ABC is the most reliable and truthful news media outlet in Australia. The ABC also supplies me with interesting and entertaining radio and television. I use the ABC's digital platform on a regular basis.

I was happy and proud to pay 8 cents a day to have a great Australian broadcaster but having it reduced to 4 cents a day is only going to contribute to a weaker national broadcaster.

Bernie M
NSW 830

The ABC has informed & entertained me for the last 35 years and this year is the best ever. Such a high standard across all programs.

The ABC helps me to navigate through those difficult times and is absolutely live saving!

bernie p
QLD 2489

I don't have a 'story' - the ABC keeps me as informed as I wish to be and also entertained. Most importantly, it does not ask me to invest in vapid, badly acted, so-called 'reality' romances, nor to watch the suffering of actual grownups over their cooking failures (so First World), their ballroom dancing failures, or their failure to complete silly hyped up feats of endurance.

PS They're not perfect - I hate 'Get Krakin'.

Bes M
NSW 4161

Hi,

I'm a registered nurse in Newcastle.

I can't imagine how the ABC can continue to be the wonderful service it has been with further budget cuts.

Losing Lateline was hard, it was one of my favourite programs.

The loss of local services that inform us of disasters is frightening. I had friends from Wollombi staying with me when their property was at risk from the bushfires. ABC radio kept us informed of what was happening- accurately!!! Without a commercial agenda! I watch ABC news EVERY night. I don't trust commercial stations, I don't want information withheld or amplified depending on the commercial interests.

Please restore their funding!!

Beth D

ACT 2304

In this time of those with terrible agenda's hijacking public narratives, allowing ABC to be a source of well researched information has never been more crucial and those who wish to defund it are quite clearly in it for their own selfish interests and not for the benefit of the community.

In 2020 ABC has for me:

- provided reassuring up to date news of whether I should be concerned about the bushfire crisis. This allowed me to keep from panicking as my pregnancy came to term. I knew I did not need to evacuate because ABC kept us up to date on where the safest place for me was.
- provided factual information and much needed analysis of the unfolding Covid crisis which led me from "its just a cold" to "oh crap if Italy has copped it this badly I need to take it seriously.
- provided children's programming which was well backed by pedagogy, ad free and entertaining. Bluey is the best thing on TV. Little J and Big Cus are also pretty awesome.
- been a really important role model of taking quarantine seriously when the news breakfast team was exposed.
- kept us sane with daily episodes of Gardening Australia.

beth m

VIC 2602

We relied almost entirely on ABC Radio for Bushfire information. Would have been lost without it.

We are relying on ABC Radio and TV for up to date reports and information on Covid. It is frequent and clear.

We always rely on ABC investigative journalists to discover corruption and bad behaviours of individuals, corporations and government departments. It is the only truly independent media outlet that Australia has. This is what democracy is about. Fund it properly!

Bette G

NSW 3922

The investigative journalism the ABC does is unique and essential on both radio & TV.

Betty C

SA 2031

We were visiting South Australia when a massive bushfire was moving rapidly towards our location. We listened to the local ABC station for the entire night as it was giving continuous real-time updates on the progress of the fire. Without it, we would have not been able to make important decisions to evacuate, had it proved necessary. If funding to the ABC is cut, people will die.

The ABC needs more funding, not less.

Bev E

NSW 5355

As a retiree no longer engaged in the working world, I depend on the ABC for most of every day via Radio National to keep me informed of news, to keep me stimulated with all kinds of documentary information and well-conducted interviews of politicians and other persons essential to our way of life. My relaxation comes via ABC TV most evenings where I can view not only excellent news and current affairs but also drama, comedy and international events. To be without the ABC would be to suffer considerable diminishment in the richness of my everyday world.

Beverley C

VIC 2065

I'm sure I've written before.

The ABC is vital for truth telling and getting deep into issues.

It is not beholden to a profit motive boss or shareholders. Liken the dilemma to government run old people's homes to profit-making old people's homes....which one is going to serve the residents best?

I'm on a rural property and every summer fear death and destruction from wildfire. The ABC is key to saving lives and educating the country.

Top journalism, not minimal, is vital.

Mental health is my other accompanying concern. The ABC has a strong intention and capacity to contribute to pulling people out of the mosh pit of misery... it had the power to educate, communicate, entertain, stimulate, & give hope.

Commercial stations fill our young people with Bachelor Island fluff. ...this is NOT going to shape an intelligent country.

Please ensure there is MORE money in the budget for the ABC going forward, not less. It is the right thing to do.

Yours sincerely

Bev Dick
Acheron
Victoria 3714

beverley d
NSW 3714

In these uncertain times we need stability and who better than our reliable ABC to be at our back. Steadfast. I want my taxes to go towards them.

beverley d
NSW 2800

The ABC is the only reliable source of information for all Australians during the time of the Coronavirus.

I have 9 grandchildren who have relied on the ABC to keep them informed on subjects and issues when their schools were closed because of the virus.

The ABC has also provided reliable information to the public during the recent bushfires and other recent disasters.

I am and always have been relying on the ABC for Australian stories, stories and comedy through their programs and I am always glad that the ABC is not promoting commercial advertising.

Beverly I
VIC 2159

I keep my radio and T.V. tuned into the ABC - 621 and ch. 2 continually. Sometimes I change over to SBS but that is all. this is for news, docs and entertainment. I have a grandchild who says she would not turn to any commercial channel for news. During the bushfires my daughter had to pack up and vacate her home in NSW. It was a worrying time for me and I did not have the ABC off. I think it is abhorrent that the government continually cuts staff and finance.

Beverly M
WA 3124

I am a senior citizen and live in Perth, Western Australia.

The only TV stations that I watch are, firstly the ABC with some SBS because I feel that they have credibility. The ABC has such a high standard of journalism and an incredible talented team of people like Laura Tingle, Sarah Ferguson, Annabel Crab, Ellen Fanning, Julia Baird, Leigh Sales, Stan Grant, Norman Swan, Shaun McCaliffe, and this just names a few.

I have family and friends in Victoria, New South Wales and South Australia. The ABC keeps me informed on what is happening in those areas. Even more so during these very difficult times of the pandemic and during our devastating bushfires.

The ABC can be relied upon to highlight a problem when people in power, in government or in high positions are being deceptive and working the system for their own financial gain.

The programmes shown are of a high standard with the content of drama, comedy and also their commitment to Australian stories.

I demand that the government do not implement funding cuts to the ABC in the October 2020-21 budget.

Beverly M
NSW 6052

I have, for years, started my day by rising from bed and immediately switching on ABC FM radio. This year, it has been more important than ever, given our global health disaster, to have that instant calm of wonderful music surrounding me, my dogs and my day.

Can't live without My ABC

beverly t
VIC 2300

I'm writing because I care about the ABC and the funding of the ABC.

I'm 70 years old and continue to work full time and pay taxes. I work because I'm a registered nurse with a wealth of experience and am needed at this time of a world-wide pandemic. Also I live in rural Victoria and we have been under immense pressure and stress through summer heat waves and close by bush fires.

Throughout all this time I rely on the ABC to provide timely accurate News coverage to keep me safe and to keep me informed of my community and the impacts of these events on my community members.

I enjoy watching Australian made award winning television such as "The Heights".

Therefore I wish to be very clear that I would like to see the ABC funding increased and journalist jobs maintained along with supporting Australian acting and television especially in this difficult time.

Bevin M
NSW 3660

The ABC IS AN ESSENTIAL SERVICE FOR THE COMMUNITY. Please find the funds to continue it's effective operation.

Bianca A
NSW 2280

I rely on ABC for most of my news, and much of my entertainment. It's not surprising that the Murdoch press and their associated organisations want to shut down the ABC, since this would give them massively increased control over popular opinion. The demise of the ABC would be a huge blow, but I assure you it would not drive me to absorb the garbage spewed out by Murdoch. I've paid a heck of a lot of tax in my working life, and I want the ABC to be properly funded as a priority.

Bill D
ACT 2782

An independent, well funded and well resourced ABC has never been more important in this world of social media quackery and "fake news". Over the past decade or so the ABC has suffered devastating cuts in funding that were not mandated by the people and endanger our access to vital news and information. Most Australians have a deep appreciation of what the ABC does. Enemies of the ABC are the enemies of a fair and democratic Australia.

Bill K
VIC 2146

I was an Announcer, Presenter, News Reader (Radio and TV) in Hobart and Adelaide (1969 - 1981). I lived through the Fraser cuts which saw over 1,000 talented people shown the door. As VP of the Staff Association (SA), I worked hard to save many jobs, to no avail. The ABC now faces sackings due to budget cuts all over again. There is no other Media organisation in Australia which serves the community in all areas, News, Comedy, Drama, Orchestral, The Arts, Emergencies etc, in all States, In a balanced, unbiased, no agenda, factual and professional manner. It is essential, loved and admired the world over!

Bill S
3355

I live on the South Coast of New South Wales and was threatened by fire a number of times during this summer. We were also without power and communications for long periods and a number of times. During this time we relied on the ABC to bring us important information about the fires, service outages and available community services. We were glued to the radio many a day. I also rely on the ABC for honest reporting and great programming in general.
Birgit Flatow

Birgit F
VIC 2537

The ABC has been my source of information for over 60 years from jazz to politics and Australia all over. Now it is the news and current affairs. Please increase it's budget by 50% so we can see & hear the truth about what is happening in what is left of Australia

Bob d
VIC 3121

My partner and I are rusted on ABC radio listeners and television watchers. We never miss the half hour news broadcasts and especially the 7.45am news on ABC radio 774. Our grand daughter is an avid fan of Play School and ABC Kids. In addition it produces great special interest shows of fact and fiction.

We also believe that the once great ABC TV presentations such as 4 Corners, Insiders and QnA are being used inappropriately for political purposes and are not objective as they once were.

With the MSM being owned by too few there is a lack of balanced reporting. The ABC had balance and its investigative reporting exposed terrible injustices committed by large corporations. I believe that the independence of the ABC is paramount.

The vital communication to the public by the ABC on national disasters such as bush fires puts commercial broadcasters to shame.

Fund the ABC properly it is an essential service.

your sincerely
Bob and Glenys Ditton

Bob D
VIC 3207

The ABC is the only tv that I watch for up to date news about the Corona virus and if there is an other disaster anywhere they Keep me up to date with it and what is going on in the world it needs to be fully funded not cuts as it is the only reliable and unbiast news that I watch

Bob H
VIC 3660

For the very latest unbiased news I rely on ABC Radio News. After dinner I swich to the ABC FM music chanel, which I enjoy into the early hours of the following day. I live alone so the ABC is my contact with the outside world and this keeps me from becoming depressed.

bob H
NSW 3146

During Covid I have relied on the ABC to keep me informed as to what I needed to, do to keep myself and others safe as I have had no television or computer for news and the ABC is the news source that I can trust to speak the truth I also needed them when the bushfires were raging here and in other parts of Aust.. When in lockdown and required to stay in my home alone the ABC acted as my company and entertainment I am 83 yrs. old. Please treat the ABC more generously for my sake and millions of other people.

Yours SINCERELY Bob Keane

Bob k
TAS 2480

I depend on the ABC to keep me informed about happenings and developments in Australia that otherwise I would have no knowledge of. This is especially true in the recent emergencies of bushfires and Covid-19. Any further reductions in the ABC's budget would be a disaster.

Bob S
WA 7325

I rely on the ABC for open and honest reporting, not the ad driven often fact free drivel from Murdoch press and commercial outlets. Quality over quantity. Keep the ABC as our fully funded public broadcaster. I promise you, if you kill the ABC you and the rest of Australia will live to regret it.

bob s
VIC 6124

The ABC is my trusted source of impartial news and information particularly during the bushfires and now with Covid tearing us apart. The, often time, daily updates on Covid and local and state actions are vital to us knowing how to respond in a critical time. Other news outlets have been inaccurate and undependable in their coverage. But we trust the ABC to give us impartial information

Bob W
NSW 3065

The ABC has been an integral part of our lives for many years. When I lived in north Queensland we relied on the ABC for cyclone warnings and regular updates on their locations and urgency, and flooding, local programs giving us valuable information about the community in which we lived, the Arts, news bulletins and current affairs. When we lived on property in outback Queensland it was our lifeline to the outside world and remaining current - on local stories, livestock reports and information, elections, news, current affairs. Now living in Northern Rivers of NSW this need continues - with flood warnings, local, state, national, and world wide news and current affairs, bushfires that hit our area in July to October 2019, and now COVID-19, keeping us updated on the current crisis, but also what's happening at the Qld-NSW border. I have family in north Queensland still, and south in the Illawara, so it is equally important for me to hear what is happening in these areas. Every morning we start the day with our local ABC radio, local, and national news, and A.M., followed by local area programs. In the evening we watch ABC news on television, then Seven Thirty Report as we know we will get honest, accurate, reliable, and trustworthy information, and government and opposition parties, and those in authority held to account, so we can make informed choices at elections. Following this we watch other ABC television programs from Australian Story, 4 Corners, Q & A, Media Watch, Foreign Correspondent, comedy on Wednesday evenings, Gardening programs on Fridays, especially Gardening Australia. At other times we listen to ABC Jazz, watch I View programs, Art, and so much more. ABC is an integral part of our lives living in regional Australia. Please don't destroy this valuable connection to the outside world for us that ABC provides, not readily available on commercial media outlets.

Bonita S
NSW 2483

The ABC helps with emergency news which is crucial in these last years of bushfires and floods. The cuts are making it harder for people to access this information when they need it most. Its independence is also needed in today's information filled world, where fact checking is important.

Bonnie M
NSW 2284

They're my number one news source in the country. There's no one else I can rely on to have the most reliable and factual news that is free of bias or corporate input in Australia

brad m
WA 2048

For nearly 20 years we have used ABC radio broadcasts in our bush fire plan finding them to be up to date, reliable and frequent during times of danger. As we progress into the high likelihood of more frequent and more intense bush fires in the future, the ABC becomes even more important.

In addition, we rely on the ABC for general community information, COVID 19 information, unbiased news, informative radio programmes and educational programmes.

Please maintain adequate funding for such an important part of country living.

Brad and Sally B

NSW 6275

Hi

Please!!! do not slash funding to a much loved and respected ABC which is a highly valuable source of truth, especially during the current disaster of Covid19 I have relied on daily morning news updates, and much the same for recent bushfires. It is news delivered professionally and presented without Bias and Sensationalism, unlike the other commercial stations which subject the public to heightened hype and drama on a daily basis

Many thanks

Regards

Brenda

Bren H

WA 2148

Hello Panel,

I hope your life has been better than mine since the pandemic started. As a senior adhering to social isolation, its like living in solitary confinement and just waiting to die. These are techniques used to break prisoners' spirits: its a precursor to mental issues.

Although there is a choice of radio and tv stations, none are close to the ABC for comprehensive, reliable, and thoughtful output. It is my companion, a voice in an empty house, a variety of good music to listen to from classical to contemporary, intellectual content that both informs, stimulates and exercises my brain as well as providing basic daily entertainment.

With a son and 3 grandchildren living in Edinburgh, another grand daughter is in NSW and the bulk of my extended family in Europe, I need domestic and overseas content. I prefer trustworthy sources - no fake news or social media garbage.

With awful things happening around the world, and pleas for cash to help in disaster situations, I rely on the ABC for accurate reporting and warnings on who not to send donations to. Fortunately in W.A. we are generally spared bushfire and flood situations but again the ABC plays a crucial role wherever these disasters occur: how many more people might have died if not for their timely updates and warnings.

With newspapers closing down around the country, its even more essential that we maintain a strong ABC employing talented investigative reporters. Politicians might not always like what they uncover but on the other hand some research has saved the government millions of dollars by exposing dubious schemes, while also protecting our environment and assets.

In reality, the ABC has had so many funding cuts over the years and I lament the loss of quality entertainment and drama on tv. Post Covid, our entertainment industry needs far more support than it is currently receiving - from the front line actors & singers to all the trades and entrepreneurs that support them. Generous funding for the ABC will enable them to showcase local production, employ thousands of Australian citizens, and thus greatly contribute to the Australian economy which needs a broad base to enable a speedier recovery.

I am only one voice with my own personal story of what the ABC means to me. Multiply this by millions of others with different views and requirements e.g. captions & audio description for the deaf (my granddaughter) or sight impaired, and the results must surely justify our vote to save the ABC from funding cuts.

So please support the ABC - its a valuable national resource!

brenda c

NSW 6148

I am a 67 year old woman who has grown up with ABC TV.

I trust the information.

I love the Australian content.

My identity as an Australian is reinforced.

Without ABC Australia moves further to a little USA.

I shudder.

I beg this government to do one good thing to keep our information and entertainment balanced and Australian.

FUND THE ABC PROPERLY !

Brenda H

NT 2257

I had a mate say to me, "well the ABC represents the left wing and stations like 2GB represent the right". I objected asking why he'd say that and he raised global warming. I suggested the fact that the vast majority of the scientific community agreeing not to mention THE WORLD AT LARGE I suggested that was NOT a left wing view, it was a fact. Another observation was that 2GB could be seen to be FAR RIGHT on many issues meaning middle of the road appears to be "left".

The ABC is loved by over 70% of the Australian population RE-FUND IT don't De-fund it.

Brendan Donohoe

Collaroy

Brendan D

VIC 2097

It is distressing and not useful to listen to ABC and then realize the the full story is not being told-- and-- then --ridicule is offered to anyone who has other information which is backed by very informed and high ranking sources.... So now i only listen to ABC with a lot of caution and thinking what is said is what the government allows them to say. Are you going to tell people the vaccine for covid will alter human RNA--- which is extremely experimental. You hide this in verbiage and this is partial truth which is a form of lying--you speak of MRNA. Explain it properly please--- if you dare. We who read and study overseas news and high level scientific information know the truth-- i.e. that this vaccine will be very dangerous. Also your program scheduled for tonight on 5G-- I dont dare watch as the opposing side will be ridiculed-- i fear --and I cant bare to watch it. You can influence people who dont research these issues--- but the rest of us know what is really going on and no longer have the respect for the ABC that we might have had in previous years.

This is war and nothing to do with animal sources like bats--we all know that--why dont you come out and say this. Invisible bombs on a timer--no one knows when they will be taken out--masks are only of small help and this bio weapon is designed to mutate and probably to go on for a very long time.

Finally, am sick of your commentators taking every mean shot at Trump--some of us think he is doing better that his predecessors! He does not deserve ridicule and i am offended by it--- as US born.

Brenn C

QLD 3220

Driving back to Qld from Victoria on December 30 last year, we received the emergency bushfire alert in Orbost and immediately checked the ABC news updates and followed them all the way home. This information was invaluable and kept us safe.

In the same way, their reliable and fully researched information on Covid-19 has kept us safe and helped reduce the severity of the epidemic.

We need a fully funded and independent ABC in order for them to deliver their important work.

Brett M

NSW 4567

The ABC has kept me sane during this anxious time of the coronavirus. I have used the ABC news team as though they are my family to reduce my feelings of isolation while I stay at home. As I have diabetes, had a stroke a year ago, treated for lung cancer two years ago and recently been diagnosis with a benign brain tumour, I know I am high risk to succumb to this virus. I also trust their reporting on the coronavirus facts.

Brett M

QLD 2141

If it wasn't for the ABC's broadcasts, during the treacherous fires in Qld, I wouldn't be around now to make this submission!

It's essential for everyone's safety in times of emergency that we have a national emergency radio station to let those who are caught up in floods, fires and other climate change disasters, to have a trusted news broadcaster to help them!

Why does this government think the ABC has no further use just because it at times brings governments, big business to account when they deliberately attempt to defraud or mislead taxpayers or shareholders. Do the right think PM and fund the ABC as it should be funded!!

Brian A
QLD 4064

With an ABC that is reduced in its capacity to tell all Australians clearly what is happening within the opaque political scene in this country.

Our democracy is in jeopardy without the bright light shone from ABC Radio and TV programs.

Do not cripple this highly valued institution for any Perseved political benefit,

Brian C
VIC 4152

I like to watch the ABC news in the mornings and dozens of other shows on the ABC, Do not cut the funding for this very important channel or you will lose my vote at election time,

Brian C
ACT 3199

The Snowy Hydro 2 are travelling up the Snowy Mountains Highway from Cooma to Adaminaby and up the mountain to a Snowy camp at Log in the Hole Talbingo

There will be another camp at Tantangata neither will have any Mobile Phone or ABC South East Emergency Broadcasting

It's a hazardous drive with concrete segment trucks every hour transformers generators

The ABC doesn't want to know and Snowy Hydro CEO said during the fires

WHEN ALL FALLS DOWN ALL YOU HAVE IS A RADIO on an interview with ABC SE BEGA

Brian Curzon Cooma

Brian C
NSW 2630

I rely on the ABC for unbiased reliable news online on TV and radio

Brian F
VIC 2479

When I turn on the TV my go to channels are ABC and SBS. I rely on the ABC for news both local and foreign. This is how I keep myself informed about both domestic and international affairs. As a former journalist I know how important it is to resource the media so that they can play that vital role in investigating and reporting. The independent broadcaster plays an important role in keeping our democracy alive and we should never underestimate this important role they play. The complex local and transnational relationships we have in modern times makes it all the more important for us to have an independent broadcaster who is funded to keep us informed. Please don't defund the ABC. It does not serve our interest as a nation to operate in the dark.

Brian J
QLD 3174

The ABC is an essential supplier of news for our whole family.

Without adequate funding the ABC cannot function. Adequate funding is a MUST for the ABC .

Brian M
ACT 5064

The ABC is the glue that holds the country people together in a crisis.

brian m
QLD 2650

The voices raised against the ABC are privileged, self idealising, destructive and cruel

Brian M
NSW 4562

My wife and I are in our eighties, so we have been through some major crises over the decades. These include bushfires, floods, droughts, wars and pandemics, the worst of which, I believe, is the current COVID-19. In these times we have relied upon the ABC to keep us informed and reassured in a reliable, accurate and unsensational manner, with their skilled and honest reporting of current events. We would be extremely disappointed, no, outraged if the funding of the ABC were reduced in the up-coming Federal Budget. In fact, we would not be prepared to vote for this Government at the next election.

Brian N
NSW 2076

The ABC is my most important source of news, entertainment and current affairs.
Its integrity and impartiality are second to none, and incredibly important to counter the alternative news sources like sky news which have their own agenda.
If my wife and I ever attend a Protest it will be trying to remove more funding to the ABC. Touch it at your peril.

Brian W
NSW 2515

Our ABC is the best, honest, unbiased and fairest way to receive information for Australia.
We have always relied on our ABC due to the fact that they are only answerable to the Board, and not shareholders, even though the Board are chosen by the current Government.
This year 2020 the ABC has proven its worth with the following tragedies Australia has faced, i.e. droughts, bush fires, floods and now COVID-19.
Our ABC also gives honest and fair coverage on climate change, even though our climate has been changing for millions of years.
The shows we watch are: Landline, Four Corners, 7.30 Report, and Insiders to cover the above tragic, informative, and accurate reports. (We still miss Lateline's in-depth coverage which was on air for over 27 years. We have noticed that commercial channels are now striving to fill this void.)
We also love the ABC's satirical shows: Shaun McCauliff's Mad as Hell and The Weekly with Charlie Pickering. (More comedy would be appreciated.)
The only criticisms we have are that there is too much emphasis on the first Australians (Aborigines), and there should be more history of white and European settlers for educational purposes.

Brian W
NSW 2315

I live in Port Stephens. The ABC has been the only reliable source for Covid-related news for our LGA and nearby Newcastle and Lake Macquarie.

I have always relied on our local ABC in the past for news of major dramas, eg the bushfires, floods and also sea-related concerns like the dozens of containers which fell off a ship in nearby waters.

The local ABC has also consistently provided very interesting information about developments in our area, eg interesting new buildings in Newcastle. It's the only reliable source we have for information of these nature.

Brian W
QLD 2318

My family and extended family and friends have been fortunate to not be directly affected by the bush fires and Covid19 this year. But that doesn't mean we haven't been emotionally affected. The ABC is a reliable source of trustworthy information and comfort through their news programs and drama/comedies. They provide for children and adults. I work in a special school and for eating break times I use ABC I view kids programs because they are entertaining and educational. Please don't take the people's broadcaster away.

Bridget P
SA 4305

As the bushfires raged in the Adelaide Hills the ABC was absolutely critical in keeping us constantly informed. Their consistent & accurate reports enabled us to enact our Bushfire Management Plan & evacuate. This was a lifesaving service!

Bronnie W
ACT 5000

During the recent bush fires and now with C-19 I like so many others rely only on ABC for factual reliable non sensationists reporting .I cant comprehend why the Morrison gov would cut funding to the only reliable news source .I tuned into other news programs and found the reporting very unprofessional and fear mongering. Cut the funding and they loose my vote .

bronwyn s
WA 2440

The ABC is an essential part of our media landscape. It is important not just as a news broadcaster or in terms of culture and entertainment but it is also a vital part of our democracy. It must be supported and the funding shortages which have gone on since the Howard era reversed. I believe this is what a majority of Australians want for our national broadcaster.

In the 2019/ 2020 bushfires, the ABC was a very important source of information for me and my family. I was living in Fremantle while my family were living in the Blue Mountains and parts of Sydney. All of us relied heavily on the ABC as the only reliable source of information and reassurance during this time. No commercial network provided the level of detailed, 24/7 reporting that the ABC (TV and radio) did.

I am currently teaching English in Sri Lanka. The resources available on the ABC Learn English website are an excellent source of teaching materials. They are well-produced and well-targeted. They are engaging and relevant to daily life in Australia. Many of my Sri Lankan students have relatives in Australia and/ or are planning to study or work in Australia. The ABC Learn English website is uniquely positioned to acquaint them with cultural and linguistic norms which they can expect to face in Australia. This means that once they arrive in Australia they will be able to contribute more fully to Australia, both in social and economic terms, than if they had not had such an introduction to the country prior to arrival.

I have lived and worked overseas for most of my adult life. During this time, the ABC has been my primary way of staying in touch with what is going on in Australia, particularly in times of crisis. Apart from this, the entertainment produced by the ABC is unparalleled in terms of quality.

The ABC must be supported.

Yours Sincerely,

Dr Brooke Nolan

Brooke N
VIC 6160

As someone who has previously voted for the coalition, I feel compelled to contact you.

I'm disgusted at the deliberate and sustained sabotage that your government is inflicting on our ABC! And by extension, the SBS.

With the current concentration of media ownership in foreign hands; and the industrial scale disinformation campaigns from malign foreign sources; it is critical that we keep the trusted, independent voice of the ABC well funded.

I'm constantly annoyed at the syndicated international rubbish on some of our TV channels that is disguised as content.

I'm also sick of the foreign media concentration that the government's policy has allowed to fester. I believe that this concentration of ownership is a significant contributor to the appalling state of our national politics.

This foreign media concentration, combined with the government's sabotage of the ABC and industrialised disinformation campaigns, is having an undermining effect on our democracy and way of life.

Insufficient funding to the ABC, leads to insufficient scrutiny of how our society and government run.

This also leads people to question just what is our government trying to hide and cover up?

This is not helped by federal police raids of the ABC and other investigative journalists!

What does your government have to hide?

I want a well funded ABC to help address these situations.

The ABC has been there for all of my life. It is a trusted source of quality news; current affairs; TV series; movies and content. I also admire how they develop local content and nurture local talent.

Similarly, I have become a fan of SBS quality international content given the dearth of quality content elsewhere.

We need to keep them both well funded!

This needs to be addressed as a priority.

Yours sincerely,

Bruce Bannerman

Bruce B
VIC 3977

The ABC has been part of my life for 74 years. It introduced me to music, the arts and sciences in all their diversities - the foundation of my lifetime career. It has served as an essential conduit for timely information in times of trouble (my father lead a local rural fire brigade for decades) and has continuously exploited new communication technologies to the point that now, in Australia, it has become central to our national capacity to address natural disasters.

The ABC consistently extends and refines its' diverse services to our nation, maintains the highest editorial standards of any media service in Australia and is uncontaminated by powerful vested interest groups. The ABC is essential to our multicultural population, our community values and our collective awareness of the challenges we face in building upon our rich societal inheritance.

Bruce B
VIC 3130

I rely on our national broadcaster to provide fact-checked, unbiased, science based news stories and current events. Commercial news outlets provide information that suits their owners. Very few will admit to the reality of climate change because it is a problem for many of their sponsors. The same can be said of our current Liberal-National Coalition which is reliant on donors who again wish to deny the reality of climate change, as well as a great number of other significant life changing stories, such as the problems of the Murray-Darling Plan, the looming extinction of a great many Australian native animals, the destruction of the Great Barrier Reef, the growing inequality of opportunity between rich and poor citizens in Australia and the ever-increasing greed of large corporations. How else can these problems be addressed unless we expose them, discuss and debate them? These are the stories that are aired on the ABC and they are frequently an embarrassment to our national government. If we are to prosper as a nation, caring for each other and for our country we should be building up the ABC - not reducing it by cutting its budget!

Bruce H
NSW 3130

How would I have been kept informed about the COVID19 situation were it not for the ABC? The special once-a-week 10 minutes on Covid at the end of the 7pm TV news (Sunday evenings, I think) gives helpful advice and always enlightens. We're kept up to date on statistics showing us how severe the outbreaks are, news bulletins tell us of developments in what rules we're supposed to follow. I guess most of this may be available online if I knew just where to look, and no doubt commercial channels must be giving some information too, but none of it matches the ease of access provided by ABC coverage, nor the confidence we can feel in its accuracy.

Bruce H
QLD 2233

1. We are a couple with ages 77 and 75. Through the Covid pandemic, it has even been critical, not just important, that we received accurate scientific and medical and lawful information about Covid conditions and what we were allowed to do. We TRUST the ABC. Commercial channels (Murdoch in particular), cannot be trusted as their advice is tainted by political bias and commercial interests!

2. In 2014, our suburb (Maleny, Qld) lost all power for 3-4 days because of ex-cyclone Oswald. We lost home phones, mobile phones, television, and of course fridge and freezer contents. Our saviour was an old battery radio, and the wonderful ABC. It was the only way that we could determine where power was available (to get a shower, etc), and also estimates of power restoration to Maleny.

We thank God for the ABC. Please do not emasculate it with funding cuts.

The Federal Govt has shown thru the COVID crisis that it can show genuine leadership without spin, without ideological nonsense, and without pressured advice from Murdoch. Please keep that honesty going as we emerge from the Covid pandemic.

Bruce J
NSW 4552

We have relied upon the ABC for accurate and factual information during this pandemic.

They are a vital and essential component of Australia's emergency management

How dare you threaten to take this from us

Bruce M
NSW 2151

Our radios 3 of them are a;ways on the ABC because 89% of time they are completely accurate and they do not lielike Sky News and the papers which are in few hands and controlled more and more by Murdoch a scourge on the Australian landscape The ABC is the only media you can trust other than the Coastal News newspaper on the Central Coast. Our politicians are very loose with the truth and only look after themselves. We are in a sorry State in this country and the ABC has to be properly funded. It is our institution and not the governments to say they should go. Lets get rid of the politicians such as the liberal party who are the main pushers of this.

Bruce R
VIC 2775

My name is Bruce Stebbins. I am a semi retired builder/psychologist and live in rural Victoria. Cuts to the ABC both effects and affects me and my family as it is the only source of radio we get....we only have AM reception so rely heavily on this aspect of the National Broadcaster. In this time of the coronavirus pandemic and during the bushfires the ABC's media outlets were and are invaluable in keeping us engaged and informed. Being independent It is able to offer balanced and non party specific views and therefore been a true watch dog on those in power and held them accountable. Cuts have and are already eroding these important functions of our national watch dog. It goes without saying that the ABC helps us stay connected and informed through its' drama, music, sport, comedy and commitment to what truely Australian stories.

We respectfully demand that no cuts be made to the ABC in the October 2020-21 Budget as the impact on us is critical to our health, safety and well-being.

Bruce Stebbins

Bruce S
VIC 3231

Merely bias free reporting which is at a distinct shortage in a sea of Murdoch (I except James).

Bruce W
ACT 3214

The Australian Broadcasting Commission services are in my experience of international travel, the best in the world. The news services are outstanding and the Radio National programs such as All in The Mind, The Science Show, Late Night Live and Big Ideas provide access to the best minds in Australia and the world. Recently Norman Swan's Coronacast and Health report have been the most sensible and reliable guide to the pandemic in Australia. During the bush fires, when my son was fire fihting, I could go to the ABC and get up to date information about the situations where he was based.

If we did not have the ABC we would be left with such programs as Love Island, Married at First Sight and Big Brother. Not only are these program aimed at the lowest common denominator of viewer but they are dishonest and staged to make viewers think they are watching a reality show when they is far from reality.

In a flourishing democracy, an independant and critical media service is essential. Politicians have an overwhelming need to be popular. Is it because the ABC often points out as well as being popular they are also wrong, that makes them constantly try to sabotage the ABC?

Bryant A
NSW 2614

Channel 7's owned by a mining billionaire. Channel 9's chaired by a former government minister. Fairfax is owned by 9 now. Ten's alright but they still need to turn a profit, which could mean going easy on sponsors. The Murdoch press is a blatant right-wing political organisation. Even the progressive/left-wing sources are sometimes blinded by their dislike of the current government.

I just want an organisation dedicated to reporting the truth, without fear or favour. Give them the bloody money they need to do that, and make it last longer than the current election cycle. It's a pittance compared to the whole budget and it has a massive benefit to society - not to mention opening career paths for broadcast/arts workers.

Bryce C
WA 2066

I live in a remote area of the Kimberley region of Western Australia and often have to travel large distances for extended periods. I'm frequently out of range of every other service, but almost never out of range of the ABC. I've relied for years on the ABC as often the only news source I can access, and always as the most trusted.

Please - don't just maintain funding for the ABC - increase it!

Bryn D
NSW 6168

i remember when John Howard's cuts to the ABC silenced the most trustworthy and respected voice in our region.

Let it not happen here. The idea that the personal views of a proprietor should dominate the public discourse is terrifying. Without the ABC there is no real investigative journalism and without investigative journalism, there is no democracy.

Bunty B
VIC 2021

Living in regional Victoria the ABC has been essential in keeping us informed especially in regards to the local conditions, both through the bushfire season and now during COVID. The 7.45 am ABC radio news report gives us a vital encapsulated report before heading out to work.

C P

VIC 3465

The ABC is the only radio and television that I listen to or watch. I find the programs balanced in that presenters have varying viewpoints i.e. Phillip Adams and Amanda Vanstone and that I can get a comprehensive view of most topics.

I think it is important to have independent media who have enough support to express opinions without fear or favour. The Australian Government is employed by the Australian people to keep our democracy alive and well functioning. In this, I think we need the ABC.

Please do not cut funding to the ABC. It is such an important part of our democracy.

Caitriona Y

VIC 3113

I am a government school secondary Maths and English teacher. I live in Preston, Melbourne, and teach in a highly multicultural school.

The ABC is important to me for a number of reasons. Over the years their services have provided numerous educational resources, BTN, and the ABC Education website to name a couple I use frequently. They also provide a wealth of documentaries on social, historical, scientific, and political topics that are engaging and have led to rich class discussions. It would be a blow to me professionally if the ABC could no longer produce this thought-provoking and high-quality content.

Personally, the ABC news broadcast has become my go to for coverage of the COVID-19 pandemic. I had found myself becoming very anxious reading all the different and sometimes conflicting reports on social media and commercial news. Watching the ABC news reports gave me assurance as they reported the facts clearly and did not give air time to fear-mongering speculation.

For these reasons and many others, funding to the ABC should be increased. The ABC is the most trusted news source for Australians. The ABC is also responsible for some amazing locally created shows that reflect the feelings and thoughts of the Australian people. It is one of the few places that I can see myself and other Australians represented accurately without the Hollywood stereotypes.

The ABC is Australia's most important cultural institution and should be both protected and nurtured.

Cally P

NSW 3072

I trust the ABC for current and timely news, more than any other media outlet. As a public broadcaster, I know they are working for the benefit of the public—to cultivate an informed electorate. I relied on the ABC on updates about the bushfires earlier this year, and now about the pandemic. Please continue to fund this important Australian institution.

Calvin C

NSW 2010

The ABC has been _the_ source of up the date, reliable, and accurate news for our family for years, even more so during this highly traumatic year. Honest, non-biased reporting giving the facts of the situation allowing us, the viewer, to make judgment and come up with an informed opinion.

Yes, times are difficult and your government is hemorrhaging money worse than the Labour/Rudd government during the GFC. That happens during a world crisis. And why spend funds on the ABC when you already give huge allowances to a news service who rarely have a bad word about your government. However, removing funds from the ABC to cripple their news broadcasting services is a lousy, low-dog action from your government to the Australian people.

Jesus had his haters, his doubters, yet he allowed debate and discussion so that the people could discover the truth. I have no faith in this government if it continues to stiffe our Broadcasting network in favour of your favoured media friends.

Stop cutting the ABC.

Cara W
WA 2042

I absolutely rely on the ABC (plus SBS) for intelligent, balanced and reliable information on all current and historical affairs. The NEWS; The DRUM; 7.30 REPORT; MEDIA WATCH; AUSTRALIAN STORY; 4 CORNERS, etc. The Independent research is essential for informed choices-health, politics, general knowledge. Plus DEMOCRACY CAN'T SURVIVE without informed Voters. PLEASE, PLEASE make sure this unique organisation remains extremely well funded.

Caren W
VIC 6111

The ABC is for all Australians. Where would we be in a crisis and where can I get news from a trusted source but the ABC. The ABC RMIT Factcheck is way of connecting and teaching and informing us!

I am really so sick and tired of the Federal Government cutting funding but giving subsidies to the mining industry such as for fuel.

Do you think we the public don't understand what the Federal Government is doing? Think again we do.

Tony Abbott did cuts and took away our connection and voice in Asian pacific space. Scott Morrison are you going to keep this going?

Remember SBS they do a wonderful job too!

We need to think strategically not politically and idelogically.

Carey

Carey W
NSW 3056

We live in a Bush fire prone area of Australia.

We also rely on ABC Radio and TV news to keep us informed on up to date developments and the ABC News is our foremost source of news bulletins.

We would be lost without our ABC.

carl m
WA 2773

I could not do without the ABC as it is my only company, especially during the night. It keeps me updated and gives me a lot of information and joy. Please keep our ABC going no matter what....thumbsup:....

“WELL I LOVE IT”:thumbsup:

Carla B
NSW 6058

Please do not make cuts to the ABC in the October 2020-21 budget.

My name is Carlie and I live in Padstow, Sydney, NSW. During the bush fire crisis on the south coast of NSW this year we found the ABC coverage and constant updates extremely valuable and important as we were unable to make contact with family members in the bushfire affected area. The coverage kept us informed and we were even able to let family know information when we were able to make intermittent contact as they were without power and got very little information about the fires progress.

The ABC is also a vital link to local community and information about the wider community for many people living in regional areas. Please to not make further cut to funding the ABC.

Living in Sydney we have access to many different television channels. However I rarely find myself watching channels other than the ABC and SBS as the programs you show are informative and entertaining unlike the trash on commercial television. Please do not make further cuts to the ABC.

Carlie W
NSW 2211

Bush-fires and Covit-19 - are you kidding we need the ABC for fair, accurate, understanding and timely reporting. When you know that you can get the latest, most objective reporting and information at your fingertips, whether on the App or on ABC Breakfast and you live in regional Australia, you breath a sigh of relief. Our national broadcaster is deeply appreciated all the time. Elder Australians and their younger families need our ABC. Knowing that information is there at our finger tips can save our lives, and enrich our minds. No cuts, we need the connection, our nation needs this connection to heal and re-build. Bushfires amd Covit have devastated our lives, yet the ABC is strong and vibrant and reassures our future with intelligent analysis and understanding. Save our ABC, it is the core of our nation and culture.

Carlos C
NSW 2830

I am in the Aged care category and for months have been unable to leave home. During the bushfire crises we got all the news From the ABC. Now during this terrible COVIV 19 crisis we are able to keep up with the ever changing situation and know when and how to shop, where are the danger spots, what we need to avoid and even help with mental health. Their reporters are. Excellent journalists who explore the reality of situations which affect the Australian people and are likely to be hidden by the government. We are entitled to know about the governance and risks of our country and how they are handled. There is even more need now for a free press with experienced and nonpartisan journalists. The ABC is treated as hostile by the current government and hence the threat of budget cuts. No other place can we get the reality of our situation than thE ABC. IT IS A VITAL LIFELINE FOR AUSTRALIAN CITIZENS. PLEASE - MORE FUNDING NOT LESS? Carmel Bennett

Carmel B
NSW 2204

I've been dependant on the ABC most of my life. Growing up it was part of my social history. I've been in the Canberra Bushfires and Black Sat bushfires' paths and totally dependant on the local ABC. During the January South Coast bushfires I was fixed on the ABC to know about the winds coming and indeed had a massive Eucalypt fall on my house requiring 17 SES men to unpick the disaster and cut up the tree. But every day I'm dependant on the trusted news source for Australia and overseas as well as for the intellectual programs that nourish my brain and keep me from feeling isolated. There have also been times when I've had personal crises and it was the ABC that saved me from becoming depressed. One feels a part of the ABC family. I'm sure there would be more suicides without the constant support of the ABC being there for all our needs. More than ever during a Pandemic we Australians need our ABC NOW, and it is OURS, after all. The ABC represents Democracy. I'm a single, healthy mind-body active (much younger than my chronological years) female of 71 years whose professional work is recognised and used. internationally.

Carmel L
NSW 2533

I know that I can rely on the abc news and factual information, We need the abc in this time of fake news and pandemic more than ever and needs to have reliable funding

Carmel M
QLD 2529

It is factual and so unbiased and I trust it completely. We are so lucky in Australia to have the ABC .

Carmel N
VIC 4074

As a teacher I have mostly relied on the ABC reports to know what is happening in education. Our school is regional, but on the border with Melbourne and Mitchell Shire. We have students and teachers coming into our school from the lockdown areas in Melbourne and Mitchell Shire.

Carol C
VIC 3444

As a resident of Victoria, ABC Radio 774 or Radio National 621 are the ONLY stations I listen to - and the radio is on a large portion of the day and evening. I can be guaranteed to learn something new every day, and am always able to find something of interest to listen to. I depend on the ABC for intelligent programmes and am not disappointed.

Carol C
VIC 3995

As a resident of Strathbogie Shire, I live in a very bushfire prone area and summers have become a time of anxiety over past years.

Listening to the ABC on my radio is the only channel that gives regular and up to date information on bushfires. Last summer, I was comforted by having ABC playing on my radio constantly as I had to be ready to leave my home quite suddenly.

I discovered that ABC broadcasts were often more accurate and immediate than notifications on Vic Emergency App!

Without doubt, these two sources of bushfire information complimented each other and gave me some peace of mind. To be clear though - if I chose one over the other to provide safety information in times of crisis, it would definitely be ABC broadcasts.

Sincerely, Carol Crowe

Carol C
NSW 3666

I don't only use the ABC during problem times I listen to the radio every day at different times and in the evening the ABC TV has a lot of programs that I watch. The news and other things. It's also important to people living in the country of farms etc.

Carol F
VIC 2287

I wake to the music and news on ABC classic. The announcers are calm and cheerful, encouraging me to face a day without structure or friendly faces, with the music lifting my heart. During the fires, accurate information without hyperbole let me know what was happening to fellow Victorians, and where I could travel safely.

Carol G
NSW 3108

I have only ever relied on the ABC or SBS for both news and current affairs. At this time when the country is in a world of hurt the ABC is where I can get truth. At 73 years of age, I need to have honest reporting and feel that during the bushfires and now corona I can decide what is good for me. I listen to federal and state information via My ABC and weigh up the facts and truth.

My family is in Queensland and I am on my own in NSW so the ABC is so important as it has become my companion. Australia will decide on who takes this nation forward by the actions of the moment, removing funding again from the ABC would not be wise.

Carol H
VIC 2485

I only ever watch ABC News at 7pm and SBS 6.30 for half an hour of world news. I always watch Four Corners and Foreign Correspondent and wish the Government would stop cutting the Budget for the ABC. I loathe commercial TV and believe the Government must be getting kickbacks from the Media mogul billionaires.

Carol H
VIC 3931

I rely on ABC Newsradio (1026 AM) and Radio National (621 AM) for a wide-ranging view of world affairs which helps me understand Australia's politics and economics in a broader context. I can't get this information from any other free source – the range of information, different perspectives and commentary available is enlightening and, I think, makes me a better Australian citizen in that I am exposed to a wider mix of the complexities of social, political and economic decision-making.

I love Australian Story and Back Roads. These programs warm the heart, encourage optimism, community togetherness and model strength in adversity in a uniquely Australian context – the recent Back Roads stories about the towns of Penguin and Girgarre are perfect examples of this. Commercial television does not provide this broader sense of the Australian community and relies largely on competition-based reality shows for Australian content. These types of shows just don't do it for me! I find them demeaning of the people in them (whether they know it or not) and modelling shallow thinking, self-absorption and self-serving behaviour, just what we don't need in our young people.

Carol M
VIC 3058

I am a writer in my seventies, living with my husband and my mentally ill daughter in the inner suburbs of Melbourne. During the pandemic, we have relied on the ABC (TV and online) for daily updates and a calm appraisal of events. It is vital in our household to keep anxiety levels low, and the ABC succeeds in presenting the news without ramping up fear or creating panic. Tamara Oudyn, in particular, should be commended for her warm and reassuring manner.

I have been saddened to hear about cuts to funding and staff at the ABC in recent years, and concerned that more are threatened. I value the ABC as an ally in these dark days, and know I can rely on them for intelligent and well-researched news, and entertainment that can bring some light into the gloom.

Carol M
VIC 3161

As I normally live alone, when I badly broke my leg, a few days after surgery I was temporarily transferred to an old folks' home for care until I can move to a better place. With lockdowns and isolation, the constant blaring of commercial tv "news" was very upsetting. But on my smartphone I have the ABC app and am able to listen to trustworthy information presented without hype. And music.

Have you LISTENED to the shock, horror type of broadcasting? Appalling.

But I can feel secure in my isolation being kept up to date with trustworthy, reliable information.

Thank you ABC.

Carol P
VIC 3188

I am an older woman who lives alone. I depend on the ABC for news about COVID as well as other day to day info. But the most important thing about the ABC for me is that it is company - even though I have friends and activities I enjoy, there are times when I need to hear the sound of a human voice and to feel connected to other people. The ABC does that for me.

Carol S
QLD 3065

I am an 80 yr old female, who in these times and all times of disaster relies on the continues updates from this channel, and it is the channel which reports the truth and not fake news.

Carol S
VIC 4215

With the rise in information streaming there is a risk that large numbers of people are listening to news from untrustworthy sources feeding fear and distrust. A quality ad free national broadcaster is essential so that there is a free source of accurate news reporting without bias and corporate interests. Public interest reporting is needed. The ABC is what brings us together which we need in times of uncertainty. Please make sure they are funded well.

Thank you
Carole Rayner
Brisbane

Carole R
NSW 4107

On Dec 21 , we were traveling south to Tathra NSW to attend a wedding , listening non stop to updates from ABC radio, (outstanding work by Nick Rheinberger,) which prompted us to abandon our trip and turn around, shortly before the Princes Highway was closed. We relied on the ABC all the way through the summer for information that impacted on friends and family. This is the most vital artery of information for the entire country, regardless of demographics. Please do not let ideology warp your perception of a vital national resource for community, culture, news and analysis. The government should be proud of the ABC's independence and fund it as generously as possible. A diminished public broadcaster is a diminished democracy.

Caroline B
NSW 2515

I rely absolutely every day on the ABC, from morning with Fran Kelly, or whoever replaces her, Classic ABC FOR my soul?! I can listen to so many wonderful programs, Away, hearing aboriginal stories, Philosophers Zone, Nearly every program is brilliant and interesting. Then ABC TV, how else would I have known about the ravages of the bushfires, from my safe home, Co-19, such intelligent up to date news, how to keep safe, etc on the Drum, and news sources. I can't explain how deeply the ABC affects all my life. Any political party which defunds any part of the ABC will never get my vote.

Caroline D
NSW 2535

The ABC is a cherished gift to the Australian people. I always turn to the ABC for the most up-to-date information, especially during the Covid-19 crisis. I watch the ABC everyday. When the Pasha Bulker storm hit Newcastle in 2007, the ABC was my lifeline to the outside world thru ABC radio when we lost power for 3 days. I can only imagine the same thing was happening for people during the bush fire crisis earlier this year. I also love the diverse national and international programming - the ABC really has something for everyone. With commercial channels turning more to reality shows/competitions, I find the ABC the place to be!

Caroline R
2305

It is in fact the only station I view these days for all manner of listening/viewing - great series, healthy robust discussion panels, replays of Australian movies that I had missed, and comedy shows. During the recent bushfires in the mountains I was constantly relying upon the ABC updates and now during covid times I am relying upon their coverage particularly the 7:30 Report and Fran Kelly on Radio National. I am alarmed at this government's attitude to the ABC cutting their funding. This suggests to me that they do not like the truth being exposed when it sheds a poor light on their decisions and the principles underlying their decisions.

Caroline S
NSW

CANNOT IMAGINE LIFE WITHOUT IT. CHANNEL 2 GOES ON FROM THE TIME I WAKE AND STAYS ON CH.2. EXCEPT FOR RAGE THEN IS TURNED OVER TO NEWS CHANNEL. KEEPS ME IN TOUCH WITH WHAT HAS GONE ON IN THE WORLD WHILE I HAVE BEEN SLEEPING AND THEN CARRIES ON FOR THE WHOLE DAY. CANNOT IMAGINE LIFE WITHOUT THE ABC.

Carolle D
QLD 2485

The ABC has been my go to source for Corona updates throughout this pandemic. Last year it was my reliable place to get news on bush fire emergency information to track whether loved ones were likely to be safe. It is the news source I most trust, but not just a news source. It is also the place from where I receive most of my home based entertainment. Whether it be radio programs, Australian Drama or international TV. Very special to me has been the growing collection of short videos made with local Aboriginal communities. And my children love ABC Kids and Kids Listen. We loved Thalu, and Little Yarns. Though Covid I have appreciated the growing collection of Australian movies that I view is sharing as well as the classic offerings. We don't live in the city so my children have never been to the Symphony or Opera, but my 7 year old came home from a school music lesson conducting and on my suggested sat delighted and transfixed for the entire of Tchaikovsky and Ravel: Queensland Symphony Orchestra. He could not take his eyes off Alondra de la Parra. Both he and my eleven year old have now watched a number of the Opera on Sydney Harbour Series. Who knew they would be interested? These sorts of performances are certainly not something we could afford to see live.

Carolyn B
NSW 4551

I live in the Tuggeranong Valley in Canberra. The Orroral Valley fire devastated the Namadji National Park and, at one stage, looked as if it could rip through to our suburb in Tuggeranong. I depended upon ABC 666 throughout those few scary days to find out if I should evacuate to a safer place. I am in my 70s, live alone, and really needed 666 to know what the fire situation was.

Carolyn B
NSW 2095

I have been an ABC listener and watcher since as far back as I can remember. Growing up in the country we relied on the ABC for our local and national news, weather forecasts and major coverage of elections, bush fires and floods. The ABC was always considered a reliable, credible news and information bureau and I still, after 73years, feel the same way about the ABC it has always been there and I am expecting it to always be there. The ABC is a lifeline for country people and country people vote and they vote for the party who supports them and their needs whether those needs are communication, information entertainment, political news or world news. The importance of government to continue funding the ABC should not be underestimated.

Carolyn C
NSW 2570

My/our ABC is always important but has been my life line in 2020. We were in America in January and checked in every day via the ABC on what was happening for our friends and family during the bushfires. We knew the news was current, reliable and free of Any bias or undue influence.

My ABC gives me the detail I need to feel ok. Particularly now with Covid. Programs like 4 corners, 7.30, insiders or the Drum drill down on the detail and give me the analysis I need to feel less anxious. (I really miss Late Line). My ABC perfectly balances this depth with lightness and joy via Mad as Hell, the weekly, spicks and specs (although new content would be good to invest in).

My ABC has nourished me and my family over the years. From play school to the nightly news and daily on the radio - it is part of our family. We are the ABC because it reflects our values and attitudes. We love the ABC because it doesn't tell us how to think - but gives us all the information we need to Think for ourselves.

It can't do this or be it's best self without appropriate funding. Our household has paid hundreds of thousands of dollars in tax over the years and are happy to do so because this is what makes a good society with appropriate services for all. Our ABC is one of those essential services. Not a service that is used for emergency only - we need a service that we have a daily relationship with, one that we trust. This has been built over years and years and should not be undone.

At a time when 'truth' is in the eye of the beholder (or he who yells loudest), we must invest in non-partisan and non-commercial Entities who we Trust. How many times does the ABC have to 'expose' system failures (banks, nursing homes, Catholic Church) to prove its value? Australia is better for the ABC - it brings us together through sharing of diverse stories, heightening our understanding and appreciation for one another.

With an international pandemic, America in decline, China on the rise and environmental changes that are quite unfathomable, now is not the time for dumbing down the Information we all have free and easy access to. We all need to be part of the solution. I want to turn to my ABC to get guidance on the best way how.

Carolyn S
QLD 2204

I rely on the ABC to keep me informed honestly about what is happening in & around Australia & the World knowing that they don't report gossip or innuendo which I'm sick of reading & listening to on other news channels & papers.

Carolyn W
NSW 4306

My name is Cassandra Barford.

I am a Registered Nurse (RN) working in the public health care system.

My husband is an RN and organiser in our union. Together, we are parents to 3 young adults.

The ABC has been a part of my life for all of my life.

This year and every year, I have relied on the ABC to provide balanced, genuine journalism via programmes such as Four Corners, Foreign Correspondent, The Drum, Media Watch, Q&A and Insiders.

The ABC has provided accurate and accessible information and statistics during the SARS-CoV-2 pandemic in both its daily news and other news programmes.

I can imagine for millions of families with younger children that the programmes offered on the ABC have kept their children engaged during an extremely unusual and sometimes difficult time. Just as the ABC offered my children quality, educational whilst entertaining programmes as they grew and still, now, my children understand the difference in quality of offered programming by our nation's broadcaster in comparison to commercial television.

During Australia's 2019-2020 bushfires, the ABC was the only broadcaster my family relied upon to update us on the worst fires the people of our nation experienced. The ABC's committed staff put themselves in the danger areas to bring us the lived experience of our fellow Australians as well as the facts and science, without fear, that got us to where we are now.

I also enjoy the stories provided in programmes such as Australian Story and the sentimental love, yes love, I have for programmes such as Play School which entertained and educated me as a child and then all 3 of my children who even as they got older, I would sometimes catch still enjoying "their" Play School.

There are so many programmes, both Australian and foreign that the ABC has offered that entertain, provoke thought, challenge opinions and amuse.

I don't think I am alone amongst other Australians in saying I feel very protective of Australia's ABC and the idea that no government, no powerful groups or individuals should be allowed to influence, interfere or intimidate the staff there from seeking and sharing the truth with this nation - no matter how uncomfortable.

While this government sees fit to buoy up large businesses such as miners, banks and private health insurers with billions, I find it completely unacceptable that given the already vast budgetary cuts and subsequent job and programme losses that any more budget cuts are directed towards OUR ABC. If anything, the ABC needs more funding as it is an independent media, free of outside influence that forms a major part of a thriving democracy.

Kind regards.

Cassandra Barford.

Cassandra B
NSW 2196

The ABC has been even more indispensable in 2019/2020. I was living in an isolated and bushy area on a peninsula on the south coast, with only one road in. As the fires drew closer we were 100% reliant on our extraordinary ABC local radio in the Illawarra. They were so thorough, well-informed, and calm. We were and are so grateful for the news and information about both how to be properly prepared and how to act should we need to. I mentally thanked them at every turn. Our radio was never turned off.

Living in an isolated place I listen to Radio National and the local ABC radio, as well as ABC TV for cultural information and interesting programming as well as news and current affairs. I can't even imagine a world with a diminished ABC.

This year has made the ABC even more important. When politicians were slow to act on Covid 19, the ABC became the calm voice - clearly keeping us up-to-date with the latest information and advice.

The ABC is the single most important institution in fostering a sense of nationalism - making us feel we are connected - and that we all need to work together. The impartial and investigative information and cultural programming that the ABC is very good at providing is essential for the future of Australia.

Cassi P
NSW 2540

As a result of the Covid 19 pandemic I have discovered the ABC.

I listen. I watch. And I learn.

I hear the voices of excellent interviewers & interviewees from all over Australia.

I see the problems that are being faced in all States, not just in my own, NSW.

And I learn about my adopted country; things I never knew before.

Thanks ABC. May you roll on for a long, long time. (And be well funded !).

cat h

NSW 2044

The ABC is very important to me and my community. It is the only place I go to tell me what is happening in our world. We the people, who pay tax should be able to continue watching the ABC without any interruption because you the government who work for us are cutting their budget.

Cat M

NSW 2482

I watch only one station each day every day - ABC.

I rely on it for the news and current affairs.

I needed it during the deadly fire season of 2019-20.

I need it now, during the pandemic of covid 19. I use the ABC to hear reports from the PM and State Premiers. I use the ABC to keep up with covid 19 changes.

With a mental illness disability, I do not deal well with advertisements every 10 minutes, as on the commercial channels.

Therefore I watch ABC.

I dislike the term "un-Australian" as I am not sure what it means. But what I do know is that the ABC IS Australian, so cutting funding to the ABC would be the definition of Un-Australian.

Cat W

NSW 2031

The ABC is the primary source of news and current affairs for me via the ABC news app and the free to air tv channels. I trust that they will fact check their stories and always endeavor to provide a balanced and multidimensional view of any issue. I rely on the ABC for up to date COVID info that informs my daily decisions about keeping me and my family safe. The ABC coverage of the bushfires was invaluable to keeping my animals safe.

Australia needs a well funded ABC to maintain our enviable democracy, a high level of informed and educated community and quality of life.

Cate M

NSW 2206

I'm writing to give our families views regarding increasing rather than decreasing ABC funding.

ABC is an integral part of our life; and has become more so since Covid-19 and the bushfires.

ABC does not have a paywall, or limit on how many articles we can read and they give accurate reporting rather than sensationalism journalism. We need accurate journalism and on important issues, not towing some propaganda or lies about the particular issue. Also since the decline of free-to-air TV being only about reality TV; culturally we are watching more shows on ABC. Both for kids and adults and news.

If it wasn't for the ABC we would be struggling quite adversely during the fires and Covid-19. With the future uncertain and the economic decline in the economy right now; the stability of the ABC is an absolute for all Australians to have access to. This is a democratic right to have uncensored truthful journalism and cultural/educational enrichment in our media platforms. Only ABC consistently delivers this. We pay our taxes and deserve a People's Independent Media. If this is reduced even further, then the LNP Govt is taking away our democracy and our citizens rights to free media and informed independent media. This is a grassroots right we have. It is mandated by the people for the people. We are sick of the Murdoch's and Stokes of the media world. They have an almost monopoly in our free speech media market and manipulate the truth constantly. We demand funding to return the ABC to the flourishing medium it was in past years before the LNP Govt started to erode our democracy in the media world.

Cate M

NSW 2100

Without the ABC this country will lose itself altogether ... it keeps people anchored to some sense of familiarity, truth and reality, necessary in these times. Don't underestimate its value for helping keep this society together, it serves and works for the Government as well, lending weight to the seriousness of governing. The ABC is the media's main arm that gives further identity to being Australian.

Cate Norton

Cate N

NSW 2106

As I am 92. years old and live alone, I must emphasise that I cannot live without access to ABC programs and as a reliable source of information especially in the middle of this dreadful pandemic. Interviews, television programs excellent Radio all add up to an important part of my life in the present circumstances. If it is not possible to increase the funding, please - no more cuts!

Cate Turner

Cate T

VIC 2066

I am writing this email in support of the ABC. On hearing constantly these days that the government wants to make cuts to the ABC we as supporters are appalled. My family and I always listen to the ABC. We rely on it for our news. We know we are getting comprehensive coverage of the stories and information we need at that time. It would be devastating for our community to not have this reliable news source for us all. I urge the government to listen to the people and keep the ABC.

Cate U

ACT 3550

In a time when sensationalist news and misinformation is rife in the media and on social media channels, Australians need to know that they have a place to turn for a reliable news service that is delivering broadcasts that keep people up to date in times of crisis.

My name is Catherine Whittle and I live on a bush property just outside of Canberra, and it was the ABC that kept us up to date with progress during the 2019/20 Fire season (and always has) so that we had a better idea of what action we needed to be taking for our safety. The ABC also kept me up to date with what was happening down on the South Coast where my father lives when their electricity and phones were out and we had no other way of knowing what was going on.

The ABC news is also the first go to for updates on the coronavirus situation across Australia - important to me because of members of my family who are vulnerable or at high risk. The ABC is there for Australians with down to earth information on what is happening without sensationalising or using scare tactics.

The ABC provides great Australian content for kids and adults alike, important when we are staying safe at home. The ABC is instrumental in keeping Australian culture and values alive and presenting diverse understandings and connections without racism or other discriminatory and inflammatory commentary.

The ABC keeps every day Australians informed about what is happening in government and helps keep democracy alive and well.

Please reconsider the proposed cuts to funding for the ABC and maintain - restore - appropriate funding so that we have stronger unbiased reporting of events in our country without commercial agendas impinging on reliability and authenticity.

Thank you,

Cate W
NSW 2620

We live off grid and choose not to have a tv. Our news comes from ABC news website where we are able to leave comments, ask questions and get a handle on what is happening when you don't venture out as a precaution in the present climate of plague. We are able to gain valuable and reliable information to make informed decisions via rather than the unreliable and more for sensation, mainstream news. The ABC is for the people by the people and of the people, isn't this what a democratic country offers its citizens or are we no longer a democracy and the government just neglected to mention this? Keep our ABC and independent reporters so we can rely on reporting to be real and independent!

Cath H
VIC 2795

I feel the ABC funding should not be reduced as I rely on them for accurate, unbiased news about important issues in Australia.
Catherine Bowles

Catherine B
NSW 3616

In August 2019, while sole parenting my two kids as my husband worked a gig abroad, I was diagnosed with stage 3 bowel cancer. We are not a family without financial resources, but suddenly we were very poor in energy. During most of my treatment and for months afterwards I was flattened. I had no energy. I could do three things only a day. Maybe a long phone call, a walk, and make dinner. The kids and I were able to spend time together by watching Operation Ouch on the ABC, or Deadly- Pole to Pole, also on the ABC. Or Gardening Australia. These shows were my speed throughout the chemotherapy and recovery. They are also family friendly. I was, and remain, too fatigued to watch ads, or explosions, or anime, or any of the other offerings on the other channels. I have no interest in Netflix, which lacks family viewing. For families like mine, going through hard times, we really need the ABC. I may not have been able to do much with my kids, but we could watch gentle, quality programming that gave us subjects to discuss over dinner. I was so grateful to the ABC. Not all families are normal or going through normal times. Please protect the ABC, and families like mine, which need gentleness and care, which only the ABC provides.

Catherine E
QLD 2203

I can't fathom how the govt could be considering cutting ABC funding even further. We watch ABC almost exclusively when we watch free to air. We have tuned into ABC to watch each day's Covid 19 updates and news about the bushfires last summer.

In 2011 we watched on the ABC our local neighbourhood go under water as the Brisbane River broke its banks and flooded our local shopping strip at Rosalie. We used ABC radio and television to navigate our way from Brisbane to the Sunshine Coast on a day when two roads on our route went under water.

The ABC is our national broadcaster and provides a safety link to what is happening around the country and what is happening in our local communities.

I think our politicians need to remember that the ABC is not the whipping boy of whichever party is in power. It is the people's broadcaster and belongs to US.

Please stop stripping it of funds.

Catherine G
NSW 4065

At the end of each day I turn to the ABC to keep me informed through quality reporting on the local, national and international events. Having these explored further through programs such as Foreign Correspondent and Four Corners adds depth to my understanding. Best of all, this same ABC then broadcasts such quality dramas and interesting documentaries that take me away from the often times confronting reality of life! The ABC is my mainstay - a place at the end of each day is so familiar its like home.

Catherine H
NSW 2011

I have always been an ABC viewer from childhood to adult. More recently in the last 12 months I have relied on the ABC for reports on the bush fire emergencies, weather emergencies and Covid19 updates as well as other news and of course to keep entertained. As a viewer I feel I can rely on the information that I receive from the ABC. I also feel that the ABC covers the news much more comprehensively than most of the commercial networks and it engages and represents more of the Australian community. Please do not reduce the budgets of the ABC any further, all Australians deserve a broadcaster that they can rely on and for me, this is the ABC.

Catherine J
VIC 2564

As a millennial now living abroad, I still rely on the ABC as much as I did growing up and watching Play School and Blue Water High, to then Kath and Kim and Spicks and Specks. I therefore find it staggering that further funding cuts could be made in the October 2020/2021 budget, and am writing to demand that this does not happen.

The ABC is now operating with the smallest budget since the Howard Government's extraordinary 2% funding cut in its first budget. Lateline and state-based versions of The 7.30 Report have been axed. Thousands of jobs have been axed. Yet, when a crisis hits, whether that be a global pandemic or the summer bush fires, it is a ABC we turn to.

Living overseas for the past two and a half years, I have relied on the ABC to keep me informed on the events, live as they are happening. I listen to radio on the ABC Listen App. I get updates on breaking news stories from the ABC. I follow the ABC on Facebook and Instagram. I subscribe to ABC-produced podcasts like "Conversations" and "The Outer Sanctum". I trust the journalism of all at the ABC as do many other Australians abroad, let alone domestically.

This important work cannot be done for free. The ABC require funding. In no way should cuts be made in the upcoming October budget, and if anything, funding should be restored.

Catherine M
NSW 3350

I don't need to tell you what a rough year it has been. On top of the national crisis to deal with there have been personal ones too.

My parents are elderly and require attention, medical care and should be moving into aged care - all of which has been time consuming and expensive. With the fires and corona virus making things harder their care has been a full time job.

I don't have the time or the mental energy to navigate or critically analyse the quantity of information coming at me, let alone try to explain it to elderly parents in a way that doesn't frighten them yet frightens them enough to do what's needed to stay safe. Luckily the ABC has been a gem of support for me when discussing things with them.

Commercial tv, radio and newspapers all have an agenda, firstly money and secondly the bosses views. They sensation is everything, or don't report it right because it doesn't fit their agenda. For goodness sake Vogue Magazine is emailing out corona virus information! What expertise or agenda could they possibly bring to the conversation?

It's been a relief to know that ABC provided timely and rational advice and updates. They are not driven by profits, extreme owners or politics - it's about information that matters. They also advice the use of, and support, the online government resources not random websites that should not be part of the conversation.

It's a brilliant service, free to use and sensible. I trust them because of their professionalism, reputation and the link to government through tax payer funding.

Even if there were no corona virus we need good quality, researched journalism not click bait items that emotionalise everything to get an outrage response.

The ABC has always been a good use of my tax dollars, whether it's 8c a day or \$5. It's worth it.

It's what makes this country a democracy. Free and unbiased journalism without government interference. We are not Russia or North Korea Or even the USA, we are Australia. A democracy that is mature and educated, that is not frightened of bad news or hell bent on dividing the population with extremely manipulated conversations.

I am opposed to further cuts to the ABCs budget. I agree they need to be fiscally intelligent, and I personally would be happy to pay more to maintain the amazing job they are doing.

Catherine M
TAS 2612

The ABC has been my constant companion since I first came to Australia nearly 34 years ago. Turning it on is the first thing I do in the morning. At first the Australian accents sounded strange to my ears. Now they make me feel safe and at home. I rely on the ABC for my daily news and for good company and chat and information. I trust it and SBS and really don't trust much other news sources especially in times of crises. It is an essential part of my daily life. It must be supported properly to be able to continue doing the great job it does.

Catherine N
NSW 7015

I relied heavily on the ABC- both tv and radio- during the bushfires earlier this year, so that I could check on friends and family in areas of the NSW south coast. ABC Illawarra radio was amazing and I had the radio on often all day. News 24 was also invaluable.

Since the Coronavirus pandemic, I have also turned to the ABC for reliable news on the pandemic. I watch ABC News 24 morning, noon and evening to check on the current situation.

These sources, coupled with other ABC programs such as 7.30 Report, Four Corners, Australian Story and Insiders (to name just a few), give me a picture of what's happening in my local area, state and country.

This is extremely important to me as I have been quite ill over the past couple of years- firstly with cancer and more recently with a broken foot; both of which kept me quite isolated.

Please support MY ABC and provide more, not less, funding. It provides a trusted news and current affairs service, and its other programming reflects Australia in a way no commercial network can.

Thank you.

Catherine P
SA 2500

I live in the Adelaide Hills, South Australia.

The ABC is absolutely essential for thousands of us who live in this bushfire prone zone.

This last summer I was evacuated 3 times. but this is not the first time - I was evacuated 5 years ago in the Sampson Flat bushfire.

The ABC radio (891) is life-saving and totally essential to the survival of those of us who live in bushfire prone areas of Australia. When driving through the Hills during a bushfire trying to escape to the city, the 891 radio was my lifeline to navigate me along safe roads out of fire danger. Do not cut funds to the ABC - you will be killing innocent citizens!

Catherine R

TAS 5235

George Orwell said

"If freedom means anything at all it means the right to say what nobody wants to hear."

When a series of natural disasters and major shifts in world politics has depleted our trust and confidence in the ABC we tune in to for reassurance and the facts.

Bipartisan public funding is essential to maintaining its independence from commercial pressures while it must of course be accountable financially to treasury.

ABC funding must be sufficient to avoid any need to consider additional sources or be susceptible to inducements.

A truly democratic government should value "without bias or agenda" reporting and scrutiny as a pillar of the democratic process. Democracy is not a popularity contest.

Throughout my 70 years living in NW Tasmania the ABC was the connection with the rest of Australia in a very personal way. ABC was real. And fact checked. And spoken in perfect English. (currently need to request some extra funding for dictionaries please)

Our trust in the ABC to be correct and impartial was complete.

I truly appreciated ABC during this corona virus pandemic when it is such a relief to listen to informed interviews and measured reporting, especially in the early days of confusion, as opposed to sensationalist media's that caused such fear and panic.

Auntie must never die or, worse still, need to perform on the corner to survive. Fund her fully so she can maintain her honour and integrity and stay out of the slime pond .

The Aneka Smethurst saga revealed the constant threats to ABC integrity and should get every proponent of Australian democracy on their feet.

ABC should be the yardstick not the currency. Truth is not negotiable.

Cathy C

WA 7320

I rely on the ABC news Because it is factual unlike commercial tv I as a taxpayer an voter do t want to see any more cuts to there budget

When the fires were happening in the eastern states the ABC was the one keeping everyone informed as to where it was and now with covid they have kept us updated with factual accounts !! Stop striping money from ABC

Cathy J

NSW 6164

We live on the south coast of NSW,

We were devastated by the bushfires

The ABC coverage was factual, was presented professionally and made us feel we weren't just a region, that each and every one of us counted.. we called the radio station and they were so supportive.

We actually relied on them to keep us informed and up to date on the fires .

We must put resources back into yeh ABC, not take them out!

Cathy O

NSW 2537

I currently live in Newcastle, NSW, but have been relying on the ABC wherever I have lived in Australia, all my life. I particularly like it for reliable, unbiased news and current affairs (eg 7.30, Insiders), but also for entertainment and drama. The ABC makes me aware of parts of the country I've never visited, and how life is for people there. It was amazing during the appalling fires of late 2019/early 2020, and continues with its Covid coverage. The government has been cutting back its budget heavily for many years now, whereas it should be proud of the services it provides to the country!

Cathy R

NSW 2287

The ABC/SBS are the only channels with any intelligence, content, entertainment, laughs, with the best reporters, newspeople etc.
Remember how the mini series "Seachange" changed so many lives and peoples thoughts on different careers, ways of living and employment.
Please leave the best of the best in one piece, so that all Australians can have free to air TV. Please save our AUNTY!!
Yours sincerely, Cecily West

Cecily W
NSW 2256

I've relied on the ABC all my life. As a child it helped to educate me. As a teenager ABC tv helped me to be aware of social and political issues both here and overseas and made me a more thoughtful voter, colleague and member of Australian society. As an adult I've relied on ABC information about floods and road closures when planning travel, their news to provide objective and current information on local and world events and for cultural information, particularly its wonderful Australian content. And for the last few months I've relied on the ABC to provide sensible and accurate information on COVID 19 and what the government needs me to do in relation to the virus. That's been particularly necessary with other tv programs urging me to ignore the governments advice and rules. The ABC helps us to have a better informed and more cohesive society.

Celia M
NSW 2351

During the bush fires, drought and COVID-19 the ABC continued to lift my spirits with quality drama like Rosehaven and Shetland and documentaries like Landline, Backroads, Foreign Correspondent and Four Corners- and of course Gardening Australia.

I rely on the ABC news and current affairs programs. Being up to date on where fires were and what to do and having the latest on COVID-19 has been really important to me. The ABC is my trusted source for my everyday life.

I want to ABC to be properly funded for my spirit, my brain and my safety..

Celia S
VIC 2350

The ABC for most rural Australians is the source that we go to to get the facts as to what is happening in our surrounds and beyond. If it weren't for the ABC the governments, both federal and state, on COVID, bush fire, drought, flood, and the list goes on would not be received by rural Australia.
It is past time for the Federal Government to stop it "penny-pinching" and properly fund the ABC.

Charles D
VIC 3685

I am fed up with the government cutting ABC funding, while contributing money (\$40 million) to Murdoch empire's Foxtel, to support women's sport.

Why not donate \$40 million to the ABC, so they can make such sport free to view?

I have been a big fan of the ABC and ever since Tony Abbott's pre-election lie, "No cuts to the ABC," I have been appalled at the cuts to the ABC actioned by the current government.

Democracy is "by the people, for the people." The ABC is a great reflection of that.

The Murdoch empire is not. Democracy should never ever be "by the people, for the corporate supporters of our party."

I was astonished by Kevin Rudd's recent admission see the Murdoch media as a stakeholder - who are consulted prior to certain policies being implemented, or even considered. This is a mockery of the free press. If media laws reflect the principles of democracy and objectivity, the Murdoch press should be completely and legally separate from government.

I only ever vote for parties that genuinely support the ABC. Because the ABC is one of the greatest public assets in Australia.

And the Murdoch press and it's right-wing assault on the world is the opposite - junk, whose owner controls 70% of Australian media, and is anti-democracy.

Thanks,
Charles Jameson

Charles J
NSW 3011

The ABC is the ONLY reliable unbiased source of information in Australia..not even SBS comes anywhere near it..FORGWET channels 7, 9 and ten!! It does not belong to Rupert or Packer But it belongs to ALL Australians. The government has to get it in their head that undermining the ABC is undermining the Government..because when the Government attacks the ABC WE completely lose our trust in the government. Cutting funds to the ABC is cutting our oxygen then the government too will suffocate because come the election..we will definitely make them pay!!

Charlie A
VIC 2233

When I am anxious in bed and cannot sleep at night I often find the best way to calm down and feel safe is by tuning into the overnight radio broadcasts on 774. It is so comforting to hear a multitude of voices from across Australia in real time engaging in interesting discussion about both serious and trivial topics. The strong personalities always shine through. ABC radio provides a vital sense of community for those people awake in the night who otherwise might feel disconnected and lonely.

Charlie L
VIC 3184

In the last 6 months, we've seen devastating bushfires and the current effects of the COVID19 pandemic. The ABC has provided vital assistance through it all. Their coverage of the fires and constantly updated information kept me in the loop, and their effectiveness at delivering quality news reports has been particularly important during coronavirus. There is so much noise around the pandemic from media outlets and the public, and it is so comforting to have a news source that is reliable, honest, detailed and diligent in its reporting.

The ABC has also provided wonderful entertainment and resources during lockdown, with Australian made content including documentaries and fantastic Australian made scripted dramas and comedies, both for kids and adults. All vital for keeping us connected and keeping The Australian film industry in work - especially since so many have missed out on financial government support.

The ABC is dependable, reliable, trustworthy and uniquely Australian. It is needed now more than ever. The budget cuts have been devastating and there needs to be support reinstated to not just keep it going, but for it to flourish and achieve its potential.

Charlie M
QLD 3065

I have relied on the ABC so much this year! It kept me up to date on the fires at the start of the year. Which included helping me work out if my wife was going to get trapped in NSW, thankfully that did not happen.

During COVID it has helped me to know how to respond as well as helping me feel safe by just being up to date. I found it to be a absolute Godsend during 2020.

Charlie O
NSW 4503

My name is Charlotte and I live in Far North Queensland. The ABC has been there for me throughout this crisis. It's the first and most up to date place to look for the latest on the virus. I don't know what I would do without it. It is essential that it receives ongoing funding - including reimbursing the funds that have been gutted from their services since 2013.

Charlotte C
VIC 2010

I am Chelle, a Deaf Victorian and I have relied on ABC for many years for their honest unbiased reporting. We don't need anymore Murdoch lies supporting neo-liberal ideologies that are very selfish and do not serve us. We were born on this planet, we have the right to feel comfortable, safe and be governed for properly with respect for us and our freedom and rights. With neo-liberal ideology, this is not what we need at all. Neo-liberals are not meant to be here to do what they are doing. I trust ABC and ABC also respects our accessible rights as Deaf people. ABC made me feel safer knowing what was actually going on out there with the bushfires, covid-19, and everything else that the other useless Murdoch owned rubbish never tells or covers up with lies. We deserve to live our lives in peace and with happiness on this planet, not be thrust off by being killed by the neo-liberals lies fooling people into thinking they are good when they are not.

Chelle D
NSW 3995

ABC is so important to me & all Australians they tell it like it is no theatrics like other media - i love the fact that they are the only ones who regularly report on rural Australia - do interviews with people who really care about us; and then we have Macca also a down to earth Aussie who brightens up our weekend so please no budget cuts to ABC they are very important to so many of us.

Cheree A
NSW 2529

When we found ourselves in Italy in December 2019 it was the ABC which provided the most accurate information on the bushfires threatening our community. The ABC local radio station provided updates and fully detailed reports and we were able to follow the impact and monitor life in our part of Australia from afar.

When we did finally arrive back and faced the CoVID 19 experience the ABC 'just in' bulletins kept us abreast of the latest announcements and data nationwide and locally. During isolation we have listened to ABC radio, accessed live reports and entertainment and used ABC Iview to pass the hours in regional NSW.

Without ABC we would not feel confident that we would have a detailed and unbiased understanding of events and news.

Cherie B
VIC 2538

In a world that has seemingly gone completely mad, There is the ABC. Living in Melbourne as a vulnerable person during the COVID 19 crisis I can rely on their factual, and up to date reports and information.

If I want the latest rumour or scandal doing the rounds of social media I will go to social media. I don't expect that a NEWS or informative programme will just be a regurgitation of the latest twitter feed.

When it comes to drama, comedy or documentary the ABC has choices for all. They do not simply fill their local content with inane reality shows but instead focus on local drama or reality with a conscience and a substantive message.

When crisis hits as it has repeatedly done this year, the ABC is where we all turn, and is the most effective tool the government has to reach large numbers of people quickly and thoroughly.

We NEED a strong ABC, the Governments of our nation at all levels NEED a strong ABC.

Cherie Q
SA 3104

Hi, the ABC has been an integral source of news, entertainment and connection for me for most of my adult life. This year has been the ABC has offered so much more to my life with the bushfires and covid19. The ABC provided important regular updates of the bushfires in SA and the rest of the country. All the fires were personal because our country was under such stress and it was important for me to be kept up to date with the news. The ABC's regular updates of the local fires in the Adelaide Hills was important for safety and across our State and our country I felt connected with Australians doing it tough and heartened by the overwhelming support that was broadcast across the country via the abc. All these things were important for my emotional and mental health through this time. Covid came on the heels of the fires and the ABC radio and tv kept me up to date which gave me great comfort. I'm an essential worker who lives alone and keeping the ABC radio on at home and going to and from work was essential for me to know what to do to keep myself and others safe while I continued to work during lockdown and since then. Without the ABC I wouldn't have access to the information I've needed this year to stay safe and be a responsible citizen, to feel connected to others at a local, national and global level and to gain comfort from knowing we are all in this together. The work the ABC has done this year has been beyond my expectations and I strongly believe the ABC is an essential service that has played a vital role in our society's connections this year even more than ever and for the sake of our nation we can't afford to cut the ABC's funding of their services.

Cheryl H
QLD 5076

The ABC has been the most trusted source of News & information since before I was born & that is 73 years ago, there is not one news source that can compare. During the extreme fire's the news source to go to was the ABC + ABC television, I found the information & to actually see the destruction & the extreme fight by the RFS who unlike Scott Morrison were there too assist & fight for all they did not choose between rich or poor but gave absolutely everything, often with the loss of their own home, it makes you appreciate the effort ordinary people will go to to help others, something not achieved by politicians who appear to place themselves before all others. I will admit I have tried to watch Skynews & give up after a few seconds the absolute bias, lies & deceit leaves me feeling extreme anger. My anger at a supposed Prime Minister who's apparent hatred of any news source but the Murdoch Press, & his fund cutting is absolutely un-Australian so much so I will devote my life to hopefully see he is not re-elected. Scott Morrison & his attitude to Victoria Queensland & Western Australia a disgrace. My concern also of David Speers from Skynews alarming we would be better served if he was returned to Murdoch's Skynews as I and many of my friends can quickly pass rubbish news source. Another concern is ABC is a Public News Source paid by taxpayer's & as such the Board Members now consist of a majority of Scott Morrisons LNP members jobs for the boy's again only adds to the control of our only & preferred news source the ABC.

Cheryl K
NSW 4306

Visited daughter in Townsville and before border shut a female staff member recommended abc news on internet for updates

Cheryl m
QLD 2333

The ABC was even more important to me and my family this year when there has been so much to report on and so much we really needed to know about current crises. I am a retired social worker and ex government employee with Education Queensland and previous Commission for Children and Young People living on the Sunshine Coast. Good reporting and information about what is happening in my community and country is even more important to me than ever. The ABC provides this and so much more. It provides the best entertainment as well as serious news and considered opinion. During this pandemic, my daughter relied on the ABC both to entertain and teach her own three children while she went to work teaching other people's children. My family always watch the ABC news as well as Q&A, Insiders and The Drum for our information on what is going on in the world and here in Australia. We relied on Dr. Norman Swan for correct information on the Corona Virus. ABC comedy entertains and amuses us with shows like QI, Extras, Would I Lie to You and Live at the Apollo which has been vitally important at this time when other activities and entertainment has not been available. Please, I sincerely ask that you do not cut but instead restore proper funding to the ABC in these difficult times.

cheryl P
TAS 4551

They are always unbiased and give an honest appraisal of what is happening around Australia and overseas. I also like their style of journalism, as they always give a comprehensive account of events. However, as I live in Tasmania I cannot give a personal account, as they focus more on the mainland. I find that we are often forgotten about here by the press at large. Having said that Australia needs the ABC to keep everyone honest.

Cheryl P
NSW 7019

The ABC is our go to channel for news and current affairs.

It reports the facts not opinions and the programmes are mostly about real people and real life situations.

We want to see shows about real people and their stories without sensationalism. Sad, funny, courageous and uplifting.

This has been the toughest year ever what with terrifying bushfires and COVID19 and we have been glued to the ABC news every night for our information that is always delivered with professionalism, integrity and an unbiased view.

It is impossible to think of a world without the ABC.

cheryl w

QLD 2486

We need our ABC!

Such true words, with an independent ethical level of broadcasting that puts biased reporting networks to shame.

A focus on community, outstanding individual Australians and controversial issues is essential for your community to survive.

We need support for Australian movie makers, short stories and our environment that is not available elsewhere.

I stand with all other Australians that oppose any budget cuts for the ABC. We Australians fund the ABC and we do not want its integrity or scope of broadcasting curtailed!

cheryll w

QLD 4873

Hi,

I am an Australian currently living in the UK. I use the ABC news app regularly in order to know what is going on in my home country. It is an essential tool for me to keep up-to-date with current events in Australia.

You mess with ABC funding at your peril. It is one of the core essential components of a functioning democracy. You know that what I am saying is right. Put people first, and don't let a profit-focused media organisation bully the system which has worked so well for so long.

I'm watching you.

Chris A

QLD 4034

The ongoing cuts to the ABC concern me greatly.

I get most of my news from the ABC news website because it is the least biased news service we have, with no need to answer to the agenda of either its owners or the requirements of its advertisers.

Our commercial media services present news framed by their agenda, which is why we need a state-run news service that is not framed by any agenda.

A commercial news service is an oxymoron – it must always maximise the entertainment value of the news, and must filter and manipulate the news in line with its agenda, whether that agenda is set by the owner of the news service, or by its commercial need to comply with the requirements of its advertising customers.

If the ABC has a fault it is that, in its drive to be 'balanced', it gives exposure to an opposing view in many issues when the opposing view is unsupported and unsupportable, and thereby gives credence to positions for which there is no credence.

The various services that the ABC runs such as Radio National give me access to a wide range of interesting and thoughtful ideas, philosophies, and access to our society. These are an important cultural aspect of the ABC.

We need the ABC to remain strong and independent and unfiltered by the government; it's our best, most reliable, source of real news and ideas.

Chris A

NSW 4151

Without the ABC who else will hold those in power accountable at a time when deception is easily overlooked? I trust the ABC to provide true, fact based, unbiased information, rather than the commercial equivalents.

Cutting the ABC cuts public trust, a cost no democracy can afford

Chris B

VIC 2073

My understanding of my society is enriched by programs such as Australian Story. I learnt how our country grappled with an earlier epidemic. On 'Lest We Forget', we saw how our forebears coped with the issues bedeviling us now.

Landline presents rural and regional standpoints.

Issues such as waterways degradation and rural mental health are explored.

A caller to Macca on Australia All Over saved us from a potential stranding while we were travelling in the outback.

My understanding of the wider world is broadened through Blueprint For Living - especially the history segments.

I often reference Dr AnnJones of Off Track in my environmental work.

My views are challenged by the Radio National programs such as Counterpoint, The Economists and Big Ideas.

Chris Charleson, Ballarat

Chris C

WA 3350

The ABC is my primary source of news and current affairs. I use the ABC several hours of every day. It is an essential part of the fabric of Australian Society. The ABC deserves more funding, not less.

Chris C

NSW 6011

The ABC has been the most trusted, reliable, consistent and up to date source of information for myself and my family through both the bushfires and the pandemic in 19/20. Any thought of cutting the budget to this well respected pillar of our society is misguided and is like cutting the lifeblood of information and culture within Australia.

The ABC is where I turn to for a balanced coverage of both political and current affairs. Alongside this, as a parent I have also relied on the careful curation of the childrens' channels to be able to trust that when I allow my children to watch TV that I know they will be watching something with great life or educational value.

I believe it is particularly important to ensure the ABC remains a strong player within the vast landscape of news and current affairs so that people have the ability to go to a trusted source of information that has been carefully researched and fact checked in a chaotic media environment that is spinning out of control with people basing decision making on baseless conspiracy theories and fake news purported by social media and media outlets with little or no regulation and credibility.

Chris H

WA 2486

The ABC simply offers a quality news service that the commercial media fails to deliver. It has serious news when much of the commercial media tends to focus on more trivial matters. Surveys continually show it is a highly respected brand.

Chris H

NSW 6150

What the ABC has done for me is a good question. It is the only news source I can trust, it's the only news source in Australia which touches domestic politics.

The ABC entertains my kids, entertained me as a kid.

The ABC provides local news, to local people. I have a better world view because of the ABC. It even holds itself up to scrutiny, unlike the other media sources available to me.

Right now, I am scared of this virus. Just three months ago, I was scared of the fires on my doorstep. What do I have to be scared of in the next three months? All I know is that I will turn to the ABC to find out what is going on.

I am aware that this is a political thing, ideological assault upon those who seek out what is going on. When Julia Gillard rolled Kevin Rudd, I only knew it was happening because the ABC said it was so. The OTHER news agencies took the ABC at their word, because their word is GOOD.

The ABC needs an increase in funding. I access it on my tv, on my phone, and on my PC. My children access it on tablets, and on consoles. This takes money, so please increase the funding so they need not make cuts.

Chris H
NSW 2760

I live in Rainbow Flat NSW 2430 I always have Radio

ABC on because. I trust it , but during the week before the 8 th November 2019 My stomach churned everytime I heard the sound a fire update

By lunchtime on the 8th we learnt from the radio that the fire was about to cross the Pacific Highway

and we had to evacuate. We returned on the Monday our house had been saved but many neighbours were not so lucky, then on the Tuesday we had to leave again as the ABC reported the

Danger was again close fortunately it was brought under control and we returned on the Wednesday

While we were away the ABC informed us what was happening in our little suburb!

We wouldn't have coped without the ABC!

Chris H
QLD 2430

As a journalist who has trained at the ABC and worked for both Fairfax and NewsCorp I can state with 100 % accuracy that commercial media is a fucking joke, a propaganda machine for the LNP and has absolutely no credibility. It is why I don't work in the field anymore. I would rather be unemployed and keep my dignity than sell out to the ignorant, fascist rubbish printed by NewsCorp.

In order for our democracy to thrive, we need independent media who are not conflicted by commercial considerations.

As a taxpayer, I am disgusted at the preferential treatment tax dodging grubs News Corp get from their puppets in the LNP.

Our country would be better off without any NewsCorp media including Fox and Sky and the myriad of fuckwits presenting ill conceived rubbish that insults the intelligence of any fair minded Aussie.

If anyone actually likes or believes the shit that comes out of the mouths of Andrew Bolt or Rowan Dean, they are obviously small minded, uneducated fuckstains.

Chris M
NSW 4818

I feel very strongly about this issue. I come from a small country town in northern NSW called Inverell. We love and need the ABC to be well funded to provide information services in emergencies but just as importantly, reporting, entertainment and investigative services in all sorts of areas that we cannot easily access in the bush. Arts and music services are SO important. Investigative journalism is terribly important for country people who do not have local newspapers any more looking out for insider dealing and local corruption and providing programs that focus on country areas.

It makes me absolutely furious when extremist politicians accuse the ABC of bias but only agree to go on friendly right wing programs to defend their policies. The ABC cannot help it if the truth has a well known left-wing bias. ABC employees are not paid to lie or exaggerate like many of the privately run communication outlets owned by rich people.

The government is scared of the ABC and that is a disgrace.

I am a conservative Christian. If I feel this way, plenty of others like me do too.

Chris M
WA 2137

What a great organization the ABC is, independent, representative and Australian.

Why would any Australian government be intent on reducing funding to the degree it is. Possibly unrepresentative vested interests are threatened by the ABC's reporting. Possibly? no doubt.

Chris O
TAS 6003

We live on the north side of Rockhampton, and back onto a park that is contiguous with the Mt Archer forest/national park. During the November 2019 fires that burnt in this forest, our home was under threat and our street was on the evacuation list. We relied on the local ABC for updates which reassuringly kept us informed of circumstances. Fortunately weather conditions were moderate, and the fire was controlled along the edges of the suburban blocks.

Additionally, I am retired, the ABC provides ALL our radio listening (and much of TV) and our lives would be very diminished without it. I have often listened to the critiques of the ABC eg on SKY news (TV) and consider these attacks to be inaccurate, unjustified and politically opportune. The ABC is one of our wonderful country's great institutions that provides an unparalleled public service and it should be more fully supported by any incumbent Government - its funding must be above petty politics. I am a swinging voter and any party that proposed to hit up on the ABC will not have my vote.

Chris P
NSW 7250

I am writing to request the government do not cut funding to the ABC. Rather than cuts, funding needs to be restored to former levels. We barely survived the summer bush fires. We relied on the ABC radio and television for accurate information about our local area. We needed to know what was happening with the fires, what services were affected, where we could evacuate to, where we could receive help.

These services were vital to survival. Our communications were down. Radio was essential along with accurate local information. Our family and friends needed to have that communication too so they knew what was happening. Now we have Coronavirus and we need again to have local news and information that is relayed with accuracy.

The ABC is an essential entity for all Australians, but in particular rural Australians. I beg you protect the ABC.

Chris R
WA 2537

Please guarantee full funding of abc, as it is the only news service obligated to report for the good of society without agenda beyond what is good for society.

A fully fledged poll of all Australians needs to be funded to reveal once and for all the profound trust we have in the ABC as our mainstream source of news with substance and depth and accuracy. I would have it's funding guaranteed by our Constitution to prevent minority power groups in media with money weakening the bond between abc and every Australian!

Chris S
NSW 6012

During the bushfires in early 2020, life became extraordinarily difficult. Knowing we were in direct pathway of a major fire front, it was crucial that we kept on top of the news and particularly the local situation. At first we relied on ABC television to give us updates and maps of affected areas, together with expert opinions and government messages. To our dismay, as the fire front came ever closer, we lost electricity and internet, and then the phone lines went down. The few main roads into our town were also intermittently cut off by the fires so evacuation was not feasible. We had no way of learning about our level of immediate risk other than from ABC reports on battery-run radio. What a godsend then to have those concise updates and clear local information from the ABC, which did an unmatched professional job in this major crisis by consolidating input from various sources to keep us updated and no doubt saved many lives. The modest financial contribution each citizen makes towards this essential broadcasting service is well spent indeed. It is mortifying to see the quality of the ABC being slowly eroded by those who dislike being held to account or who choose to instead divert taxpayer money to shore up far less worthy aims such as subsidising huge corporations, wealthy individuals and near-defunct industries.

We cannot afford to lose the ABC contribution to Australian cultural life (no other media comes even near in this respect, being driven by profits and their political masters.) Nor can we afford to lose the ABC's fearless investigation into political and social issues, to ensure some kind of balance as an alternative to corruption in high places and the kind of one-sided political view spoon fed to the community by other mainstream media. The ABC is one of very few safeguards we have to protect our democracy and defend our nation and its future from mindless cultural decay.

Chris T
NSW 2066

Whilst I was operating as a volunteer firefighter on the NSW Sth Coast for the duration of the Currowan fire, I used the ABC radio broadcasts via FM radio as a reliable and very efficient means of staying as up to date as possible as most other communication methods were failing regularly. The presentation of regular, accurate and local updates helped plan where I would place my firetruck no matter which area of the coast I was operating in. I presume more of this style of activity in forthcoming years due to the ravages of climate change on the local flora.

Chris T
NSW 2540

I rely on the ABC for important and free information about government behaviour, disasters and topics effecting my community. I simply do not trust other media outlets that push corporate agenda at the expense of Australian citizens.

Chris W
SA 2213

ABC is major the source of news and interaction with the world for our family of 2 adults and several kids (ours and fostered) We engage in general and selected on-line news and interests, TV news and current affairs and general entertainment, as well as engaging in ABC radio, podcasts and other selected audio.

We don't use any commercial channels except SBS.

We have signed MANY petitions and given donations to stop the erosion of the ABC and we are just a regular Aussie family wanting the best from our media (ad free) for the kids and the adults.

ABC is always there for us!

Chris W
TAS 5173

I rely on the ABC and a host of other independent media as a way to access different points of view in ALL topics that I'm interested in. This allows me to think for myself and make my own decisions, formulate my own thinking.

An assault on the freedom to do this is an assault on democracy. It's also an assault on a basic human right. Protecting freedom of speech is so critical. If you look closely, you'll see there's an attempt to censor dissent in many countries. This will destroy everything. It is so dangerous. And it is not the world any of us want to live in. Protecting independent media is a way to ensure fair debate. It's also a way to protect our future, and that of our children.

christian f
QLD 7304

I live and work in Cape York, Qld. In rural Australia, we depend on the ABC for our news. It is sometimes our ONLY source of news, for example when cyclones are approaching, we all tune in to ABC radio to get up to date forecasts. But we get so much more from the ABC- culture, music, uplifting stories. When we have issues that need attention we call ABC reporters. The ABC connects rural Australia with the world. We do not want to see the ABC budget cut.

christina H
VIC 4895

I listened to ABC radio all day during the bushfires. I wasn't in a bushfire region myself, but I was anxious for friends. And I was concerned and heartbroken for all the regions burnt and under threat and hearing and seeing directly what was happening helped.

Every morning I start my day with ABC News. It has been that way for decades. I watch Four Corners and Foreign Correspondent. I check the webpage multiple times a day. I listen to a number of news/current affairs radio programs via podcasts. This has increased with the pandemic.

Taxpayers fund the ABC. Taxpayers also fund non-ABC media directly or indirectly. Media advertisers recoup their costs and pass them on to consumers. Australia needs to maintain an independent, facts-oriented, entertaining and informative ABC.

Christine B
NSW 3073

Hi there,
I live on the Mid North Coast of NSW. When we had our bush fires I used the ABC and Radio National to know what was going on and where. I had half of my family here in Wingham and had to travel to the Far North Coast to pick up my son and his family to bring them home. I felt safer booking my train ticket with my ABC news telling me how bad things were in various locations. When the train took off there was heavy smoke all the way from Wingham to Sawtell which was a bit scary. My family had been stranded in Lismore for a week waiting for the fires to reduce so I could drive their second car back. We kept the radio tuned to ABC coming back through New Italy where the smoke was frightening, but the regular updates gave us confidence to continue. We got home safely.
Then when Covid-19 started and I lost my job, I had a lot of time on my hands. I listened to ABC TV to know how best to be safe and care for my family. I have now started a course so I can work online as this thing is going to be around for a while. I think ABC is something we can trust and in these changing times it makes me feel better and safer to have ABC as a non-commercial source of reliable information.
Regards,

Chris B

Christine B
WA 2480

I rely on the ABC to give me honest daily reports of what is affecting Australia and Australians. The reporters relate the news in a highly intelligent manner that is believable and honest.
As well as news items, we need to keep promoting Australian actors, movies and programs. ABC has had enough devastating cuts to the funding, Government needs to be accountable to an Australian institution.

Christine B
NSW 6030

The ABC is essential listening and watching during any emergency e.g. bush fires, floods etc. The information is accurate and reliable. We listened to the information regarding the bush fires before returning home from the South Coast early this year. The information advised of the safest route to drive home.
Christine Brenton

Christine B
WA 2759

ABC has enabled me to "keep an eye" on my ageing parents in Victoria from the almost the farthest I've ever lived from them, and assist them to make informed choices about how they manage their safety during the pandemic. Australia needs its ABC, now more than ever.

christine c
NSW 6162

ABC's funding should be increased, not decreased!

I live on a rural property on NSW Northern Tablelands and in the black summer we had bushfires on three sides of us.
Our satellite internet does not always work well in disturbed atmospheric conditions - nor do our mobile phones. There is no landline phone.
Were it not for the wonderful service provided by ABC radio as emergency broadcaster, I would not have known what was happening around me during the bushfire season.
I cannot abide crass and vacuous commercial media and value the first class news, current affairs and entertainment provided by the ABC & SBS which cater for intelligent people of all ages.

Christine D
QLD 2371

I was born in USA. Immigrated to Aus in 1970 at age 20. 50 years ago TV news and reporting in America were better than today. The ABC has also lost quality. But American news TV has given way to the desperate hunt for clicks. ABC has not. It has only degenerated due to budget cuts, especially recently.

The ABC represented and still represents not only an attempt at balanced journalism (with less need for clicks) but also perspectives that sit very much within the values that most Australians espouse, according to polling results.

What a pity that the same broadcaster who is there for us in every catastrophe, minor to major, and which does serious investigative journalism, is suffering budget cuts when it actually very well represents Australia and our views.

An informed populace is a requirement for democracy to work. Why would we be cutting funds from our beloved and absolutely necessary national broadcaster, which supports, informs and educates us?

every day of 2020 I have benefitted from the ABC. I have benefitted from the ABC every day of my 50 years as a dedicated 'new' Australian. When I see the disinformation and competitive infotainment of US broadcasters, I only believe more passionately in balanced reporting from a broadcaster which belongs to me and speaks to me and tries to speak to and support every Australian. Balance and quality broadcast material in 2020 clearly comes through more clearly from national broadcasters with independence from politicians and threats of budget cuts.

christine D
NSW 4883

I've been totally reliant on ABC podcasts throughout the year. I trust only the ABC for news and current affairs but am unable to listen at all times of the day. I'm forever grateful that I can hear programmes like AM, the World Today, etc on ABC podcasts and therefore not have to rely on the less trustworthy news sources which are being broadcast at the times I can tune in. I don't have trust in them.

Christine D
VIC 2904

Norman Swann's coronacast has been my go to source for information, rationality and a means of calming myself in these Covid times.

Many investigative ABC radio programs leave me feeling grateful that someone cares enough to expose and then present their findings. And ABC radio has been my constant companion during lockdowns.

What would my husband and I do without Geraldine Doogue and her brilliant guests on Saturday mornings.

My life is immeasurably richer because of the ABC radio and TV

Christine E
NSW 3191

During the "Fire Storms" of last summer I rarely had my TV on any other station than ABC 24. The only place I could get reliable and up to date information. I have family and friends living on the South Coast so I was monitoring things very closely. The commercial stations were more intent on reports only from around Sydney, ABC 24 covered all the Fire grounds.

Christine H
NSW 2913

I can & do rely on the ABC to provide up to date info on what is happening with coronavirus & other events that are of the utmost importance to our community. I did this also when the bushfires were raging & like now, could rely on emergency & other factual information without having to navigate through sensationalised tabloid style reporting from commercial media outlets. DO NOT cut funding from our only truly reliable source where REAL discussions & expert viewpoints & information can be aired.

Christine H
NSW 2082

As a long time rural resident who has relied for decades on our national broadcaster ABC (both televised & radio) for incisive news, current affairs as well as entertainment, I urge increased federal ABC funding.

This year, as parents & grandparents, without the remarkable coverage by ABC of the bushfire disaster, which were unprecedented in our region, we would not have known whether our family members in another region were alive, able to breathe, or still had their home.

Today we rely on the ABC for up to date and trusted coverage of the COVID pandemic.

We support and rely on the ABC.

Christine J
VIC 2480

Many ratepayers and residents of Mildura experienced problems with local government issues. However, the ABC has always been there to highlight green bin issues, conflict of interest in the public sector, bullying and harassment, alleged corruption, water mismanagement etc and focus attention on these issues.

The ABC has given a voice to the people, even when they are ignored by the authorities. The ABC in my opinion stands for justice for the common man!

Christine K
NSW 3500

I rely on the ABC daily for reliable news, information and entertainment. But in the terrible months when my home was threatened by the mega blaze north of Sydney it was my LIFELINE. The ABC did a fantastic job. It's already been decimated by cuts, it would be devastating if there should be yet more cuts.

Christine K
VIC 2159

I rely on Radio National to keep me informed, up to date, aware of serious stories, new research, and intelligent entertainment. I am an artist and listen all day while I work.

Christine L
NSW 3160

I am 70 & still working. I look after my health and I voted for Scott Morrison's Govnt. I am sick of hearing/viewing nonsense, repetitive & often idiotic stories on commercial radio/TV. The ABC and everything they get behind is SANITY to intelligent, well balanced aussies. For God's sake leave them alone.

Christine L
NSW 2480

My days are long and without the ABC I would be lost The ABC is my lifeline to the world. I trust the reliability of the ABC .Please fund the ABC so all Australians can have a reliable media organisation
Christine Makin

Christine M
NSW 2077

The ABC is one of the few media outlets I trust. I live in the Blue Mountains of NSW which has been ravaged by fires in recent years and particularly this most recent fire season. I have relied on the ABC for up to date emergency warnings.

The ABC maintains a high quality of journalism across all its platforms. It is fearless and this is what a healthy democracy needs. I have relied on it very much during the COVID crisis.
The ABC must be adequately funded so it can continue to serve our democracy.

Christine M
NSW 2777

The ABC is my everything when it comes to news, debate, and quality programming.. I trust it, because I think it tries to be even handed. It certainly reflects my notion of an equal playing field for all; a greater egalitarianism, a fairer distribution of wealth, which will ensure our country becomes again a clever and lucky country; not ever more third world in its widening divisions of rich and poor, educated and ignorant, healthy and ill. .

It is the only remaining voice which balances the overreach of the Murdoch Press. It is all I watch.

I also love it for having no commercial ads.

The government worries about Australia's poor education results. They will totally slump without the ABC. Not only that, the crime rates will soar. We will become the USA Mark 2, with its violence, its ignorance, and its divisions, all too apparent in this present moment.

The Australian Commercial stations in competition with the ABC blast children all day with commercials, focusing them on material possessions, and Programmed violence, showing them just how (NOT) to behave as they grow.

Children should be surrounded by quality age appropriate programs, with focus on group awareness, kindness, compassion, beauty, and stimulating ideas..... and NO commercials. . Our ABC is the only one providing these quality programmes with any kind of consistency.

And how about the support they have provided during the fires and Covid, the independent investigative journalism probing in dark places - abuse, racism; crime, dodgy deals, and so much more.

They fact check. You can trust what they say.

The ABC should be lauded for all it does. It's tax payer funding should be through an Independent body, with no possible government intervention from either Political persuasion. The past 8 years of funding cuts by the government are disgraceful.

The ABC funding must be restored so they can operate at full capacity.

Our democracy and the well being of our nation depends on it.

Christine S

NSW 2093

Please NO MORE funding cuts to OUR ABC !

We live in rural NSW and were burned out in September 2019. Our life line during the weeks of ongoing and horrific bushfires was the ABC. We were informed 24 hours a day and relied totally on what we were told by the ABC as to road closures and fire behaviour and extent of fire and it's direction changes. This was crucial to our safety and wellbeing and we felt like someone was actually trying to help us ! A feeling not generated by our P. M. at any time during the bushfire crisis

The ABC is the flagship of thorough investigative and honest reporting - something that none of the other media outlets have ever been recognised for !

We are totally grateful and dependent on the ABC and it is devastating to us that our own Government is not supportive of our best and fairest news and current affairs corporation. We the general public wish that the Government would support the ABC instead of trying to destroy it DESPITE huge public opposition.

christine s

QLD 2469

Hi I work as a NDIS Support Coordinator, where I have relied on the up-to-date information on fires and then Covid19 here in Qld.

It helped me to keep the people I provide this service to of accurate information.

As we had to have some emergency evac plans for some families during the fires.

Then with Covid19, knowing what was going on helped me to know how to support people.

Thank you ABC

Christine S

VIC 4503

My family relies on the ABC both TV and radio for accurate, non sensationalised information particularly with the COVID-19 situation.

We also rely on the many excellent programs such as Landline, 7.30 Report and Insiders on TV and the movie show, Late night live and others too numerous to name individually that are simply not available on the commercial media.

Christopher D

NSW 3147

I am disheartened to learn that the Federal Government is considering effectively reducing funding for the ABC. The ABC is my major source of news and information on the Corona virus and its effects on the nation and the world. It also informs me of what measures I need to take on a daily basis in this rapidly changing medical landscape. I would not look favourably on any attempt to reduce its ability to function and from what I understand, the proposed cuts would do just that.

Yours sincerely,
Chris Mugdan

Christopher M
VIC 2077

I live in rural Victoria with my partner who works in Sydney, so with the ABC news and programs such as the Drum and Landline keep us both in the loop. The drought, 2009 bushfires, the floods, and more bushfire threats recently and now with Covid has made it impossible for my partner to return to the farm. We haven't seen each other for over 5 weeks so we both rely on true and informative news from the ABC.

christopher s
NSW 3737

I have been a farmer all my life and our son and his family are the fifth generation on our farm on the Northern Tablelands in NSW. All of our family rely on the ABC for its vital contribution to the rural communities throughout Australia. Particularly through the last five years of drought and the past ten months of catastrophic fires which have decimated some communities.

The ABC plays a critical role supplying weather reports, market intelligence and fire weather reports to isolated families in the bush.

Please do not defund the ABC

Christopher Wright

Christopher W
ACT 2481

I live and work in Albury Wodonga and during 2020 I have relied on ABC local radio (Goulburn Murray) in particular for vital information. Through the bushfire crisis - which impacted our community directly - the local station provided accurate and up to date cross-border information.

This cross-border local information has again become vital as the Covid restrictions began to change between the states and once the Victorian NSW border was closed.

This is information that can really only be provided by people who know the local area and how border communities operate. State and national media outlets can not supply this content in enough detail. While we are lucky to still have a local newspaper, their content is only available to subscribers.

Less critical, but still highly valued, is ABC nightly news and online radio streaming. Which I can trust to distill a barrage of information, provide some light relief and keep me up to date with the latest and local music.

Claire C
TAS 2640

During Covid The ABC has been there for me as a trusted news source and entertainment tool. I wake up to it, I work to it and I wind down to it. It makes me feel part of the wider community and that I am not alone during difficult times.

Claire Hutchison.

Claire H
VIC 7000

For more years than I can remember the ABC has been my main source for news, discussions, communal information and sport. I cannot imagine my life without this service and I certainly hope the Government sufficiently funds the ABC to meet its vital place in the community.

claire i
VIC 3106

The ABC, is the only station that I respect and trust in regards to news and content with integrity and with Australian reference. Programs aimed at children and toddlers are the best around. I hope their budget will not cut and force them to cut on content and journalistic investigation.

Claire Neville

Claire N

VIC 3163

Instead of being slashed to ribbons, to the point of barely being able to fulfil its charter, despite the promise of Tony Abbott that there would be "no cuts to the ABC", our national broadcaster should be regarded as an essential service, on a par with supermarkets, liquor outlets, and frontline health care workers, in my opinion. Not only is its news coverage so trustworthy, reliable and objective, that my microbiologist son recommended it at the start of the pandemic, but it has also been invaluable in maintaining mental health in these uncertain times. ABC Classic in particular, with its weekday "dance classes", promotes both physical and mental wellbeing, with zero need to even leave the house to exercise. And for those of us who cannot bear commercial mainstream TV, to the extent that we have given up our TVs altogether, iView is all the entertainment and connectedness we need, and life would be unbearable without any of these, especially in these hard lockdown conditions.

Claire P

VIC 3181

I am not a regular user of T.V

But this year ABC News and segments with Dr Wayne Swan regarding COVID-19, helped protect myself, my colleagues, the families I teach, and my own precious family from getting COVID-19.

We were able to implement measures of hand sanitising, temperature taking, mask wearing, well before the govt directive to wear masks and to take temps was given to the Early Childhood Education Sector.

For the proficient and timely and intelligently reported information on COVID-19 and the reports by Dr Swann I am eternally grateful to the ABC.

Claire T

QLD 3765

So don't touch it. It's ours! No more cuts. It's the only reliable news and information source in this Country. We are isolated from family and events. We feel vulnerable and at times desperate. Where do we turn? The ABC. There is a friend. A reliable informed and unbiased communicator. No more rot and emotional grand standing for attention. We can make up our own minds but we need reliable information and stories based on facts, not opinions, not "poor me" "bad you." banter.

Stories. Facts that outline exactly what is going on, how we can be responsible helpful citizens who care for each other. During the recent lockdowns and home schooling, abc programs were invaluable, quality verses gimmicky one minute wonder programs. The arts are so well represented on A B C and we have been able to access such wonderful meaningful programs , that educate, that entertain, that question. Please, please keep them there. Give your citizens a chance to be properly entertained and informed. There's so many dizzy trivial copy-cat shows that devalue thinking and reasoning and provide instead a diet of rubbish. Humans need to be challenged, need to be educated, need to be informed, lest we become empty shells to be filled with the detritus of a failed society. We want to be empowered, we want to question, we want to have a functioning society that cares for more than money and power. I look at the content on commercial tv and often just cringe . Where is the pride in that? You want honourable proud citizens. Leave our ABC alone!

Claire T

NSW 4740

The ABC is really important to me in so many ways. I rely on Radio National to provide unbiased information and ideas. They seem to be able to draw upon experts from all over the world who can speak authoritatively about matters of real concern. If you want to hear leading thinkers, researchers and academics, where else would you go? The ABC respects learning in a way that the commercial media doesn't. Commercial media is intent on selling us stuff or promoting a narrow political agenda which is often populist, anti-science, and anti-intellectual. "Shock jocks" etc. No thanks! I learn such a lot from the people interviewed and presenting on ABC. An educated populace is essential to democracy. In this regard, the ABC is essential to our democracy. And of course the local ABC has been so important in times of crisis like storms and fires to keep me updated. I've felt a lot safer knowing that the ABC is there with up to date, reliable information that I can rely on. The attack on ABC vis funding cuts is essentially an attack on democracy and it must be resisted!

Claire W

WA 2300

ABC needs to reinstate its previous values of engaging with mainstream supporters And not the current crop of die hard social reformist radicals. Dad, Mum and family units are the background for the Australian economy and the ABC programming needs to reflect. If it doesn't it's dead in the water and not relevant anymore

Clancy M

VIC 6525

In this crazy year of bushfires, floods and covid, living in rural Victoria I have felt so reliant on the ABC to actually keep my family safe. The radio was on for what seemed months on end actually telling us that we were safe and what to do next. It was a lifeline on those endless smoky days when we weren't sure what was going to happen next. And then there's covid, where I feel like our ABC has educated us and kept us up to date with the endless developments. I'm constantly grateful for the reliable and calm news that our ABC brings us. As a rural Victorian I'd be beside myself without it.

Sincerely

Clara Mandaletti

Clara M

VIC 3971

The ABC has always been important to me for news (TV and radio) as well as entertainment, supporting Australian artists and developing new work be it entertainment or current affairs. In the last year with the bushfire crisis and now living in a state of disaster here in Victoria, now more than ever I am relying on the news and current affairs to inform me and their programs to then cheer me up. I will never vote for a government that does not support and fund the ABC to adequately do their job. The Liberal government has decimated the ABC and I hold them in very poor regard as a result. How can they in good conscience slash funding from the only independent news source in Victoria? How could we have gotten through the bushfire crisis without them? How will we get through this pandemic without them?

Clare B

VIC 3070

We live in a rural area that is lucky enough to be able to receive Radio national and local ABC. We rely on the trusted sources of the ABC for our local and national news. During the all too frequent bushfire seasons we are constantly tuned in to ABC to know where the fires are and how to manage our situation. Now in the pandemic we are also relying on the ABC for news and updates on restrictions. Norman Swan has been a rock - calmly explaining the virus and how to stay safe. The well informed, balanced, calm information presented on the ABC is essential for our wellbeing - mental and physical. We need access to the Arts as well as news. Friends with children have been accessing the ABC's educational material - an enormous help when home schooling.

We are gobsmacked that our government is again proposing budget cuts to the ABC. We urgently request that such proposals are put in the bin. We need a fully funded, robust independent ABC

Clare C

QLD 3749

Rely on the the ABC!! - Yes! Every morning, throughout everyday and every night - I rely on the ABC for reliable information about my local community, my national affairs and my fellow Australians from all walks of life. I have relied on the ABC as a child - it was always on in my house, as a young person as I traveled around the this country and the world, keeping safe and connected with my country and as an adult with my own children, making sure they have Australian content to entertain, educate and inspire them about being proud Australians.

The ABC defines Australia, it has always showcased everything that is good about Australia, an open hearted, inclusive, balanced, kind and compassionate view of each other and the world - I never see this on Fox news. It is free, it is educated - it needs to stay in the ownership of the Australian people!!

Clare K

NSW 4103

I am an emerging filmmaker and ABC gave me my first shot as a doco director. I will be forever grateful. They provided guidance and a platform for a major arts documentary, and allowed me to enter the world of filmmaking with excellent advice, support and opportunity. The impact of the film is still being felt in my community years later. This is about more than just objective news broadcasting and crucial community public information sharing through various national and international crises, it's also about the thousands of livelihoods and professional reputations that are created within and because of the public broadcasting universe. Please have the foresight and imagination to provide more money to the ABC for the vital news, entertainment and storytelling that they deliver to an extremely high standard. The arts are suffering in Australia, and public broadcasting should also be taken extremely seriously in these uncertain times, we need it now more than ever. The funding of the 'ABC' is not about something abstract, it's about the numerous people and their families and communities who are employed by them as a result of their budget allocation.

Clare L

VIC 2017

The coronavirus and resultant lockdowns has been scary. But the ABC through its health reports and regular updates on the virus because they are so informative and interesting I was able to soften my anxiety with curiosity. The ABC's approach is educative rather than sensationalising

Again the educative reports eg various religious ones; philosophy; legal; health, technology; minefield; rear vision etc give me lots of opportunity to remain engaged with the world and contemporary issues.

I really don't know what I'd do without the ABC. I trust it

clare m
WA 3206

I trust the ABC above all for its intelligent, analytical, non-sensational news and commentary.

Clare M
NSW 6152

Please accept my submission to increase ABC funding again.

I live in the Wentworth electorate - far away from the actual bushfires that ravaged NSW this past summer and in an economically privileged place. I have good and mostly reliable access to the internet and a wide range of national and international media. And yet it's invariably the ABC I tune into morning and night to get objective, relevant news and stories about how we live.

This year has been one of heightened anxiety. First, the city was shrouded in thick smoke for weeks on end, then the coronavirus upended our lives. There are mental health issues in my immediate family, and without a reliable source of trusted and compassionate news, my own mental health would be at risk too. I do need to know the facts around me to feel as much in control of my life as is currently possible, and there is no other place to obtain these facts in Australia than the ABC. Its programming allows me to feel connected to the country on a sound foundation of facts rather than one of hysteria and fear-mongering.

But the ABC not only provides outstanding reporting, it also tells remarkable stories of remarkable Australian communities. Sadly, it has had to rely on a lot more programme repeats to fill each day, as funds and jobs have been cut.

I urge you to increase ABC funding again. The ABC is a pillar of what unites us as a society. It brings the diverse Australian people together. Our entire family, including my young adult daughters, feels very strongly attached the ABC and very concerned about the trajectory its current budget sets for this amazing institution.

Please ensure that no cuts are made to ABC funding in the 2020-21 budget and that earlier funding cuts be restored.

Best regards
Claudia

Claudia K
VIC 2024

The ABC is absolutely critical to me in my role as a health researcher to obtain reliable information. In the bushfires, and now during the pandemic, ABC is absolutely essential in providing reliable information. Especially compared to social media and some other outlets ABC news is a fantastic reliable resource that many Australians rely on.

Claudia M
NSW 3182

In the worst year of bushfires, pandemic, and mis and disinformation I have relied on the ABC radio and TV for fact checking and providing up to date information that is unbiased and factual. We need the facts to be able to make informed decision. I value democracy and do not want information to be censored in any way. It saddens me greatly that this valued broadcaster is undermined at every turn. Undercutting the ABC does not bode well for our future as a democratic nation.

Cliona Mulloy
psychologist/school counsellor

cliona m
WA 2094

Just about every day my wife and I listen to the ABC Radio news at midday and in the evening watch the ABC TV news, often followed by viewing "7.30".

We often watch the Channel 9 TV news at 6.00 pm, an hour ahead of the ABC's presentation. Frankly, the contrast couldn't be more stark! While both stations cover major news items, the emphasis and treatment are worlds apart. Channel 9 tends towards sensationalism and shallow coverage, whereas the ABC's approach is more sober and penetrating. In other words the ABC skips the "ooh-ah, fancy that" rubbish and tries to give a balanced, factual reports about newsworthy events of a more serious nature. Without the ABC, I think news coverage by the commercial stations will degrade into second-rate sensationalism designed to entertain rather than inform. Similarly, ABC documentaries and investigative programs inform and expose, and are free from the influence of advertisers' bias.

Of course the present federal government wishes to curtail the ABC's ability to probe and report by cutting funds. It's up to each of us to stop this happening so that we continue to receive fair, unbiased news together with quality, advertisement-free programs covering a wide range of interests.

Without the ABC, radio and TV will likely degenerate into worthless rubbish. Long live our ABC!

Clive W
VIC 6066

Always relying on accurate news broadcasts from the ABC, during the Bushfires and now Coronavirus crisis. Also the most uptodate current affair programs, about Australia and overseas. We need the ABC, cannot do without them !!!

Coby S
NSW 3825

As someone making deliveries widely around the city, I have relied upon the ABC telling me which venues have had virus outbreaks and the critical time that those venues were likely to be dangerous.

colin c
VIC 2036

What I have liked the ABC for in my 53 years living and working in Australia...is they ask the questions... The right questions to both sides of our govt, and nothing held back like some of the other broadcasters.....to me it's a great service, and I see some people don't like it....I wonder why !!!!!!!

Colin F
VIC 3182

IF you think that .,7, 9, & 10 are going to give the the real truth about what is happening in Australia < you are wrong .They are interested in local news only , & a little of outside world news. Without the ABC you will never really know what is happening to you & your country , the government is only interested in their views & agenda , & the working class matter not . You might get a crumb , from the rich mans table " IF LUCKY " COLIN HOOD

colin h
VIC 3216

I listen to ABC Radio National every day for a number of hours.

I also spend an hour or two watching ABC 24 News and The Drum.

I also watch quite a few dodos on SBS.

I practically NEVER watch or listen to anything on any commercial station or channel. I find their ceaseless, vapid celebrity chatter utterly boring.

I regard the ABC as one of Australia's most crucial cultural institutions.

I believe it probably accounts for much of the difference between Australia and the United States - which is close to becoming a failed state riven by opinionated idiocy.

Colin S
VIC 3182

I rely on the ABC for accuracy, honesty and wide ranging coverage on important issues because unlike commercial television, radio and newspaper networks, the ABC does not rely on ratings. Therefore, it does not need to over exaggerate on stories or use controversial takes on stories to attract viewers as commercial networks do. Rather, the ABC simply reports the facts of any given story, while providing both sides of any argument, in my opinion. With a reduced funding capacity, the ABC will be unable to provide immediate and important news responses on issues that have the capacity of threatening lives.

Colin S
TAS 3129

I write to express my dismay at the continued weakening of our public broadcaster, the ABC, through corrosive budget cuts. My personal story could cover the whole gamut of it's broadcast operations but I will limit myself to just two stories. I am 72 years of age and whilst not unintelligent I did find that "news" reporting and information about what someone such as myself might do to reduce my risk of exposure to the coronavirus somewhat difficult to balance. The sensationalisation by much of the commercial broadcast media coupled with the virtual denial by others in that space was disturbing to me. I found myself choosing the ABC and particularly took notice of Dr. Norman Swan's considered approach and SBS's contribution just rounded off the need to know what was happening world wide.

My other issue I wished to raise was the massive use that my two young grandchildren enjoyed and benefitted from whilst their schools were using digital teaching. They were able to relay to me their activities not only thereby forming that all important human connection but also keeping me apace of their studies and educational progress.

Please keep our broadcasters well funded, accept criticisms as merely as a rebalancing of the media environment as it exists in Australia and as a bulwark against those who seek to use Social Media to manipulate our population's solidarity and social cohesion for their own, limited purposes.

Colin S
VIC 7008

I live in Kangaroo Ground and had planned family holidays at the Gippsland Lakes and Inverloch over the 2019-20 summer. My holiday plans were wrecked by the bushfires. The information I used to alter my plans, keep my family out of harms way, and keep up-to-date with the local as well as general bushfire information was 100% sourced from the ABC. It provided accurate, unbiased, useful information that I could rely on.

I did not have to or indeed want to "shop around" for information from other less trustworthy media outlets.

The same appeal of the ABC to me in this time of Covid-19 lockdown is equally great.

In more ordinary times, the varied subjects in ABC programming is a wonderful source of discussion around my dinner table.

In good and bad times, the ABC has been a huge part of my intellectual stimulation, entertainment, and emergency awareness.

In these times of "fake news", the ABC shines through the lies like a beacon of unbiased truth.

I make the sincerest appeal to make no further cuts to the ABC, and in fact increase funding at a time when the unbiased, informative and entertaining qualities that have made the ABC so valuable in the past, becomes more valuable in the present and future.

Yours faithfully,

Colin Tyssen
79 Calwell Road
Kangaroo Ground

Colin T
NSW 3097

Please, please, fund the ABC properly...

1. - for Journalists, who are truly worthy of the title - who ask questions to discover the truth of the matter, irrespective of political alliances.

2. - for Production, to produce the many and varied programs, most Australians depend upon for enlightenment and entertainment.

3. - for News Crews, including video and still photographers.

As a totally dedicated Australian since 1981, albeit a Foreign import... the ABC is the ONLY corporation one can thoroughly depend on when in times of trouble.

- News bulletins throughout the drought last year kept us up to date about water restrictions and other pertinent situations.
- Then the Bush Fires - which came alarmingly close to home - kept us safe and informed as to when we had to take refuge, or stay put at home.
- Now throughout the Covid 19 Pandemic, once again we are informed up to the minute about regulations, restrictions, rules, and much much more. The only reliable source of important information - without hyperbole, or dire distress and panic warnings, by and from the ABC.
- Both radio and television - the ABC is vital to all Australians living in the 21st Century.

We've lived in the Country where ONLY the ABC was the only source of information. We've lived in Cities, and discovered the ABC to be the best, most accurate, and informed Media Corporation - WHO CAN BE TRUSTED...

PLEASE... DO NOT TAKE FUNDING FROM THE ABC.

(If you need an alternate source, cancel a few Submarines being purchased and produced, and that ought to free up a couple of Billion Australian Dollars.

Colleen Farlow
farlow.colleen@gmail.com
NSW 2446

Colleen F
NSW 2446

my name is colleen nacson. i live in sydney. i spend time every year with friends who live in rural south australia. in bushfire season in south australia, which is nine months long, the radio in the cars/ utes and in the homes is on the ABC all day, every day. ABC keeps people informed at all times of bush fire activity in their areas. their efforts save lives. in sydney, when i want a true account of events and unbiased reporting i only watch/listen to the ABC. i am very proud to live in a country where i have the opportunity to have a community focused news service that contributes to the wellbeing of the whole community. commercial news services have their place, but it is obvious that their priorities are governed by their need/desire to accumulate wealth. therefore they lose the ability to be trusted. unlike the ABC, a most trusted organisation.
regards
colleen nacson.

colleen n
QLD 2216

During this year more than ever I have relied on the ABC. I check the news everyday, on my phone using the ABC app as I trust the ABC as a source of accurate and unbiased information- especially important in this time of COVID 19. For my emotional well-being I have never needed ABC Classical radio more in my lifetime. Their positivity in their broadcasts at this time have been invaluable. Please budget for the ABCs continued and improved operation at this trying time.

Colleen S
NSW 4556

I rely on the ABC to give me the latest up-to-date and accurate news via their website.

Colleen W
VIC 2333

During the Pandemic I have relied on ABC News for up to date unsensational news coverage. I had initially watched Sky News but found it Neanderthally opinionated. ABC News is without a doubt the best TV news.

Connie S
VIC 3842

Over the days between December 29 2019 and January 5 2020, Mallacoota was cut off from the rest of the world as the fires encircled us. Throughout this time the ABC was our constant source of reliable information. We knew when to act, how to act and when to stay because ABC Radio was our constant guide. Many people would have died without this vital link in the communication system. Reduce the ABC's funding and you imperil your citizenry.

Conrad H
VIC 3163

The ABC radio hosts have been just wonderful during this challenging time of the covid-19 pandemic. They have uplifted the atmosphere in the house with their commentary and program content. ABC I-View has been a great resource for my granddaughter with access to many children's programs. and the adults in the family have been kept entertained too. The current affairs programs and news broadcasts have been essential. Thank you ABC.

Constance H
VIC 3186

I always turn to the ABC for the best and most independent news. I listen to the other channels occasionally but if I want accurate information I will always go to the ABC. Particularly during these times of emergency and disaster, the ABC has been absolutely invaluable. It is absolutely irreplaceable.

Cora M
VIC 3193

I ALWAYS rely on the ABC for my information; particularly in a crises. I live in North East Victoria and the recent bushfire crisis is a perfect example. Now with the corona virus disaster, ABC TV and Radio are the ONLY source of news and information. I also spent 30 years in the Pilbara WA and once again relied on the ABC when the numerous cyclones battered the coast. I DO NOT trust the other media outlets (ie Murdoch) who put drama above fact.

Coralie M
NSW 3749

I live on the NSW South Coast. This year, the ABC provided excellent quality updates, news and warnings on the bushfire situation. Without question, the ABC saved the lives of several of my friends. The ABC brought clarity when otherwise there would have been confusion and panic. Same with the coronavirus. Gutting the ABC would be a senseless, destructive act that I would never forive.

Craig G
VIC 2538

Our national broadcaster the ABC has been invaluable as a independent source of news and information during the Corona Crisis.
I relay on it daily to give me accurate information.

Craig H
QLD 3095

I can't believe your cutting the budget for such a great media format It keeps the politicians honest and is not biased It's not governed by other media influences as well The ABC also produces and screens some fantastic content Far better than the commercial rubbish
I employe you to help keep an Australian Icon and not destroy such a wonderful history

Craig N
NSW 4007

The ABC has been the only reliable on time resource for all critical information regarding the bush fires earlier in the year & now with Covid-19 we again turn to the ABC for the facts & information from trusted government & medical experts. The ABC should see its funding increase at a time when the country requires such advice. The ABC is represented in all Australia not just major metropolitan cities where other news outlets deem not worth their while. Do not dumb down our public broadcaster with ideological budget cuts.

Regards
Craig OBrien

Craig O
NSW 2515

Hi, I have been listening to ABC radio and watching ABC TV since I was a teenager. I am now 58.
I have learnt and have been entertained so much by this organisation over the years I can't imagine why anyone would want to attack its budget. Absolutely ridiculous. Amazing staff, what talent and amazing programming.
I am asking that no cuts be taken to this icon of Australia.
Yours sincerely Craig Parkinson.

Craig P
NSW 2212

As a family impacted by the recent bush fires I can't emphasizes how vital their coverage was for our safety. In the aftermath the ABC continued to provide accurate and reliable information.
We lost our house and witnessed the the devastating impact on communities, The ABC cut through the bullshit. God help us if it's emasculated further.

Craig W
QLD 2121

Michael Moore's "Bowling For Columbine" showed very clearly that the difference between Canadians and Americans (who both have a high concentration of personal gun ownership) was the lack of a neutral News service. US news assaults audiences with 'if it bleeds it leads' sensationalism while Canada, like Australia, England and New Zealand, has an independent, government funded news service which delivers mature, impartial or near to impartial news. Australian culture, which slavishly imitates American values, is now being grossly 'dumbed down' with shallow commercial trivia. The ABC, along with SBS, is the only across-the-board media that delivers intelligent and fair broadcasting on a daily basis. Like the globally respected BBC, the ABC is fundamental to the national character and value system, and how our national presents globally. It needs more funding, not less.

Craige C
NSW 4220

The ABC has been important to me and my family for many years, however, in the past year, in particular, we have relied heavily on our national broadcaster not just for news and entertainment, but to keep us alive. We had to evacuate our home during the fires in November and relied on ABC Radio and the 24hr news channel to keep us posted on what the fires were doing. Once the immediate threat passed our area, we relied on the fire coverage to inform our travel arrangements and reassure us our extended family and friends were safe or in danger. This year we have looked to the ABC to provide clear and detailed information on the coronavirus. My partner works in the local hospital and the coronacast has become compulsory listening for them and their colleagues. And through these two life-changing crises, our 7 year old son has been watching ABC Kids and ABCME to supplement his learning and to be comforted by Bluey when he's felt anxious about all the new dangers the world has presented. We need Our ABC.

Crina B
SA 2447

The ABC is the right arm and the left arm to our community. The ABC holds us together.
Cutting the budget to the ABC is like robbing your own kitty.
Please support the ABC, so they can support us.

D F
VIC 5000

This year I was stuck in university accomodation with no possibility of travelling around my new city of Melbourne and exploring all the wonderful aspects of this city. I was cut off from the world and mostly cooped up in a single building. The ability to trust the news that popped through my phone every day was essential and for me also important for my mental health in this period. Having an organisation funded by the people for the people is something very special, and we cannot let that go.

D M
NSW 3168

Living over 9 hours away from my only family is hard, but when the health & safety of my only family is put at extreme risk, it is excruciating. My anxiety escalated to never experienced before levels, my mental health suffered, as it is still. The only honest media coverage giving me information came from the ABC, radio & television. My brothers live just outside of Cobargo, their properties were damaged, not destroyed thankfully. They too relied solely upon the ABC to keep them up to date about evacuations, risks, & where exactly the fires were moving to. NO OTHER media outlet was as up to date, nor as fast to transmit the information as the ABC. Over the years I have relied heavily on the ABC for information regarding fires, floods, weather conditions & other vital information, whether it be good or bad. The ABC is part of my life, it's a major part of country Australia's lives, it is OUR ABC, not yours to hack away at & diminish it's worth. Surely you can hear & read what the people are saying, & as representatives of the people, you have a duty to act on our behalf, not for your own self gain.

D J H
VIC 2714

The ABC has been the only broadcaster that has offered consistently reliable news, commentary and analysis for the more than 50 decades that I have been listening to it and watching it. It is one of the few sources of good investigative journalism that has shone a light on corruption and misfeasance in Australia – in business and in government. Commercial broadcasters have never been as thorough and forthright as the ABC and the quality of their journalism has steadily deteriorated.

Because the ABC does not have to attract advertising, it is not beholden to anyone with a vested interest. For it to continue to provide honest and good journalism, the public purse has to adequately support it. Freezing the ABC's budget and reducing it in real terms is choking it. If the public financial support for the ABC is not increased, it will eventually be unable to provide the service that so many Australians rightly rely on.

The nation-wide fire emergencies last summer, showed the importance of the ABC in reaching people with up-to-date and reliable information that could help them make decisions about their safety, to get to safety and to stay safe. Similarly in the current pandemic, the ABC is indispensable – it is the only broadcaster that gives audiences access to the complete daily press conferences by our state, territory and federal leaders, allowing us as viewers to receive the full, un-edited messages from those who are responsible for guiding our communities through this.

I urge the federal government to increase public funding to the ABC, even while Australia is in its current financial downturn. Adding some \$50 - \$100 million to the annual budget is but a drop in the current financial ocean but it will make a huge difference to all Australians.

Daan S
WA 3930

We need proper, solid information instead of advertorials. ABC is a reliable source for current issues regarding all of us. Australia needs ABC to run.

Dagmara Z
NSW 6000

As an academic, I solely rely on the ABC for informative national news that is not sensationalised. I have lost confidence in other news avenues due to their often contradicting coverage of the bush fires and Covid-19. This has helped me make rational choices and manage my stress. Without the ABC, the critical coverage would be gone.

dalal O
VIC 2207

having the abc with clear and unbiased critical information and news with out influence from advertising and monied opinions is the only way I receive news to not have independent thinking and the ability to have one voice across the whole country is a vital service for millions of people in main. cities and rural. is even more important to have clear concise news without influence

we can't do with out it
it's our abc

ABC needs funding to keep giving the clearest thought and in times of need like 2020 with bushfire and covid people won't survive and that'll be on your hands politics of the right need to be on the abc more but not to pander to your sect but to be in touch with real and hard working Australia and to get real themselves and start caring about humanity and not just yourselves

Damien McFadden
Elsternwick Victoria

dam f
VIC 3000

The ABC is my go-to source for easily accessible and reliable information. During the pandemic I have relied on the ABC more so than ever, it being my key means of keeping abreast of the constantly changing landscape.

The ABC provides an accurate and digestible source of information that saves me from having to navigate through all the noise. Their presentation and analysis of all the data being spawned by the pandemic is fabulous and gives life and meaning to what is otherwise a sea of numbers ripe for confusion or worst still, manipulation.

To me, the ABC is an essential service, it should be funded accordingly. Funding needs to be bolstered so that the ABC is not forced to cut programming in response to budgets which in real dollar terms amount to a deficit.

Damian S
QLD 3183

The ABC was the only unbiased news reporting team I would trust in the past. Now though with Ita Buttrose as head it is not worth a squirt of piss. The ABC needs to be refunded to previous years and a print media princess needs to be replaced immediately for the ABC to be able to once again produce quality, unbiased Australian journalism and entertainment.

Damien H
NSW 4655

ABC is essential to everyday life in regional nsw for a start it tells the truth look at the alternative sky ?

Damien S
VIC 2869

I have always turned to the ABC for a realistic view point of the news. They give young journalists a go, and I find their reporting to be as unbiased as can be found in Australia. Without them I wouldn't read or listen to any news service. They are a staple of the Australian media landscape and need to be adequately funded.

Dan F
VIC 3138

Where to start...

Recently a relative sent an extract from a pro-Trump forum and asked me to read her findings with an "open mind". I honestly don't understand how anyone could believe any of the claims. Disappointed, I couldn't face contacting my relative for a couple of weeks.

After hearing an interview between the ABC-RNs Fran Kelly and Mary Trump regarding her new book, 'Too Much and Never Enough: How My Family Created the World's Most Dangerous Man'. [<https://www.abc.net.au/radionational/programs/breakfast/the-weapon-of-humiliation:-how-a-sociopath-formed-donald-trump/12479322>] I thought Fran's insightful, no holds barred interview was a perfect example of balanced and serious investigative journalism. I forwarded my relative the link. Hopefully, my relative is able to appreciate the difference between journalism and sensationalism.

Apart from COUNTLESS cultural contributions, the ABC, in a time of fake news, delivers wide-ranging accuracy and overview. Let's start funding this valuable asset properly!

Dan M
NT 3205

Without the ABC we have no chance of a democratic nation, they are the voice of the people especially in the bush, they are imperative for this country, you have ground them into the bone year after year with budget cuts, so do the right thing for the first time and refund the ABC

Dan N
VIC 800

Over the last twenty years I have been watching the ABC more and more now every night I will watch repeats of beloved programs like Father Brown, Grantchester etc. I also enjoy Four Corners and Foreign Correspondent it is imperative that we keep a commercial free channel like the ABC. Please, please please keep the ABC!

DaNICA c
NSW 3072

Truly I'm not such a big TV watcher, like when I was younger, the internet changed a lot of that for me. Still I rely on ABC news more than any other channel, and I can remember the years when ABC was the only channel I had when I was young so we had to rely on it a lot. I'm sure a lot of people are still in the same position when they are a longer distance for the City. ABC is very good for Children of all ages, It is a very necessary part of Australian Culture, and must continue. So I can see news any time of Day.

Daniel A
NT 2454

The ABC has provided a crucial and unrivalled information service that has helped save lives throughout the Summer bushfires and the COVID-19 pandemic. I have it on constantly for up to the minute updates and reliable information. We need it properly funded now more than ever.

Daniel F
NSW 870

I demand no cuts be made to the ABC in the October 2020-21 budget: It is important to Australian's and our personal future. I also demand cut funding be restored in the near future please (Preferably Immediately to assist in reinstating job's lost in 2020 and the valuable programs on the ABC).

I grew up on the information provided from the ABC in more than the past 40 years and want my children to be able to look to support from the ABC network way into their adult lives as well!!!

Daniel F
VIC 2153
d_grant55@yahoo.com

daniel g
VIC 3250

From AM, to The World Today and PM, from Sabra Lane to Virginia Trioli the ABC keeps me informed of what's happening in my neighbourhood and the world. Without Four Corners we would not have had a Royal Commission into children sexual abuse, we would not have known about the banking corruption and so many such important aspects of our life. The ABC saved life during the recent bushfires and keep us informed about COVID-19, an essential part of the Australian life and deserve to be adequately funded by the Australian government.

daniel m
NSW 3182

I'm an Australian living in Canada. All of my family remain in Australia. It has been crucial for me to have up to date information to gain a true understanding of the bushfires, floods and now Covid 19. The ABC has given me that information. I'm able to see how these events have impacted my family and acted accordingly. Prior to these catastrophic incidents, the ABC has given me a wonderful link to the political and cultural events in Australia - my homeland. I'd feel very alone without the ABC.

Danita P
NSW 2800

Not only can we rely on the ABC for informative news in this uncertain time, we can also take a break from the chaos and have a laugh at the many quality Australian made comedy programs. ABC offers something for the whole family, we have a four year old that is learning and laughing constantly at the many wonderful children's programs featured on ABC kids. The lack of advertising particularly of toys is not lost on us. It's just one less financial pressure. I don't know what we would do without the ABC.

Dannielle G
NSW 2750

There is only one word to describe the role of the ABC in Australian Life, whether it be reporting on the coronavirus or the bush fires. Essential.

Also in these uncertain times the ABC is a critical news service and a vital nursery for the arts, whether it be acting or music.

We defund it at our peril

Danny N
NSW 2216

Politicians of all stripes have a habit of damning, often vehemently, news outlets which do not show favour to any particular side of the political spectrum. I believe the ABC suffers as a result of both balanced and investigative journalism. The desire to cut the ABC funding comes partly as revenge for trying to reveal the news as it really is. I value the ABC for its balanced approach to both news and programming.

In 2020 the ABC has been a Godsend to those of us who wish to be abreast of the news. Bushfires, Covid-19 were and are being covered intelligently and diligently. Landline must be required watching for Australian farmers as well being a must watch for city dwellers. Internationally we are seeing very balanced reports on the US elections via Planet America although I would guess it would not be likely the US political parties would agree. Foreign Correspondent, 7.30 Report, Australian Story, etc. etc. make for excellent viewing compared to the trash I see advertised when watching sport elsewhere. What would be edifying about watching Married at First Sight and the likes.

We must be very wary of critics of the ABC. In my opinion they fall into two categories.

1. Politicians who cannot bear to hear the truth.

2. Biased Commercial news outlets from whom we would never hear the science, or even hear broadcast a second opinion, regarding climate change, solar power etc..and from whom we get the above mentioned trash.

Reading political memoirs recently it is most evident that politicians who deny fiscal reality to the ABC are constantly leaking to commercial news outlets to gain favourable stories about themselves. If only they would realise that without a thriving ABC Fox news and the Shock Jocks would run the country to an even greater extent than they already do.

I despair . Come on Treasurer, give the ABC a fair go.

Daphne D
QLD 2074

The ABC have been a reliable source of information for me throughout my life, but in particular during the fires and Covid-19. Because they don't rely on sensationalism to generate ad revenue, I feel safer knowing that they are reporting what's relevant. Even though I don't like some of the angles or agree with all the points of views presented in their articles/editorials. The ABC has a history of telling the local news, not just Canberra/Sydney and Melbourne. Without it I would have avoided most of the information put out about Covid-19, relying on friends or family. The internet has become a ridiculous hyper-real labyrinth that is mostly filled with almost truths and clickbait. The ABC is fairly level headed and deserves a decent budget. I am sure that firing a few personal "aides" or even a ministerial role would substantially support a media outlet that ACTUALLY benefits the majority of Australia. Australia needs accurate and accountable journalism for local and national news. There is always more money for that kind of industry.

Daphne M
NSW 4350

I live in rural NSW. Last summer the bushfires were just terrible and very frightening. The ABC was the ONLY reliable, up to date source of news to keep us all posted so we knew if we should evacuate or not. Please don't take the ABC news away from us.

Darina M
VIC 2456

Hi ,Whether it's T.V. or Radio I choose the ABC every time. No Ads. Great Reporters,Excellent Journalists,Super Commentators, it is always to the highest standards.It doesn't matter if it is The 7-30 Report,Four Corners, Grandstand or the Insiders it is always good.I love my sport,the News Breakfast, The Weekly,Shaun McCallef, Q and A. ,Media Watch,The News the list goes on and on.The ABC is the best News and CurrentAffairs .During Bushfires and COVID-19 it leaves the commercial channels and stations for Dead with up to date information. As an institution it is one of the Best things we have in Australia.The ABC is an Icon of our way of life here too.We are so lucky Our Governments and Health System,Our laws , Our Constitution ,Our Standard of Living and the ABC .WE ARE SO LUCKY .Thank you for your time Darryl Johnston.

Darryl J
VIC 3099

I'm 76. and a pensioner. My whole life I have sought out substantial, balanced news, not propaganda or trash based on someone's opinion. Forty or so years ago that was easy. Newspapers and even commercial TV competed with each other to do it properly. Now my only refuge is the ABC. I can rely on it. To destroy its independence and further cut its budget would be a crime the perpetrators would eventually pay for dearly. Don't do it.

Daryl H
WA 3232

We watch ABC TV and listen to ABC Radio every day and rely on their professional and composed reporting of current events such as the corona virus and the bushfires. They interview experts and people qualified to discuss their relevant fields.

Their news programs are up to date and relate the details proficiently and calmly which is very reassuring in times of crisis.

When watching the commercial channels we found their news reporting to be sensationalised and caused fear and panic. Headlines are agitated and exaggerated to entice viewers to tune in and invariably fail to report balanced views. They seem to feature stories just for their shock content.

As well as news and current affairs, the ABC shows intelligent programs, designed to make viewers think and reflect on the topics.

The commercial channels generally show ridiculous programs obviously aimed at non-thinkers and mentally defective viewers. This can only result in a nation of mindless simpletons.

The ABC's programs are uninterrupted by countless repeated advertisements which is a very welcome change from the commercial channels.

The downsizing of the ABC would be a crime to the intelligence and education of our population.

Daryl & Fiona D
NSW 6725

I was born in 1936 in London . I survived the blitz ,and served in the RAF in the cold war. I immigrated to Australia sixty years ago ,it was a decision that I have never regretted. I have seven grandchildren , An immigrant lives in his country of choice ,those born in Australia may not claim that privilege,they had no choice.

A national broadcaster must surely represent the philosophical core of the people it serves, their deep seated spirit . This may differ from the political core.

There must be a recognition of integrity ,however politically difficult to accommodate ,there must also be a desire to utilise public funding in a productive manner . The BBC show the way ,they are an export house of British Culture .ABC should follow this lead .Address the Indigenous people problem . Address Nuclear energy use .

Address political corruption at every level .

Protect democracy , it needs help.

Dave C
NSW 2077

I rarely watch commercial TV because of the advertising and I find a lot of shows on the ABC helpful. 4 corners, Media watch and Gardening Australia are the shows I watch most often. My 7 year old son watches ABC 2 and 3 and I like the fact that there is no advertising of junk foods during his screen time. I love my tax dollars being spent on a great service, even if a lot of the content is not something I consume.

Dave H
NSW 2257

The ABC whether it be TV or radio has been critical to me and my family for many years. We relied on the ABC to provide accurate and up to date information on local, state, national and international news in a detailed and informative way. ABC provided us with excellent coverage during the last summer of bushfires (we live in the Shoalhaven which was heavily impacted by unprecedented bushfires last summer) and together with other supplemented online information sources we made important decisions that kept our house and our lives safe during that climate change disaster. ABC is also one of the importance sources for weather forecasting that we rely on for work as none of the commercial TV or radio stations cover weather as good as the ABC does. Since early this year the ABC has been our major source of information about the Coronavirus particularly the State Premiers updates which no other media covers as good as the ABC. And during lockdown, the ABC has been one of the major sources for our entertainment at a time when we just needed some escape from all the negativity and death surrounding coronavirus. No other media in Australia covers what we need in our lives like the ABC does and for all the reasons mentioned above and more, the ABC deserves to be fully funded. No other media outlet will pick up the gaps left if the ABC's budget is slashed. It's my ABC and as a taxpayer and voter, I say fully fund the ABC.

Dave R
VIC 2541

Not only for the news, current affairs, Covid 19 statistics, bushfire information and relayed Insiders, Q&A and other important ABC media shows, but also..., a nightly peek into the BBC World Service. Thank you.

Dave S
VIC 3056

It's rare in this world to have measured and balanced reporting. The ABC has been a stalwart in my life as a proud democratic Australian. We need the ABC and I'll pay a levy if I have to! But please support this institution of free speech and truth

Dave W
NSW 3226

2020 has been a year like no other - drought, bushfires, smoke haze, COVID-19, and a Global Recession. Having reliable access to trustworthy information has been critical for our family decision-making. We have the radio glued to the ABC, and the TV glued to News 24. It is enormously reassuring to be able to access the ABC Listen App and the ABC News App for the longer-term fact and opinion pieces. Long live the ABC - may it grow bigger and stronger!

David B
VIC 2902

The ABC were there, unlike our so called P.M., when the bushfires were raging around Corryong, where I have many friends. The ABC had boots on the ground, while our esteemed leader had his feet in the sand of Hawaii. Good work, if you can get it.

David B
VIC 3355

The ABC, in the days of more and more profit based "news" is becoming even more important to keep governments accountable at a time they are becoming more dictatorial and view themselves "above" review. Living in North East Victoria the ABC is vital to keep us well informed in times of crisis, such last summers frightening bushfires and the current pandemic.

David B
VIC 3749

I rely on the ABC every day of my life. It is the only news media I use, it is also an enormous source of entertainment. But the ABC really comes into its own during times of emergency like natural disasters and the present pandemic. I would not support any budget cuts to the ABC.

David B
QLD 3163

The ABC was once a reliable source of news and entertainment. Not any more. When foreign funded right wing propaganda organisations, such as the Australian Strategic Policy Institute, get regular air time there is a clear and present danger of foreign interference in Australian politics. And, the ABC is complicit.

David B
NSW 4350

If at any time in my life in Australia something is worry me and I am unsure of things, especially in world affairs and good politics , I go to the ABC for information, I know it's going to give me an unbiased view of things,so I can then form my own opinion

David B
VIC 2536

For over 30 years the ABC has been an essential part of my life. Educationally it has kept me abreast of all things political, scientific, environmental, cultural and more. My children were watched ABC educational shows and I gardening Australia. Radio NationalAnd 774 are constant in the home both for general information as well as during bushfires and now Covid. The ABC's ability to provide such quality programs with less and less money is testament to the quality of the people working there. There seriously cannot be ANY more budget cuts to this essential service!! Indeed the opposite needs to occur as times get more uncertain and the need for all that the ABC provides becomes greater.

David C
VIC 3233

I and my wife rely entirely on the ABC to provide accurate, timely and relevant information. We would not tune into anything else during these challenging times. We use ABC Radio and TV for clear, unbiased, factual information that is given without providing commentary on the people making these difficult decisions. We view other TV stations but have not heard anything that was not on the ABC, they are often insufficient in the provision of detail. We do not listen to shock jock radio stations. We want clear information that allows us to make decisions.

Its investigate reporting in highlighting so many terrible things that occur in our communities, companies, govt. organisations is second to none. We the peoples of Australia need for this work to be done to ensure we continually improve services and society.

We cannot do without the ABC, it should be strengthened not weakened. If the govt is there to represent the people, then start listening and take action

David C
NSW 3820

Hello, These are only two compelling reasons not to cut funding. To have on the spot fire coverage during the holidays required some expertise and management, and if there were less money to go around, then that coverage may be jeopardised. Please keep it all intact, including funding.

Thank you, David Fairburn

David F
NSW 2206

I am a senior Australian. I am still in business and I'm actively engaged with it. I've had a successful marriage for over 30 years I have a successful son of 29 years of age. The ABC is very important to me I have always been happy to pay my eight cents a day or whatever it is now, to keep the ABC alive. I thrive on ABC television and radio broadcasts, and I trust them, their journalists and their presenters. I am highly interested in the way Australia is governed and in my opinion the ABC is the least biased broadcaster in the country. ABC television and radio content is of a higher level of intelligence than most commercial broadcasters. If we were to ever lose the ABC I would imagine that the intelligence level of broadcasting in this country would drop dramatically and that would sicken me. As a taxpayer for more than 50 years I beg the Australian government to support the ABC and allow it to continue working in the way that it does to bring us a high level of news, current affair, drama and light entertainment.

David F
NSW 2340

Proper support of the ABC is essential because it is our national broadcaster, widely admired and trusted for its independence and integrity.

Our garage burnt down in the 2018 Tathra fire and our house was damaged. During the 2019/20 fire season we were very reliant on news from people like Hamish McDonald who were broadcasting from evacuation centres giving real time updates on conditions and threats.

The ABC is consistent in interviewing experts and academics giving reliable evidence-based information.

Does the ABC get everything right? No. How do I know that? I watch MediaWatch where any errors in the media are critiqued, including the ABC's. I'm not aware that a comparable analysis exists on a weekly basis on commercial channels.

Recently there has been commentary from Scott Morrison that funding wasn't cut from the ABC - with many industry experts demonstrating that in real terms it has - and that anyway, the he considered that the ABC should gratefully accept their current level of funding because of the difficulties their counterparts in commercial media are facing. That is a spurious argument! Commercial media do not have the weight of emergency, educational, regional and cultural responsibilities that the national broadcaster has.

Decades ago commercial channel leaders were laughing up their sleeve at the ABC's lack of ratings and (perceived) lack of appeal. Now, in the digital age those same people are crying foul play, that the ABC has an unfair advantage.

During the recent mega fires, the ABC was the only broadcaster consistently informing people where the fires were, where they were moving to and how people could keep safe through monitoring radios, dressing appropriately and seeking shelter from radiant heat inside buildings.

I have been a volunteer fire fighter for 18 years and I know how critical this information is and how important the role of the ABC is in emergencies.

Let's be clear, independence comes at a price.

The ABC's budget should be increased. in real terms, to compensate for the extra duties its staff performed during the fire season.

David Gallan
Tathra

David G
NSW 2550

the abc news is the one reliable source

David G
NSW 2257

When travelling from Batemans Bay to Bega for my work in January, I relied on ABC radio to keep me informed on the fires approaching the highway in Moruya, and Dignams Creek, and then the 2nd fire coming through Coolagolite. I got home safely via Tanja thanks to clear info on all of the fires through my local SENSW ABC Radio. Without it I would have had no idea what was going on. ABC Radio was broadcasting very clear, up to the minute info on fires spreading taking calls from listeners. I stopped and rang at one stage to advise of a blocked road I saw, and the ABC staff person said they have just received the same info from another listener. It's truly the citizens emergency radio service and we need extra funding to keep those local services localised in good times and bad. It makes for a stronger community, and who would try to defund that??

David G
VIC 2550

As an Aussie who lived in the US eight years, I strongly related to the exceptional story from journalist David Lipson on Foreign Correspondent. It like many other ABC productions represents a journalistic quality and integrity rarely viewable on Channels 7, 9 and 10! I would pay \$10 per week to continue to ensure the ABC is fully funded!

David H
NSW 3146

Throughout the pandemic I have totally relied on the ABC for the best media coverage of the situation.

As an optometrist in private practice, myself and my elderly patients are at high risk of Coronavirus infection and I need the best information to protect myself, my patients and my staff. I would not trust any of the sensationalist commercial media to provide accurate information on any subject, especially life and death matters. Thank god for the ABC. I only trust the ABC, the health department and the professional associations for any information on this catastrophe.

I also live and work in a very bushfire prone area. I rely on ABC news services for my safety information during the bushfire season.

David H
NSW 2082

I feel outraged that the government is taking an Axe to the ABC, it is the primary outlet I get my news from and to see what is the most respected news outlet in Australia be treated the way it is is astonishing. Especially as they are mandated to be fair - unlike their commercial counterparts which push specific agendas - especially the Murdoch press from which James Murdoch has just resigned due to their biased coverage of climate change (and if someone like James has resigned, it must be terrible there).

I read the ABC news because I know I will get something fair and reasonable and worthwhile. I would like to see their cut funding restored and no more cuts going forward. And a commitment from the government to maintain this going forward.

And if they find them inconvenient, well so much the better in a democracy. There is a massive push worldwide to dismantle democratic processes and a free and independent press, not subject to a commercial bottom line is imperative to resist that.

Cheers,
David

David H
QLD 2486

I am 70 years old. Since I was 7 I have listened everyday to the ABC on radio, mostly Radio National. I am a Professor with 5 decades work in various universities and have always valued the ABC as a means to access important stories (especially news and current affairs) in sufficient depth to inform both my citizenship and my teaching. Since October last year the ABC, both RN and ABC News were crucial in keeping me informed about my extended family during the bushfires on the North and South Coasts of NSW. The ABC has been starved of funding for some years. Even current efforts to get some money from Apple and Facebook have excluded the ABC because the government will only support commercial media. All elections are now vulnerable to organised lies especially on social media (some from state actors. Without the ABC and its fact checking, democracy in Australia could collapse. Many young people are loosing faith in democracy as a system, and who are the least likely to get their news from the ABC? We have to have a strong, vibrant ABC capable of in-depth, investigative journalism. Restore the levels of funding from 2010 in REAL terms now!

david h
VIC 4556

The ABC is a most vital institution for every Australian ! It would be abhorrent to further defund an already emasculated organisation. The ABC is a very trusted News Source every day and it stands as a beacon of truth in the world especially against the ideological and scandalous propaganda of the Murdoch Media who pay no tax in Australia whilst at the same time receiving handouts from the Liberal Govt. We need the ABC and its range of fabulous programs and its ability to advise help and cover the country in times of emergencies. Keep your grubby hands off !

David j
NSW 3136

Over the last fifty years we would not have known what was happening locally in our rural and regional areas, nationally and internationally without the ABC. Every time we listen to, or watch commercial sources you are left wondering what is happening... The ABC is not only the only credible news source, but it also gives you more background on what has happened and why.

David K
NSW 2800

The ABC has keeps the bastards honest !!!

David L
QLD 2066

As an elderly person, I cannot afford to contract COVID-19. It's just too risky. I rely on the ABC through programs like Q&A, 7:30 report and Four Corners to provide up to date and reliable information relating to the disease, and potential control and protection measures. This information helps to keep myself and my wife safe. We all need the ABC.

David L
TAS 4066

Living with COVID 19 and a 2020 world in turmoil, it is hard to get a handle on life at times. I am fortunate to live in rural Tasmania and on a remote property, because it makes isolation that much easier. News however, is important and keeping up is hard enough with so much false reporting occurring globally. Murdoch news outlets have agendas that suit only Murdoch's desires as he continually manipulates governments. Much of the mainstream media seems obsessed with trivia and is driven by advertiser dollars, so stories tend to be biased and reflect corporate interests. Australia has only three reliable news streams, Twitter, the ABC and the Guardian. We follow all three and that way we are sure of getting a true picture of the volatile world we hang below.

David L
NSW 7264

I am an 86 year old living in a retirement village on the NSW Central Coast. I am fairly deaf because of my previous military service and have a listening device attached to my TV, As a result I watch the ABC morning news feather than the radio. I do watch commercial news services but find them very light on reliable impartial news commentary. Furthermore, I am appalled by the increase time taken up with ads. Therefore, my evening entertainment is usually the ABC.. I AM INCREASINGLY DISTURBED BY THE NUMBER OF REPEATS BROUGHT ABOUT BY GOVERNMENT BUDGET CUTS. During the last bushfire season the fires were becoming perilously close to crossing containment lines and roaring towards our village. Only the ABC's reliable and calm updates reassured us. The government must not further reduce ABC funding. Rather it is imperative that they increase it

David M
VIC 2251

Where to start. News services: earth sciences and the bushfires, to private and secret Commonwealth commissions into post-covid economic plans and the spending of public money, to how the Australian government is plotting a framework of international relations post-pandemic, neutering the public service, anti-social and gender biased welfare regimes. Education: what about children's programming that respects children's intelligence and imagination, and so on. Would you reply on Nine news, Murdoch claptrap and the old Heroiled Sun... no way jose. Fund the ABC properly. Its been payback time from Abbott onwards, and it has to stop

David M
VIC 3068

I rely on the ABC for fair and calm news and factual reporting. My daughter was caught up in the bushfires this year and it was the ABC that provided detailed useful information. I am a writer and appreciate the ABC because they appreciate and present the arts to a country that values its culture. The ABC should be given a greater budget not less.
regards,
Dave Metzenthien.
best regards, FOR FAIR NEWS AND NON-HYSTERICAL DELIVERY. DURING THE BUSHFIRE CRISIS Y

David M
QLD 3124

I grew up feeling that the ABC was part of being Australian - especially when travelling overseas, i could always rely on the news coming from Australia by the ABC - To me, its a vital part of our culture and way of life here in Australia.

David N
NSW 4670

I was travelling from Sydney to Tomakin. I knew from ABC News Breakfast that the Pacific Highway was closed so I drive to Braidwood. By the time I got to Braidwood the road from Braidwood to Tomakin was closed so I had to find my way via Queanbeyan. ABC Radio was giving up-to-the-minute news on the bushfires and by a combination of ABC Radio and the Rural Fire Service 'Fires Near Me' App I was able to find my way through. Without that information I would have been driving around the country aimlessly and possibly caught in a fire.

David N
NSW 2044

My wife and I rely on the ABC for unbiased quality information every day.

During the bush fire catastrophe, which for us in remote rural NSW was terrifying, the ABC provided the most reliable and accessible bush fire information. When the internet went down, they were the ONLY providers of bush fire information.

They were there for us when Scottie from advertising was frolicking in Hawaii. (As longtime Liberal voters, we were very disappointed by his selfishness and negligence.)

Now with the COVID-19 debacle, the ABC provides the best most comprehensive, most timely information on how to comply with regulations and how to manage our protection.

As huge consumers of radio and television, we rely almost exclusively on ABC (and SBS) for our continuing life education and entertainment. If the government were to abolish private broadcasters entirely we would not be affected very much. But every time funding decreases necessitate service withdrawal by the ABC we are affected, sometimes devastated.

Most commercial operators provide populist pap in which we are entirely disinterested. They also purvey heaps of biased steaming right wing propaganda which we just turn off.

We say end the subsidies to the corrupt commercial operators and provide MORE funding for the ABC!

David P
QLD 2484

Without the ABC, the lives of ordinary Australians would be significantly impacted, reduced and compromised. I need the ABC to tell me stories other than my own, to alert me to local and regional emergency scenarios and to provide the least biased reporting on events here and around the world. Without the ABC, Australia's standing in the world would be substantially reduced. With any less of the ABC, Australians will struggle to know who they are and how they can be better versions of themselves. The ABC is the truest reflection of ourselves in the media landscape. Without it, who are we?

david P
NSW 3184

I live in regional NSW and I have relied on the ABC through its online television service and it's online news updates to tell me what is happening regarding the pandemic, locally and nationally. I have had two daughters who have had to return home for the COVID period and we have stay connected to the ABC to decide what their next moves will be. I trust the news at the ABC for it reliability, coverage and depth.

David R
NSW 2479

I am writing this email to express my strong support for increasing the budget for the ABC in this years budget. The last twelve months have been troubling times for all Australians and they have had a incredible need for trustworthy balanced news current affairs and information. I believe the ABC has been invaluable in providing Australians with critical information through the fires, floods, storms, Covid pandemic, market turmoil and Heightened tensions with China and the unravelling of American exceptionalism. The question is ? Why are the Murdoch press and right wing commentators so threatened by the journalistic integrity of the public broadcaster? I listen to ABC news radio on my Way to work, Coronacast for medical updates every morning as I walk. I watch abc news and the 7.30 report nightly and the news channel and many other programmes to find out how my life is affected by events. I need news that I can trust. I need a strong independent ABC and demand its funding be increased to reflect its important role in Managing the crisis of a nation on fire and facing a disease that can only be beaten with clear honest media coverage. If you want to see the future of an Australia without a trusted voice you only need to look at the USA where tribalised media has killed 160k people needlessly.

When worrying is done for the day the entertainment and education the ABC gives my family (young and old) is worth far more than we pay.

Don't cut the one best tool you have to mobilise and help us through the next few challenging years. Give up on the partisan attacks.... they serve you no good and make our country weaker. Accept that an organisation to keep our politics transparent and honest might not always help the Coslition or Labour politicians of the day. The alternative to having an ABC that is free and impartial as a source of information is much worse. I don't want to live in a world where truth depends on what Rupert wants you to know.

Please increase the funding for the ABC this year. It is The Essential Service of our time!!

Yours Sincerely

David Simpson

Arcadia NSW

0416019067

David S

WA 2159

Living in the Perth Hills, I like many others consider the ABC bushfire warnings and updates on existing fires especially important. I have found that the information delivered by the ABC generally factual. In more recent times the ABC reporting on the pandemic has provided accurate information.

I value the ABC also for its investigative journalism. Over the years they have exposed or reported on many issues that are important for us as a nation to know about. i.e. Deaths in custody, the banking royal commission, sexual abuse of children in institutions, climate change, pink batts, sports rorts to name a few.

Although the ABC has been accused over the years of being biased by both sides of politics, it should be noted that the government of the day will generally come under more scrutiny as they are the ones with the power. I much value that politicians can be questioned fearlessly when being interviewed on ABC radio or television.

Regarding the cuts in funding to the ABC over the years that the liberal/conservative government have been responsible for, I believe this a disservice to the people of this country. It should be remembered that although it is important to know the cost of the ABC it is equally important to appreciate and understand the value.

David S

NSW 6071

I have relied heavily on the ABC for information and advice during the last 12 months. I start each day with listening to Radio National and always ensure that the daily TV evening news bulletin is part of my news intake. There are very few unbiased media entities remaining in Australia and the ABC stands out as a worthwhile and vital part of both our media landscape and our nation's story.

David S

VIC 2111

During the 2020 bushfires in Gippsland the ABC was our trusted source of information. Our daughter's family were stranded in Mallacoota so we had the ABC radio on all day waiting to hear of developments for the rescue of people impacted by the fires.

Lately it has been the covid 19 pandemic that the ABC has kept us up to date with as our family live in Melbourne and are again impacted by lockdown restrictions.

We depend on the ABC for accurate news and current affairs all the time. Please do not cut their budget any more. Funding is vital to maintain the quality of ABC programming.

david s

NSW 3820

I have relied on the ABC for accurate news and distaste information as well as entertainment and opinion pieces for most of my life.

In times of natural disasters and world crises, the ABC is always my default media for uptodate information.

Because of its charter, I get arguments from both sides in opinion pieces. That is needed in a healthy democracy. The idea of muzzling media to only provide one side's point of view is straight out of the communist Cold War manifesto. Controlling what is printed and broadcast is how totalitarian regimes gain control over the masses. China and North Korea are modern examples of these tactics. I sometimes am amused, sometimes annoyed when I hear or read pieces that I don't agree with, but having no respect or tolerance of alternative views will stagnate the Australian society and make totalitarian control more possible.

This year has seen the ABC perform remarkably well in light of the constant cuts to its budget over the past 10 years. The fact that funding has dropped for independent media has not been a good enough reason to cut the ABC budget at this time. The ABC charter does not require them to be a competitor. Their charter makes them a strong independent voice of the people especially in times of crises such as 2020.

Accusations of bias I find bemusing given the almost rabid commitment to ideology displayed by other media outlets and given that enquires into the ABC consistently find they are working within their charter, not outside it, I believe that a strong case can be put forward for an increase in budget, not more cuts.

David Thompson

David T

VIC 2500

Living in Far East Gippsland (Victoria) we were very thankful for the news & information ABC provided for us during the January bush fires. ABC worked tirelessly to keep East Gippsland informed every hour every day about the fires, about the Evacuation Centres. Long may the ABC continue it serves our nation so very well!

David V

NSW 3888

We Australians take our AUNTY for granted....when I travel overseas and watch the garbage on TV it makes me totally appreciate just how lucky we are..

Independent reports like 4 corners, Fireign Correspondent and 7.30, that often expose important and sometimes terrible things in our society, would not be aired on commercial TV...yes, it might challenge some people... but this is what makes a democracy.....if we want a totalitarian or fascist state, then I don't want to be part of that..

When we have 70% of our media owned by a very biased right wing zealot then the importance of balance is even more critical..our democracy is worth maintaining..

Even then this zealot is now closing heaps of regional newspapers, that our communities totally rely on....this privatised monopoly model is not working at all well...

During disasters, like the fires, the ABC did it's usual, brilliant job...as it is doing with the covid19 crisis..

As a taxpayer, I want the 8 cents a day funding returned ...not the current 4 cents a day...

The ABC is probably the most competent government funded enterprise in our nation....just look at others.... Centrelink, ROBODEBT and all the other IT mess ups we've experienced in recent years. I wish some people would show the appreciation that our national broadcaster deserves. Remember ABC is not a state broadcaster....we do not want fascism or totalitarianism here....

Please restore funding to the ABC to equal the 8 cents per day per person....the funding MUST be determined by independent people , not the government in power...just like the BBC...

If you allow ABC death by 1000 cuts then your government will be remembered very, very poorly when the people realise what they have lost...

Sincerely

David Williamson

Ewingsdale

David W

ACT 2480

My name is Dean. I am from the NSW Snowy Mountains and am a graduate environmental health scientist.

The ABC is a vital service for Australians. During the 2019-20 bushfires, I personally relied heavily on ABC south east radio for regular, up-to-date information on surrounding fires. We had our cars packed ready to go and it was ABC radio that was running in the background on those high risk days. They provided constant, in-depth coverage which enabled us to make informed decisions on whether to evacuate or not. As far as I'm aware, there was no other option that provided bushfire information of this quality.

I am asking that no cuts be made to the ABC in the October 2020-21 Australian Budget. Additionally, it would be good to see some of the funding cuts restored. Australians rely on the ABC for factual information in times of need.

Thank you for your time.

Dean M
QLD 2630

Throughout the pandemic and bushfires my family and I have relied upon the ABC for accurate and concise information on events both locally and elsewhere in Australia where we have family and friends. We have also relied upon the ABC to entertain and educate our children with excellent content that doesn't have advertising creating desires to buy unnecessary and unaffordable items. Our ABC is vital to me and my family.

Dean R
QLD 4107

To the Australian Government.

The ABC is vital to the community to:

give us facts on Covid 19. As opposed to A. Bolt.... no scientific proof of wearing masks.

Helped my family stay safe during the fires and cyclones over the years

Excellent Australian programs

Well researched news.

The ABC needs the funding from the government to keep it doing it's job for the entire community.

Kind regards Deanne

Deanne S
ACT 4116

I trust the ABC to deliver news, not opinion, which is often what the commercial channels deliver. The ABC news us free from hype and hysteria.

I have found the ABC news to be very dependable during the bushfire and covid crises. During the pandemic I have particularly appreciated hearing the views of Dr Norman Swan and other experts.

Apart from news, the ABC provides a great alternative to the American and reality TV rubbish broadcast on the commercial channels. I really enjoy the quality Australian produced entertainment broadcast by the ABC, including Rosehaven and Mad as Hell.

Deb E
NT 2611

I am a registered Nurse living in Arnhem Land Northern Territory. We have been fortunate enough to not have Corona virus here yet but I am worried and I rely to the ABC coverage of COVID 19 to keep me up to date.

Health care is obviously important to me and I discuss the events I see on the ABC news website with my colleagues at work. This important coverage affects my behavior at work. For example I learned how to make masks on the ABC website and what were the important points to make an effective homemade mask. Maybe I will need to use these at work.

ABC news website is an important place to get the facts. Without them I would have to spend more time fact checking and cross referencing. I would not trust the other commercial TV stations websites to report such important information in an unbiased way.

Debbie H
QLD 880

Please don't cut the ABC or SBS budgets! These services play an important role in providing news, reflecting/developing Australia's culture, and building understanding of other cultures. They are part of my everyday life, I access them through radio, TV and online.

ABC classic radio provides music which takes me on audio adventures, a soothing escape from the stress of COVID.

ABC Brisbane provides local news alerts so I know what's going on in my city, how to limit my COVID exposure, and when and where to get tested.

ABC TV helps me stay connected with Australian content, helping me to feel more connected to my country even through lockdown. The comedy shows of ABC and SBS help me relax - especially important while in lockdown. SBS world movies take me on adventures across the world, a lovely escape that broadens my perspective.

Deborah B
NSW 4300

The ABC is my first choice for information especially when there is so much going on in the world and at home. I also like programs such as Australian Story and comedy, music, travel, docos etc. I like the amount of local talent featured and great production values. I think they should get increased funding not have their funding cut.

Deborah H
VIC 2046

ABC has contributed to interactive content & proactive interviews throughout 2020, and it's challenges around COVID 19 Pandemic. ABC have proven to be worthy of my time without annoying commercials & propaganda on other mainstream channels. I enjoy the more factual stories and interviews presented and live coverages of current events.

Keep up the good work ABC

Regards

Deborah

Deborah J
NSW 3198

During Covid 19 lockdown ABC radio broadcasts were essential listening for me and partner. They provided clarification and ongoing analysis in confusing times and were a great comfort for us. This is a national service that needs to be supported, not diminished during budget considerations.

Deborah m
QLD 2251

Dear Sir,

I have relatives residing in 3 states and the ABC has been vital for us all to keep abreast of what is happening in each others regions. Without the ABC that information would not have been available to us. Our extended family has relied on the ABC for accurate information. In a time of so many disasters the ABC has been essential to everyone.

Deborah S
NSW 4113

During the last weeks of December 2019 and the first few weeks of January this year my partner and I were heavily reliant on ABC radio as bushfires we're raging in surrounding areas to the north, south and west of us. As a consequence of the fires in early January power went out for over a week and network access was mostly impossible. There were only two elevated sites in Bermagui that people could drive to and only occasionally had success connecting to a network, and then only briefly if they were lucky.

For us, the only reliable means of sourcing accurate information during this time was to drive into town to talk directly with an RFS officer located at the Bermagui Country Club which we did, usually daily, and to listen to our battery operated radio tuned to the local ABC which we did frequently throughout the day.

The information gleaned from these sources influenced our decisions as to if and when to evacuate, and to where. We were packed and ready to evacuate quickly for most of January, monitoring conditions constantly. We evacuated twice at the height of the crisis; once to leave our treed precinct and move into town, and on the second occasion moved from our accommodation in town and spent the night in our car on the Bermagui Oval under RFS supervision and direction. No television, no power, no internet, just a transistor radio tuned to the ABC.

Deborah W
TAS 2546

My name is Debra Dean and I'm a Registered nurse who lives near Hobart, in Tasmania. I believe the ABC is a vital source of reliable and informative news and information for all Australians and should be adequately funded. I am strongly against any budgetary cuts to this organisation which entertains, informs and keeps a check on all sides of politics. It helps all Australians in time of need, by giving important, impartial information when there are emergency situations such as the bushfires earlier in 2020 and ongoing vital facts during the covid 19 pandemic. The ABC gives an important insight into the lives of Australians through programs such as 'Australian Story', 'Back Roads' & 'Landline'. It informs us of world affairs and controversial topics with 'Four Corners', 'Foreign Correspondent', amuses us with shows such as 'Rosehaven' & 'Hard Quiz'. It reminds how unique and clever we are in radio interviews with Richard Fidler. The ABC must be funded properly, adequately for the good of all Australians.

Debra D
NSW 7050

I only watch the ABC most reliable source of news and current affairs from across the world. Professional journalists that allow the viewer to enjoy the reports presented.

Debra G
NSW 2261

The importance of the ABC. We were surrounded by fires in the northern rivers for several months in September and October. ABC local radio was our trusted source of updates. We live in the bush and needed to know how close the fire front was as we only have one road so we needed to know which way to escape north or south.

Then in December and January my daughter's property was threatened for 3 days. They had no power and no phone coverage. I was able to see where the front was on the ABC news. It was 48 hours before I had contact with her.

Without the ABC coverage both TV and radio this stressful time would have been even worse.

Regional people **DEPEND ON THE ABC!!!**

Debra Hebbard

Dilkoon via Grafton NSW.

debra h
VIC 2577

I was stuck in NSW during last summer's bushfire, unable to return to my property in East Gippsland. I stay glued to the ABC 24 hours a day for days watching the inferno heading towards my home. I totally relied on the ABC's up to date information not only in relation to the actual fire but also for critical information regarding road closures and emergency points for food and shelter. To cut funds to this absolutely trustworthy and necessary service is tantamount to keeping the public ignorant and in danger. If this government was truly concerned about the people it is meant to protect it ought to be **INCREASING** the level of funding!

Debra S
QLD 3882

Hello, the importance of the ABC in keeping up to date on information during Cyclones & weather events in North Qld is a Must..for duration of the weather event.

We support the ABC all year for emergencies & Australian Content News Shows & Australian Entertainment Shows are awesome, we support the ABC...thanks

Dee M
VIC 4753

I am hugely disappointed in the ABC. I first realised that truth is a rare commodity is when the ABC was reporting on 9-11. Never once did the ABC report the true scientific facts, and that Building 7 just "came down" (demolished). There is no point in trying to point out the fact that the twin towers EXPLODED (clearly visible in the photographs). But the ABC has gone along with the criminal line. What about interviewing front-line doctors that could provide an honest account of HCQ and what the coronavirus is all about. But I won't be holding my breath for any honesty emerging from the highly paid ABC hosts.

Dee M
NSW 3206

During the summer bush fires on the South Coast, our only source of up to date emergency news about where the fires were was on the local ABC Radio National. It kept us safe and alive.

Deirdre D
NSW 2546

The ABC is the go-to channel for all emergencies and should be deemed "an essential service." It is beyond my belief that there are some people who do not watch it. When the bush fires were on, ABC was there. When floods and Typhoons are on, ABC are there. When the Coronavirus started, the ABC was there. With 'fake news' happening so much these days, it is comforting to know that ABC will always deliver 'the good oil'. Their documentaries are world-class. The only reason I will not emigrate to New Zealand, is that they do not have a NZBC, and one has to rely on Skye (ugh!!)

Deni M
NSW 2745

I have always relied on the ABC for objective journalism and hope that will remain the case. When the majority of media is owned by a monopoly it leaves us with one source for trustworthy reporting free from influence and bias. At least it was and I sincerely hope it will remain so.

Denice S
WA 2082

Since April 2020 my age care facility has been in lockdown With out seeing our love ones.
Without the abc radio and Televersion I would be lost
With out radio and televersion all the residents looking forward to see families only by appointment.
For myself I don't have any family here in Western Australia. 5 years ago I lost my wife To a Brain haemorrhage for early 9 months I watched her slowly lose the will to live just laying there unable to move or walk as she had tummy feed peg the only way to keep her alive. It got to much for me to see her in that state of mind inner PERTH adult mental health got me to move to a age care facility close by so I could walk down to see her each day. It was 32 years of marriage to the one person
She would lay there and listen to the abc radio all our lives together we would listen to the radio both here in Western Australian oringlly we were from New South Wales to be with mother and sister and brother. But time they move back east to be with there Childern. If there are cut back in funding for the abc what will I have to listen to, my sister is living in Victoria 4 shires around her and husband are in lockdown because of the viruse

Denis S
NSW 6062

Once again, the ABC proved to be a lifeline this year.
After Christmas 2019, close friends from Bendalong (south coast of NSW) evacuated to our home in Sydney. We watched and listened to the news on ABC to keep abreast of what was happening. On New Year's Eve the fire raged through their area, engulfing part of their property. With the phone and internet network down, the ABC proved to be an invaluable source of up to date information.
Likewise during the Covid crisis, the ABC has been the most accurate source of information as opposed to the dramatics and misinformation from certain other media sources. Long live the ABC with adequate funding to allow it to be my life line to the real world.

Denise G
QLD 2093

My husband and family listen to the ABC radio news every morning to keep up with the COVID-19 news.

Denise G
NSW 4421

We (my husband and I) listened to the ABC when living in Sydney, however since moving to a regional area in NSW we did not realise how integral the ABC is to the community.

The end of last year and this year has been really really difficult.

Firstly the bush fires threatened our home and we were evacuated twice.

Our life line was the ABC radio, when everything else failed eg mobile towers burnt, power failure, the radio was our only accurate information to the evolving danger. Often sitting in the car listening to ABC local radio THANK GOD!!!!

Next came floods and now covid 19 and throughout our local ABC radio has been there. Even our medical friend Dr. Norman Swan with clear assessments and advice.

I could go on but life without ABC is unthinkable

Denise R

VIC 2539

Unthinkable to me to be reducing funds for the ABC , especially after what we have all been through with bushfires and Covid.

Most people want to watch and listen to their most trusted news source, the channels that present the most balanced views. In troubled times they do not want to watch advertisements..... just the news read in an unsensational manner.

The ABC is there night and day whatever the situation, helping to keep us all safe.

Shame on those wanting to reduce funding. I note that many of those calling for privatisation are often ideologically driven young people with little life experience.

Denise S

QLD 3067

The ABC is, and always has been, an important part of my life, including ABC Classic Radio and television. I rely on the ABC News, knowing I will get a true picture of events. It was particularly helpful during the recent fires and is vital at the moment during this pandemic. Media watch keeps me apprised of who is saying what.

I also find out about what goes on in the country with Landline, and discover more about rural Australia with Back Roads. I also enjoy many programmes on the tv, including The Repair Shop, various comedies, railway stories, and Sir Richard Attenborough to mention only a few.

Please do not make any budget cuts to the ABC. In fact I would like you to consider increasing support to an organisation that is vital to so many in the community.

Denise Sorensen

Denise S

VIC 4125

The ABC is a cornerstone of our society and provides a constant source of information across a range of subjects. During the COVID-19 pandemic it has been extremely helpful as a go to point where knowledgeable and credible evidence based information is available. It is of particular importance in regional and remote communities to have credible source material rather than relying on the 'shock jocks' to provide information.

The funding cuts to the ABC are a disgrace - we have enough money - it's just unfortunate that the current LNP Government prioritises the big end of town rather than individuals and society groups.

Denise S

NSW 3182

I live in Bundanoon and last summer had to evacuate twice when bushfire threatened. On January 4th we almost lost our home. Throughout the time when bushfire threatened our area it was the ABC which provided communication for us. It was a traumatic time and, thankfully, we had the ABC to keep us informed. It is essential that the ABC is adequately funded so that this vital service along with all other ABC services can continue.

We need the ABC and we need to increase not decrease its funding.

Denise T

VIC 2578

I listen constantly to classical music, and Classic FM have been remarkable in how they have reached out to people isolated by lockdowns. Especially like the morning presenters and the evening Bach cantata

Dennis A

VIC 3068

I can honestly say that I rely on the ABC ! In the 2009 fires in Victoria I had ABC on constantly , whether it be the TV or the radio , for many months it was my constant ! It was my information centre ! Just pure news , not inflaming situations for a story , not interrupting stories for adds ! You can rely on the ABC ! And to this very day I still rely on the ABC ! Morning TV esp and 7pm news , and the ABC radio I just love ! The ABC is an absolute must for our country areas and our country !

Dennis H
NSW 3723

There is a lot of misinformation circulating by a variety media. A trustworthy public media is even more important now than any time in the history.

Dennis L
NT 2121

The ABC is absolutely needed for all Australians, not just now but also when things are easier. I have relied on their news outlets to inform me about what is happening in the Northern Territory where I live, and also to keep abreast of Victorian news where the rest of my family live. My husband is Indonesian, and the ABC news is once again a reliable source of information. It is a part of our lives. We cannot do without it.

Denyse B
ACT 810

During the recent summer bushfires my rural community was advised to attend an emergency meeting by the RFS.

We were told the approaching fires were likely to place us under severe ember attack before the fire front due to horrific weather forecasts. We were told "If you choose to stay lives will be lost".

When asked for the best possible source of up to the minute advice the brigade captain's advice was immediate and unequivocal. Listen to the ABC.

Derek F
VIC 2630

Was a favourite source of news until they sold out to the Chinese Communist Party. I will never watch read or listen to them again. Feel sad for all the good people there that will be spoiled by the rotten stuff there.

Desmond F
NSW 3166

My name is Diane White and I live in Mosman, NSW. With a parent in Aged Care in another state I am anxious about the spread of COVID-19 through Aged Care Homes. I rely on the ABC to keep me updated and informed. I trust the ABC to give me correct and 'to the minute' information. I listen to the ABC programs during the day and particularly enjoy the interviews and guests they present. The ABC keeps me engaged with the world and puts a smile on my face. I can't understand why the government is cutting funding to its major ally. The Government should be giving the ABC a 'raise'. They relied on the ABC too! Through the bushfires this summer and the continuing pandemic, all Australians have needed the ABC. Lets get that funding back and increase it in the future. We all need the ABC.

Di W
NSW 2088

The ABC is and continues to be, my 'go-to' for reportage via Radio National and its Breakfast show with Fran Kelly and Matt Bevan. It continues to be my constant information source throughout the day, and it alternates with ABC classic FM and ABC Jazz my constant companions. As an older, socially isolated person, I find constant stimulation, information and enjoyment through many of its programmes, both on radio and TV which I applaud for the quality of programming and the educative role played by all of its excellent presenters.

Diana B
NSW 2130

The ABC has been important to me all my life - from listening to the Children's Hour on the radio in the 50s to always listening or watching the ABC nightly news as a child and teenager.

As an adult I became aware just how important the independent voice of the ABC was. When I think of the documentaries and current affairs - 4 corners, This day tonight, Lateline to name a few, the ABC could be relied upon to give reliable and trustworthy information.

If anyone was unconvinced of the importance of the ABC voice, I only have to think about the fantastic job the ABC journalists did during the bushfire, keeping local communities informed as well as those of us further afield. No other media organisation would or could have done this important reporting.

It made me realise the importance of having a portable radio and lots of batteries as so many mobile phone towers went down and power went out and all that was left was the ABC constant coverage.

This year I have enjoyed and been informed by listening to Norman Swan and others on Radio National.

My life would be severely reduced without the ABC. The nation would be far better informed if a high majority of the population listened to and watched the ABC

Diana C
NSW 2756

I can't thank the abc enough for the last six months of news coverage. Already an avid watcher, we found their up to date COVID coverage invaluable, especially as travel plans were placed on hold. During lockdown we discovered the huge quantity of comedy on tv (thank god for Sammy j!) and it helped keep our spirits up.

DIANA R
NSW 2481

Every day - especially when there is trouble such as the recent bushfires and now, Covid19 - I rely on the ABC for trustworthy news and vital information. ABC TV and radio are essential to the safety, wellbeing and entertainment of Australians all over the country - not just the cities. I believe the proper funding of the ABC should be considered part of the national health and safety policy. My life during Covid and the fires would have been and now be less safe and secure. My mental health would suffer and I know that to be true of my friends, family and community. We are the ABC - we are Australians - and the ABC is us.

Diana S
VIC 2021

Please, please, please don't cut funding to our beloved ABC. All my life I have relied on their honest reporting of events, and I have loved their drama, comedy, news coverage and documentaries. None of the other commercial broadcasters come close to the quality of the ABC.

You will be doing the whole nation a huge disservice if you cut their funding. They are a national treasure for a very large number of Australians. You have made lots of cuts already to them in the past. Please don't make it any harder for the ABC to reach out to us, entertain and inform us in the wonderful way they do now. It would be a tragedy for so many of us not to have them in our lives.

Diana Smith

Diana S
NSW 3068

ABC is the only broadcaster our family listens to. During the bushfires I had the ABC on all day at work to keep up-to-date. Just as well I did because when a fire threatened close to our home, I was able to go home quickly. During Covid, ABC is the only broadcaster I trust to give us factual information without all the spin and hot air that the other channels give us - especially the far right shock jocks who have no clue about anything. When I've had enough of all the bad news that is around us at the moment - there is nothing to beat ABC Classic or ABC Jazz. And the ABC radio presenters are like old friends - very comforting to listen to and always very sensible and balanced. Many years ago, I used to listen to Alan Jones and his ilk for a while (I don't know why!), but then discovered ABC. It was like a breath of fresh air! I didn't realise how depressing it was to listen to them until I had found the decent people at the ABC. I think Australia is really lucky to have such a balanced and trustworthy state broadcaster - we must never let it be diminished!

Diana T
VIC 2076

We live in rural Victoria and rely on ABC for our local news and important information. During the bush fires we couldn't have managed without it and now it's the only service giving us local Covid19 numbers and restrictions where we live. We may be less populated than the cities but we desperately need the constant updates and information we are unable to access elsewhere.

Diane B
VIC 3722

If it was not for the ABC I would think Australia only had the Liberal, Greens and Country Parties

Diane M
NSW 3156

The ABC was a vital link for us during the bushfire season last summer. My father has dementia and lives alone in an area that was very close to Cresswood where the peat fire was burning; in fact it burnt right up to the edge of Dahlsford Grove which is a retirement village. We left him for a short period in November to travel North into Qld where we also became trapped by fires.

On Tuesday, the day of the catastrophic fire warning, I had to travel from Crescent Head where we were held up to attend a case conference at Port Macquarie Hospital because they were going to move my father, fiercely contrary to his wishes, into a nursing home.

Without the confidence in the ABC radio broadcast about local fire situation, I would not have travelled that day and my father's life would have changed horribly for the worst.

Diane M
WA 2500

I feel that the ABC has always given me information that I can trust and rely on. Be it during the fires or now the coronavirus I know that I can always get true understanding of what really is happening.

We need the ABC it's the only channel I trust to get a balanced point of view, please don't cut any budget that will affect the ABC. Australia needs this important platform as it is.

Diane R
QLD 6064

Ok, I am letting everyone know what I think is important, starting with Trust. and gullible. How anyone with half a brain can believe what the commercial radio and tv stations broadcast is nothing more than sensationalism is beyond me. People need to ask themselves why are they saying this, the same as when the bank says "yes I can lend you a million dollars, even though you are out of work." It's not because they like you people! It is so important that the media educates as the ABC and SBS does not this other trash on farmer wants a ? Or the bachelorette wants a ? Teach a bit of Respect our future depends on that much. There is more to life & happiness than rubber lips girls. There are bushfires, floods, bravery, disease. And good things like ABC to help you through it. We need the ABC and SBS for these very reasons and they need more funding, not less. Do something about it please.

Diane W
NSW 4215

My world changed in January this year. The disaster split my family and I breathed smoke for weeks on end. The sky turned orange and then black. Two young dads lost their lives together - heartbreaking. Two things kept me sane. The courage of our firefighters against an unbeatable monster moving at incredible speed, and the steady voice of OUR ABC. Every morning our local presenter and the team went through the rounds of critical information - road closures, where the fire was, useful information and warnings. Despite the heart-breaking nature of the information Simon Lauder kept me sane, turning up day in and day out, I think working overnight on at least one occasion, to give out the information that saved lives. There are many reasons I treasure OUR ABC but I will never forget how the example of turning up and getting through inspired so many of us to do the same.

Dianne B
WA 2548

I live in a rural area & rely on the ABC for all types of warnings such as bushfire & weather events. Also the ABC keeps me up to date with news local, national & international. I do not care for most of the "reality" shows on commercial tv so the ABC provides great programmes that I watch and enjoy. Please support the ABC with increased funding so that I can watch & listen to good programmes

Dianne H
VIC 6525

I rely almost entirely on the ABC for my entertainment, knowledge, information. It keeps me company during the day while I am doing my art work. The programmes and presenters are familiar links and comfort to me, especially in this lock down period.

Dianne L
QLD 3130

During Cyclone Marcia ABC broadcasted continually.
During this year's bushfire we were glued to the ABC by radio & television.
During the Covid crisis, the ABC news and entertainment is what gets us through again.
Please increase the funds for this vital, important, essential and appreciated service.

Dianne R
NSW 4710

When the fires were raging through the Blue Mountains the ABC was my lifeline for getting the correct news rather than the beat up info from commercial sources

Dianne T
NSW 2777

I have relied on the ABC to get the full story, particularly this year with all that's going on. The commercial stations only have one line stories which leaves me uninformed and needing answers. The ABC tells me the whole story and I love the news debates they have. I need the ABC to know what's going on in the world. It has also entertained the kids with the cartoons. I can't imagine life without their news programmes. Kind regards, Dianne of Newtown, NSW

Dianne W
NSW 2042

I am very interested to view stories from ABC documentaries. They offer a comprehensive & objective view of current affairs. I feel like writing to them to vent my grievance about social injustice due to flaws in the system.

I think the ABC will become my channel of airing my opinion, so that the public & the MPs can have an idea of what tragic flaws in the social system we are toiling in.

Dickson C
VIC 2010

I want a news source I can trust! News of fires, news of the pandemic, ABC first and last!

Dindy V
NSW 3136

I needed the ABC more than ever this year. My kids used it for their home schooling. It was our families predominant hub of information surrounding important information from federal and WA government. I'm so utterly disappointed that the Fed govt eats away at this funding for this vital service whilst subsidising the climate wrecking fossil fuel industry.

Dion L
VIC 6008

I am a glued on ABC listener/watcher. I rely on it for all my news, entertainment> I listen to ABC Melbourne, RN, Grandstand, Classic FM and all the ABC TV channels. Already the cuts in programming on television and repeat programs on RN have been devastating. ABC has been the traditional resource for national catastrophes and that has been cut back.ABC is vital to my well being. Commercial radio does not meet my needs at any level, and I rely and ABC for cultural, educational, political and local information. Its an important bridge between city and country lives, for example, Landline. Its vital that its funding be returned and that its Independence and future viability be guaranteed..

Its the only resource that can be trusted. News Corp has proved to be a bigoted and biased organisation betraying Australia. Save the ABC.

Doc W
NSW 3123

I rely on two trustworthy sources for my news- the ABC and Guardian Australia.
They can be trusted to report accurately what is happening rather than with hype and exaggeration.
Please fund the ABC appropriately.

Thanks
Dom

Dom B
QLD 2487

Our weekly newspaper has ceased publication.

Where we lived in regional Qld for 40 years has lost its daily newspaper.

When defending cutbacks in ABC funding, Govt representatives have said all media organisations are having to manage with less income.

Surely this should encourage greater funding for the ABC to ensure the wide range of reporting and programming that have been so important in our lives can continue.

Don Keith AM

Don K

VIC 4511

I'm a Senior Australian and I'm very grateful we have the ABC, not the commercial mix the US has where media moguls control the news for their own profit.

Certainly, this year the ABC has proved its value during the bushfire and Coronavirus epidemic by providing important updates, but it has been an invaluable source of unbiased information all my life.

don M

NSW 3136

The ABC is vital in radio and tv.

Radio coverage is the most comprehensive of all radio. News, information, indepth topics, gardening, sport... No shock jocks or shouting biased presenters. Educated presentations. From local stations to Radio Nation to News radio (which covers parliament too). From city to the bush.

Tv also offers more: SBS, national tv, speciality tv programs...

This media is the least biased, fairest, sanest...

The ABC deserves its presence and status as the national outlet. Without it many would be deprived of fair and good radio and tv.

Don R

WA 2745

We rely a lot on the ABC for coverage in the country and for quality Australian drama and documentaries and in depth investigative news coverage and also for lots of cultural and arts coverage which is missing on commercial reality TV shows .No more funding cuts especially in these times.

Don

Don R

NSW 6333

I'm a great listener to ABC radio. Such a variety of programs. The arts coverage for instance is second to none. Quality guests and so informative. Unlike most commercial media where uninformed opinions seem to be the norm. We need the ABC now more than ever.

Donald C

QLD 2287

I am a secondary school teacher in Kingaroy in Queensland and I rely on the ABC not only as the most trustworthy source of new and current affairs but also as a valuable resource for teaching. In the COVID 19 period of on line learning ABC programs and resources were particularly valuable. The ABC coverage of the crisis and the issues it raises is vastly superior to the sensationalist commercial media or the conspiracy theory laced idiocy that is social media.

My ability to continue to perform my job and keep my mental health is sustained by the intelligent and entertaining programs on ABC TV and radio, especially the Australian content. Every cut to the ABC degrades my life, my work and the community. Restore the cuts and commit to sustainable funding that doesn't degrade the essential range of services the ABC provides.

Donald M

NSW 4610

After the bushfires swpt towards Bermagui on New Years Eve we had no power and no mobile phone. We knew that there were further fire threats coming but without mobile phones we couldn't access the Fires Near Me apps to see what was happening. We absolutely relied on ABC Radio to provide us with information on fire threats and advice on what action to take. Our decisions on whether to evacuate or stay and potentially living or dying were utterly dependent on the ABC. They did a fantastic job. With Climate Change making catastrophic fires and other disasters more likely it is imperative that we have a well funded and even ABC to inform us.

Donald M

VIC 2546

I write this in the hope that our ABC will remain fully funded and continue to exist as is for the long term

I moved back to Australia after 20 years living abroad in a number of countries. I came back during the Howard administration witnessing the horrors of the refugees overboard and the sad shift in empathy of government.

Living part of the time in the US, I witnessed first-hand, the far reaching effects of commercial media and their 'agendas'.

Building up to the ultimate example, in my mind at least.

Especially since Trump, I now go back a couple of times a year and see every cafe, pub and restaurant [TV being in 90% of them all] I have been aghast to see that a group of diners will position themselves on one side of the table viewing the commercial channel [news, for example] that aligns with their ideological views and the others watch the other screen on another equally distorted, owner/sponsor biased news service.

Sadly, it really is just 'normal' there now.

Having my own son, I have been raising him to understand the importance of finding the truth in the information we are given. This goes for googling biased 'truths' to support an argument which is done by so very many teenagers today.

Amongst the noise of information out there coming at us from all directions, there is so very little that is truly uninfluenced by Someone's agenda.

This is what I have taught my son. But it's a difficult lesson in these times.

We watch the ABC when we want to know the 'real' truth and it is with a great sigh of relief that it is the one constant that does not change.

I believe it is critical to maintain the ABC for the purpose of integrity and truth.

Most sincerely,

Donna Christie

Donna C
NSW 3206

Since March when I was stood down from my Job due to Covid-19 I have relied on ABC Television and Radio to keep me up-to-date with all the news, restrictions, and press conferences throughout the day. The coverage is informative and most importantly mostly opinion free with interviews with a wide range of experts and politicians. Best of all it is commercial free. There's no sensationalising. I can switch on any time of the day TV or Radio and get informed and up-to-date. I cannot get this from commercial privately owned sources. I don't use Social Media much to get my news. At work now I love listening to Triple J, Local Sydney Radio or National ABC Radio - add free. The ABC has been a godsend to me and my family and will continue to be my main source of news and entertainment.

Donna F
VIC 2203

I watch about an hour of television daily, and it is rare that I change my channel from the ABC. Sometimes, I watch SBS.

In addition, there is the programming on ABC iView and SBS onDemand for news and entertainment. I listen to ABC Classic FM radio to relax, except when I need to monitor bushfire updates - which are also on the ABC news channel. Throughout the pandemic, I've listened to the ABC, watched the ABC news, and read the ABC news online daily to stay informed.

I cannot imagine how much worse 2020 might have been without the ABC and its SBS companion. The ABC's value to me would be worth at least 0.5% of my annual income. Why not make the budget for the ABC (& SBS) at least 0.5% of the government's annual budget?

Donna R
VIC 3160

Our ABC has been such an integral part of our lives during the tough year that 2020 has so far been. We live in a bushfire-prone area so at the start of the year we were constantly keeping up to date on fires and advice warnings on 774 Radio. Then when Covid-19 began overseas we turned to the ABC news, 7.30, Four Corners, to learn about this unfolding situation. And once the virus's impact started to be felt here in Australia the ABC local news, current affairs, Q&A etc became invaluable for sources of knowledge and helping us be aware that 'We're all in this together'. Now, living in Melbourne, and dealing with the Stage 4 restrictions and the heightened concern about the virus spread, the ABC News app on my phone has been vital for up-to-the minute news and advice. It is such a comfort to know there is a sensible, unbiased, comprehensive news and information source available to us in a variety of forms, in stark contrast to social media and tabloid news. Please protect Our ABC!

Doreen and Graham Burge

Doreen B
VIC 3113

I am house bound as many other people are at this most unusual time in our history. I rely on the ABC for practically all my information. I trust them ! I appreciate their capacity to be able to let us hear the word and recommendations from experts.

They are not trying to sensationalize the situation. This is from a news point of view.

From an entertainment point of view. WE NEED THE ABC WITHOUT THEM WHERE ARE WE GOING TO HEAR OUR OWN VOICE ???????????

Dorothy B
NSW 3194

Thank you for considering my submission. I live at the top of a fairly steep hill, & the fires earlier in the year were only about 15Km from my house, up a single valley. (The fire that started near Wardell, NSW). I listen to my local ABC for updates on emergency services. There is a need for the ABC to be adequately funded to cover local stories as well as have staff that can give local information in times of duress such as fires & floods. Also during the Covid-19 Virus pandemic the information updates have been extremely helpful.

It must also be remembered that communications are under threat during events such as bushfires. If a link goes down, local communities may lose their ABC, as well as internet, Mobile phone & even copper services. I have noticed in the last 3 years that ABC transmissions are more prone to failure than before that time (I even reported this to my local member). There needs to be redundancies built into the system for emergency communications. Losing a microwave tower is no excuse for loss of communication services in this century.

My wife & I listen to ABC radio on Am/FM, as well as watching locally produced shows on the TV & Internet. We rely on the unbiased ABC reporting for the news, as well as coverage of local events now we have no local papers any more.

Doug F
NSW 2480

This year as never before I have relied principally on the ABC for reliable clear news on what was happening in our local area and across the commonwealth. With the COVID Pandemic lockdown the ABC has been crucial to our social and cultural life.

I am personally appalled and angry at the Commonwealth Government's continuing efforts to cut down our vital ABC budget that gives my fellow Australians and me access to reliable and trustworthy news and current affairs.

It is essential that Our Commonwealth Government protect and increase funding to our vital Australian Broadcasting Corporation in it next budget

Doug L
QLD 2289

I am a over-55 male, white collar federal government public servant living in suburban Brisbane.

I regularly listen to ABC radio, and watch various ABC television programs.

Every during my travel to and from work I listen to the ABC radio for unbiased reporting on what is happening in Australia and the world.

This year with the the arrival of COVID-19 the ABC (especially the "Coronacast" podcast) has become my daily "go to" source of information.

But the ABC also brings me up to date accurate information on many other issues vital to Australia, such as fire, flood, famine.

News stories are not the only fantastic job the ABC does, with its range of various TV entertainment that is uniquely Australian.

All that the ABC does helps contribute to and sustain our unique Australian culture. I wish that the ABC is protected from budget cuts. Please do not reduce budget funding for the ABC.

Kind regards,

Doug Settem

Doug S
QLD 4500

To whom it may concern,

I write this to add my voice to the demands to spare the ABC from the vicious right wing ideological push to change it and ultimately destroy it. I listen to radio during the day and I cannot stomach commercial radio, so I only listen to ABC Radio National and if the ABC is sold to become yet another commercial radio network, I will have no radio to listen to.

There are going to be more emergencies like fire and flood and commercial radio cannot compare to the ABC in the assistance it gives to country people at these times.

The hard right don't even bother to justify their actions against the ABC these days because they know there is no justification for them.

Doug McCallum

Doug (unix admin 25 years) M
QLD 4570

I live in an area that had spot bushfires on several occasions and the reporting by ABC was very useful / timely to allay my concerns about safety and if / when to leave the area.

Also, I believe the ABC has a more accurate approach to reporting on political events than other sources of information.

Please do NOT make further cuts to ABC funding. I believe ABC is already in a seriously difficult situation regarding proper funding support. Any further cuts could be a disaster for all of us.

Douglas H
VIC 4565

We, the Australian community need the ABC. It provides responsible, reliable, balanced and unbiased news and public interest programs. We lived through Black Saturday, defended our home, and the only contact we had with the outside world was the ever reliable ABC. Now through the Covid crisis we again can rely on the ABC. Commercial media is shallow, biased and frankly bordering on dangerously irresponsible.

The ABC keeps us informed and always presents both sides of a debate. Those that oppose the ABC fear that they will be exposed. We will still need the ABC long after the IPA and our current crop of self serving politicians, and their advisers, are vaguely remembered like something nasty we have stood in. Keep the ABC, our democracy depends on it.

Douglas W
QLD 3714

I have absolutely no faith in most of the major news outlets which in this country are controlled by the Murdoch press. My opinion in this regard has recently been justified by the resignation from the Murdoch organisation of the director, James Murdoch, who left citing dissatisfaction with the lies and misinformation published by the Murdoch press.

I rely on the ABC for truthful and factual information about Australian and World current affairs.

at a time when hundreds of billions of dollars of taxpayers money are being spent (largely) for the benefit of the Australian community, it makes no sense to reduce the funding to the main factual communicator for that same community. Reduced funding for the ABC can only restrict its ability to provide the effective and essential service that I and all Australians rely on on a daily basis.

Damian Gaffney

Dr Damian G

QLD 4061

As for the past 45 years, the morning news at 7:45 sets my day. My morning routine is governed by listening to this news source that I trust. Throughout the uncertainties of 2020, I have always turned to my local ABC for information.

Dr Laurel M

QLD 4216

I rely heavily on the ABC, and I pay taxes. How about the 1000s of large companies that pay no tax start to do some of the lifting around supporting our public broadcaster. They should all be paying if they are earning, not shifting profits offshore into subsidiaries. Just ask ExxonMobil, maybe they will support the ABC, or at least pay something towards supporting our country!

Drew N

QLD 4552

ABC has been the place to go for me to get the news - all other media outlets are full of advertising and attention getting interruptions and advertisements.

ABC is a community service that we pay for and that we want to stay and that we see the value in.

Drew W

VIC 4000

I listened to ABC during the early 1940s on a car battery charged at local garage!

Apart from ten years overseas, I have always enjoyed ABC

Dugald McLachlan

Dugald M

NSW 3132

I am an age pensioner and live on my own - nothing wrong with either of those. I still work but less than in my hayday. I still exist and contribute to the social fabric, as well as loving my kids and grandkids. I live with a low footprint - my home is off-grid and also autonomous for water supply, and sewerage. I don't ask much of the system but I do ask one thing:

please let me stay informed about the world, the nation, the state of NSW, my region, and my local area. I do that through ABC radio and TV.

Right now, I rely on the ABC to inform me on COVID-19, for my own safety and for that of the nation. Last November I relied on the ABC to inform me on bushfires, including the Mount Nardi fire that came to 4 km from my house. Later that summer, I relied on the ABC to keep me informed about fires in other regions where I have friends and family.

I want to know that the ABC will be there for me and for all of us, to keep an unbiased eye on things and to let me know what's going on.

If this was a movie, I'd say "Don't mess with the ABC".

Duncan D

NSW 2482

We need to keep the ABC for its investigative journalism and its propensity to keep the mainstream fake news and innuendo in the public eye. ie: Media Watch, Mad as Hell, four corners, fact check, insiders and 7.30 report are just some

If you gut the ABC do so at your own peril, country folk have long memories.

duncan w
WA 2478

Fortunately I live in Perth which escaped summer bushfires this year compared to the Eastern States, but I have found it equally important to watch the news and live broadcasts about COVID-19.

Other than the ABC's importance during pandemics and climate change catastrophes, I find the programmes such as Four Corners and Q&A, Compass, Landline, Back Roads, and many more keep me in touch with the 'pulse' of Australia in a way no other channel does.

e W
NSW 6107

My family and I have always been able to rely on the ABC for impartial reporting (and this should not cause the government to cut its funding, just to avoid oversight) as well as crucial aid in emergency situations. This last summer we were constantly checking the progress of several bushfires quite close to us here on the outskirts of Bathurst.

We trust and rely on the ABC. It should be protected from cuts.

Ed M
NSW 2795

I am a university researcher and lecturer, and sometimes consultant. My area of expertise is Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples' rights and interests and how they intersect with land tenure systems, land use planning systems and land management systems.

I listen to the ABC radio and TV everyday. never a day passes without tuning into an ABC radio station or ABC TV current affairs and news broadcasts. I do NOT listen to commercial radio or TV because they fail to deliver quality and accuracy in their news and current affairs broadcasts. Commercial radio and TV rarely tell the full story, let alone the truth. Besides, if I listen to every advertisement and spend in response to everyone of them, my debts and deficit would be Sky-high (pun intended!)

I listened to the ABC all the way through the bushfire crisis for updates and through the C-19 pandemic. As a university lecturer and researcher, it is very important that I am up to date and fully informed.

I also rely on the ABC to hold our politicians to account for all their promises, and to fact-check their claims. This is an important part of our democracy.

There should be no further cuts to the ABC budget. In fact, it would support a ten-fold increase in its budget.

Ed W
WA 2913

I've relied on the ABC to tell the truth without fear or favour through their news coverage, 7:30 Report and The Drum. This exposes news and views that those in power, whether government power or economic power, would rather not have broadcast. News that is factual. News that is authoritative, such as about face masks and the spread of COVID-19 aerosol droplets. News about fake news and conspiracy theories. News about people's ridiculousness opposition to sensible measures.

Plus, the ABC broadcasts new ideas, innovation and alternative ways of doing things, whether it be about energy, waste, climate change, bushfires, water usage or transportation.

The ABC also sends messages of hope and joy, such as the videos from kids and grandparents connecting during COVID-19 lockdown.

Eddy W
QLD 6150

I've relied on the ABC almost exclusively for reporting the critical information needed to navigate this year. They report the situational facts of the situation whether it be where a fire is or what the current covid numbers and restrictions are and keep their politics separate to the situation.

I've also relied to an extent, on ABC programming to take the edge off 2020 with new and old comedy a favourite; to find something funny in the doom and gloom.

Eden A
NSW 4814

During the bushfires, we were trying to make our way home. The wind was shifting, there was a smash on the highway, and the fire trucks kept passing so it was impossible to see the way to go. Listening to the ABC and people calling in, we were able to determine the route ahead that was not on fire. We got home about 2 to 3 hours later than otherwise, but very grateful for the ABC and a trustworthy source of information. Without this we would have been forced to camp in the car and been in an insecure position not knowing exactly where the fire fronts were.

Edward R
NSW 2065

I have found the ABC to be an excellent broadcaster as long as I can remember. Its news and current affairs programs are always of the highest quality and the presenters are always objective though at times, merciless in interviews with politicians which I like. The coverage of the bushfires was extensive, and I was kept informed and up to date at all times. The same applies to the Covid19 coverage in both news and current affairs programs such as Foreign Correspondent and Four Corners. All in all, Aunty is our preferred television channel and we are disgusted at the attempts to reduce its effectiveness by funding cuts!

edward r
NSW 2100

Please restore indexation to the ABC budget and increase funding.

At present many other news sources are detrimental to the country..eg people refusing to wear face masks during COVID due to influences on the Internet. You should be aware of the excellent and steady advice re COVID on the ABC thanks mainly to Dr Norman Swan who has been untiring in his efforts to inform the population how to keep safe and keep others safe.

Other news sources such as Sky and news breakfast shows stir up controversy to gain audience thus encouraging ideas unhelpful to good government

Four Corners has exposed so many areas of concern such as the Workers Compensation problem in NSW

Good journalism is a rare commodity at present and funding the ABC will have many benefits to the Government

Most voters want to see more funding to the ABC since the great work did in the recent bush fires. This bush fire season may be a bad one too. I hope the ABC can afford to put as much help in this time for residents all over Australia.

Edward and Barbara K
VIC 2076

As an elderly person I rely so much on the ABC's

reliable news without all the spin and the quality shows they present.

My children live in country Victoria and their reliance of the ABC during the bush fires was life saving for one of my daughters.

Would not listen or watch any other Radio or TV stations.

Edwin B
VIC 3163

I watch and listen to the ABC for most of my TV and News its is the first channel I put on in the morning to source reliable and credible information for fact and trustworthy reporting by professional journalism. I am not or ever will be interested in the sensationalism rubbish from channels 10,7 and 9, The ABC is part of our DNA it is part of our every day entertainment wether it be media documentaries etc, the Federal government is doing a great injustice to it,s listeners and followers and insults our integrity and intelligence to think we will ever suffer Murdoch and his ideologies, then think again we won't, give back our ABC.

Edwina S
QLD 3094

To the Federal government ~

Without the ABC there wont be anything worth watching. Its all that s left of unbiased ethical str8 shootin rootin viewing.

Its all there is left we can trust.

How are we going to know what s ACTUALLY happening?

Please no more cuts!

Thankyou

eileen j
WA 4051

I normally live in remote Australia and have found myself isolated in Perth sorting out a family matter.

The ABC radio news is there on the hour when i have been waking with anxiety in the early hours; the sound of familiar voices help sooth me and put me back to sleep.

Programmes through the day keep me informed of whats happening in the outside world; Life Matters and other daily programmes give me food for thought, the familiar voices are like old friends chatting with me.

The two Michaels - Mackenzie and Cathcart, Geraldine Doogue ... i might not know the other names but i know their voices. Weekends are great; i love Saturday mornings listening to Blue Print for Living and Sunday i listen out for Tweet of the Week and then do my yoga in front of Insiders; I've never been too interested in organised sport and yet Outsiders manages to make it interesting.

Of course i catch the ABC news each evening on TV and make my selection of what to watch afterwards (only ABC and sometimes SBS)... when i have finished tuning in i am off to bed to catch the last ABC radio national news update on the hour - short and sufficient update ... i often go to sleep before its finished ...

In isolation and away from my husband ABC has kept me sane and connected, i have no idea how i'd be without it.

My husband and i disagree with any cuts to the ABC; we want our taxes to go towards reinstating those cuts that have already been implemented... ABC has been my company not only during these last few challenging months but through the decades; Playschool was the best part of the day for our three sons.

It goes without saying while ABC keeps me company, the quality of the reporting is second to none.

With my kind regards Eileen (aged 69)

Eileen M
ACT 6003

Hi

I'm a current PhD student who grew up in rural NSW close to the Victorian border. This summer my parents property was threatened and eventually burnt out by the Green Valley bushfire. Through out the weeks that our property was threatened we relied on the ABC for updates. Without those updates we would have not had as clear a picture of the situation both locally and nationwide.

I demand that no cuts be made to the ABC in the 2020/2021 budget. If anything I believe that previously cut funding should be restored.

Eilysh T
NSW 2644

All the talking points listed in this article have touched me in some way...mainly emotionally in all of the reasons given above. ABC comes on my radio/s 7.30am daily and is not turned off till 6.30pm.

During this crisis the programmes, the presenters, and the general content have kept me informed, entertained, and has helped ease the sense of being alone. With great pride to me my daughter worked for the ABC until this week. I remember emailing my friends locally and interstate to watch the show and look out for her name on the end credits. Love the ABC. Elaine Dixon.

Elaine D
NSW 2154

The ABC continues to be an invaluable part of my life, but especially this year - 2020.

Firstly, with the bushfires at the beginning of the year, I could rely on the ABC to give reliable, up-to-date and important information such as the location of the fires, the sudden development of emergency situations, and an understanding of what was happening across the country so I could be aware of whether other family members, and friends were in danger.

Secondly, with many conspiracy theories being flashed around, as well as wild statements being made, such as about politics, or current affairs, I am always turning to the ABC/RMIT Fact Checker for an independent investigation into the truth of a situation.

Thirdly, I really appreciate the investigative journalism of programs like Four Corners to explore issues which others wish to avoid, deny or pretend isn't so. For example, the treatment of our vulnerable elderly in nursing homes. Thanks to the ABC we got a Royal Commission into this terrible and shameful situation.

Fourthly, I can rely on the ABC to provide independent and unbiased news coverage.

Fifthly, both sides of politics develop a dislike for the ABC because of the hard questioning they are given in current affairs programs such as the 7.30 report; but in spite of politicians' attempts to brand the ABC as biased, the criticism is never established as a systemic failure through numerous reviews.

Politicians just don't like being held to account and to have their policies scrutinised. But this is crucial for our democracy.

Sixthly, where would we get serious news coverage if it were not for the ABC and SBS. Do we really want to be subject to the level of news coverage from the commercial channels - which is playing to the lowest common denominator, featuring scandal, lightweight stories and excessive advertising.

Seventh, the ABC is responsible for so many of the best Australian content. Commercial channels rarely produce serious quality Australian content. - they prefer to focus on lightweight soaps. It's the ABC where I turn to, to watch good Australian films and documentaries.

It is shameful that the budget of the ABC has been cut by successive budgets over the past 10 plus years.

It's an indication that the ABC is doing its job when governments resent the scrutiny of their policies. The shameful situation with the current secretive court case over the bugging of the East Timorese government is a clear indication of how embarrassed governments can be and how they do everything possible to hide the truth.

The weasel words being used by the Prime Minister to claim that there are no budget cuts to the ABC is another attempt of a government to hide from the truth and to fail to take inflation into account. In spite of positive steps by the ABC to streamline its operations, the government continues to reduce the amount of funding to the ABC.

It is time to maintain and increase, not reduce, the funding to the ABC so that its operating budget, in real terms, is not affected.

I do not wish to see any more slashing of important programs because of cuts, in real terms, to the ABC funding.

Thanks to the ABC, we can be confident that the truth will always be revealed - later, if not sooner.

Elaine E

VIC 2062

I have family living in East Gippsland and I was very reliant on the ABC to give me correct information each day as the fires got closer to their town. This is not the first time I have relied on the ABC to keep me alert to fires in the surrounding area.

Elaine N

VIC 3850

I have always relied in the ABC for unbiased information especially during times of Emergencies as they do not inundate you with ads every 5 minutes breaking into important information like the 6 week Level 4 lockdown and they stay the course giving you the entire picture not little sound bites. I fortunately wasn't affected by the bushfires but their comprehensive controlled coverage of them must have been a godsend to the people who were directly affected by them.

So why does the Government want to cut their budget as they are the first T.V. station they go to and ask the ABC to inform people who are in the affected areas to listen to either the ABC's radio broadcasts or T.V. station??

Elaine P

QLD 3168

I urge the federal government to fund the ABC adequately, based on ABC's determination of adequate. Why?

This year the fires, droughts and corona virus meant a lot of us turned to the ABC for FACTUAL, TRUSTWORTHY, RELIABLE information not available anywhere else in a consistent manner.

The corona virus has frightened many of us. I was grateful and assured by being able to tune in morning after morning of ABC TV and radio RN announcements from premiers, PM, chief health officers. These sources gave me reliable information. Sometimes the web sites were slow to post what the news and ABC current affairs announcements brought. So the ABC was my main source of information about the lockdown measures, what we have to do personally to prevent the spread of the virus etc. It was disheartening to hear how youth mainly and others lost jobs. It was heartening to hear that the federal government put up funds to help those out of work and those who could be kept in work. All this reported on the ABC.

In times of crisis or stress I rely on the ABC to provide honest reporting. We are living in fearful times. I have relied more on the ABC this year than ever before as so much guff is published everywhere. And so many divisive, abusive, dangerous ideas banded about.

Thank God for Norman Swan, other ABC TV and RN presenters who have kept us calm with their incisive reporting and presentations of government strategies to keep us all safe.

Please, please give the ABC the money it requires to fund its services without losing staff. Too many layoffs already. And we have lost our voice in the Pacific regions, Asia etc. Why has this been allowed to happen?

Saving a buck in the short term has cost many bucks in the long term and this trend is being encouraged by successive governments who fail to fund the ABC adequately. I would have no reliable source of information if the ABC had to reduce its reporting on emergencies, crises and also the misbehaviour of people.

Please see beyond the embarrassments and please see a democratic voice. Not being right wing isn't the same as being left wing. The ABC is neither left or right it is centre ground - majority middle. Those who complain of left wing bias are right wingers. Left wingers complain of the ABC being too conservative. Poor ABC. Can't win.

I ask the government to fund the ABC so no staff cuts are required.

Thank you,

Eli Sky

Eli S

QLD 4223

The ABC is my lifeline to the rest of Australia and The World. What would I do without my ABC Family and the independent and unbiased News of the World. As I have family members working at the ABC my trust is further strengthened.

I trust the News, it's sources and how it is presented. My favourite extension programs of The Drum, Q&A, 4 Corners and Media Watch give me informed debate, discussion and challenge. Without the News and related programs I would live in ignorance in Very small shallow World.

I feel concerned about many righteous and ultra right political views in Australia today and especially the standard of our human rights laws. By following many programs on My ABC I at least get hope and courage that the Country isn't completely apathetic.

Keep up the good work, hopefully with majority support no matter what the political persuasion.

Thank you.

Elinor Cox

Elinor C

NSW 4217

I'm a 75 year old woman and I live alone. From the outset of the coronavirus lockdown in March I've depended on the ABC, particularly Norman Swan, for reliable unbiased information. I'm never confident of the advice emanating from this government's advisors.

As an enthusiastic consumer of theatre, film, opera, symphony concerts I've felt their loss deeply. I've constructed my retirement around these arts. I've therefore depended also on ABC-TV, Radio National and ABCiview to provide the stimulation I've missed so deeply.

And it goes without saying that ABC staff provided untiring support for bushfire affected residents. It's vital that the ABC's funding is not just sustained but INCREASED.

elisabeth k

VIC 2022

I implore you not to make any more cuts to the ABC. The year 2020 has been disasterous for Australians and the ABC (news 24) is the ONLY network I have relied upon to give me accurate, non-biased and reliable information about the bushfires and the Covid-19 pandemic.

I am seriously concerned that the rest of our news media outlets relay stories that benefit right-leaning, conservative folks and fossil fuel companies.

I also greatly appreciate Abc2's children's programs for education and entertainment. Not only are they extremely clever and creative shows that we have all enjoyed since our own childhoods, the educational help during homeschooling in the pandemic has been extremely helpful.

I believe there are other areas, mainly fossil fuel related, that we could (and should) remove funds from to pass on to worthier causes such as independent media.

Elizabeth D
ACT 3931

2020 has been a year when we have all needed a reliable source of news. I live in regional NSW and we have relied on the ABC for all our news but especially for news coverage of:

1. The bushfires - without the ABC updates, radio as well as TV, we would not have been so well informed about the outbreaks. The ABC literally saved lives during this time - so why would you cut their services.
2. During flood times we rely on the ABC for information and for safety.
3. With our rural newspapers being cut we rely on the ABC for local, topical news as well as for UNBIASED national and international news. Our local private enterprise news is being cut and so are becoming less informative. There is virtually no regional media services available as they are all controlled by the capital cities. So the ABC is essential for regional Australians.
4. The ABC is basically the only TV station we watch as the others are just commercial rubbish.
5. During the Covid-19 spread the ABC has been an essential and accurate source of news and updates. Segments such as Dr Swan's have been invaluable, as have the reports of outbreaks and government policies etc. Constant news updates and alerts have been issued and are vital to all Australians. Living close to the NSW-Victorian border we rely on updates for permit conditions and alterations.

Elizabeth D
VIC 2650

I am a 76 year old pensioner and have been an ABC fan all my life. My radio switches between 774 ,radio national and classic fm and television is mainly on ABC. The government must listen to the opinions of a large amount of the population who realise that the service provided is essential, reliable and well loved.

Elizabeth G
NSW 3931

The ABC embodies, defines and reflects so much of the Australian spirit and character. It is a vehicle for storytelling about our culture, the complex patchwork of our origins and the changing dynamic of our ongoing development as a nation. It provides a means of challenging us about our values and calling us to new perspectives. It provides outstanding programs for children, quality humour and drama and the best debates on matters of local and national interest. If we are to be a strong democracy we need new ideas, vigorous debate and media independence, and this requires adequate funding. We need transparency in government.

In addition the ABC fulfils a profoundly important role of communication provision at times of crisis. Look at the bushfires which ravaged so much of Australia this past summer and now the widespread trauma and upheaval caused by the pandemic. The ABC is a widely trusted and respected source of information. We can see so clearly in our world the harmful role of misinformation and "fake news".

We need a powerful independent media arm which is prepared to critique government and corporations and hold them to account.

Please be generous in your funding of the ABC. So many Australians value it highly and rely on its information provision.

Kind regards,
Elizabeth Greef

Elizabeth G
NSW 2049

As a small scale grower/producer in regional NSW, the ONLY media I can rely on to feel that I am "not alone" in my endeavours is Landline. This, coupled with Gardening Australia, is the basis for my entire business.

Through Gardening Australia I keep up to date with what to grow and when. I learn about unusual foods and, in particular, bush tucker (which is part of my growing cycle).

Landline is my staple. I see so many other small scale growers who have worked hard to produce a great product and I am encouraged that what I am doing is the right thing. I see other clean, green, organic growers who are doing similar things to me (although with different food sources) and I KNOW, as a proud Australian, that what I am doing is part of a bigger picture.

We need to look after our ABC. It is key to so many aspects of Australian life.

Elizabeth G
NSW 2324

I listen to nothing but the ABC. In good times Classic FM, for news ABC24 and in an emergency any ABC connection. I am almost 93 and trust their advice and opinions. Please don't allow the Government to cut their funding.

Elizabeth H
QLD 2087

I am appalled to read that a police officer has been concussed by a woman refusing to wear a mask in Melbourne on grounds that can only have come out of science fiction, except that they come out of false social media reports that I find unthinkable for anyone who hears ABC RN daily, and is aware of the science and evidence behind the mandating of masks. When my neighbour wants to tell me that Australia is being run on a false constitution instead of the real one, and my sister tells me that vaccines are a deadly plot, when a businessman I phone tells me that Hydroxychloroquine will cure COVID which is just a harmless disease, I am horrified, and thankful that I can offer a different narrative because of the comprehensive coverage that the ABC provides. For the government to continue to allow any medium to spout dangerous lies while cutting support to the ABC is, in my opinion, a crime equal to treason. Without the balance and reliability of the ABC, I believe our nation is very prone to civil disorder on a much larger scale than that seen today on the streets of Melbourne. COVID is dangerous, but the conspiracy peddlers are even more dangerous. Let's beef up the ABC, not allow it to decline into an 'alternative' as though all media are of equal credibility. Let's give it the teeth to expose the on-line fabricators and provide the reliable information needed for a stable and resilient society capable of surviving COVID without disintegrating.

Elizabeth H
VIC 4719

As a rural listener I was glued to the ABC for bushfire advice in my area. It was a terrifying summer and the ABC provided the most reliable up to date information possible. Now with coronavirus I get the most valuable facts from the most trustworthy and credentialled guests. I have pain and limited mobility and the ABC is on 24/7. It is my news supplier, my entertainment and my companion. The ABC needs more money to increase its essential services.

Elizabeth J
NSW 3825

I would have been lost without the ABC during the fires earlier this year and also more recently with COVID 19. There is only one media outlet that I absolutely trust and that is the ABC. It is sad that budget cuts mean they're struggling to do more with less because all my friends and family rely on the ABC absolutely for accurate, up-to-date information during crises and emergencies.

Elizabeth M
NSW 2586

I cannot imagine my daily life without the ABC. This is the one I go to for News I feel I can trust with coverage that is fair and independent. The quality of the news and reporting is of a high standard and get to the nitty gritty. The coverage of the bush fires was excellent as also their coverage of world news. Children love their programmes and it would be a great loss to all the community to see ABC funds cut. The Australian Government in my view have an obligation to the Australian community to continue to adequately fund this amazing broadcasting service and let it continue to serve ALL of Australians the way it has for a very long time. ABC is trustworthy. It is truly beyond me to understand that there would be in anyway fund cuts. What are they thinking!!

Elizabeth M
VIC 2060

To whom it may concern

Quite frankly I doubt if I would have survived the last few months mostly in lockdown here in Victoria without the ABC. I begin the day with ABC news and all during the day tune into ABC radio as I go about my tasks or do exercise etc.

Radio National gives me interesting discussion, book reviews and interviews to nourish my intellect, ABC Classic FM provides me with beautiful music to nourish my soul and to which I do exercises, ABC TV at night gives me quality programmes to enjoy. At all times it also provides me with the necessary information re Covid19 and what is happening in the world.

I have been an ABC fan since a small child as a member of the Argonauts Club and this has continued through my life. Please may it be retained and supported as it is a treasure to be protected and an extremely important part of the Australian way of life.

Elizabeth M
QLD 3124

My family relied on the BBC for fabulous reporting during and following the second world war. Whilst the world seems to be facing continuous challenges and also tragic events I continue to turn to ABC TV and Radio for reliable, sophisticated reporting with integrity - Australia's BBC. My sense is that if they were not so good at what they do, - often risking their lives and not always keeping them, - and transparent they would not be under threat. But I wonder if the government has ever realised that it will shine brighter and increase enormously in public ratings if it can embrace fine, honest reporting, with matching integrity such as we continue to experience this year. We are all crying out for healthy debate and people in office we can look up to and trust because they take on board public debate. because they consider the benefit of all rather than just the next election. The fires, the drought, the exportation of live animals, the COVID19 pandemic have all been covered with reliable, clear, and fabulous ABC reporting. Those who suffered the most from these disasters relied totally on ABC to keep them reliably informed at all times. Why, why. why should this quality of reporting be continually undermined?
Let us keep the ABC, support it, and strengthen it in its work to keep us informed, as it has done so magnificently this year in particular.

Elizabeth M
VIC 4068

The ABC was the only radio reception we could get once the power had gone out during the bushfires on the NSW south coast this summer. Without that connection to the outside world I, my children, my partner, my sister and my mum would have had no idea how far the fires were from us, which roads were closed, what the weather was doing or how family and friends in other affected areas were fairing. It was an absolutely terrifying experience and without the ABC it would have been far far worse. Please fund the ABC appropriately, we can not live without it.

Elizabeth R
WA 3011

Through out my life living in both rural and city places I have relied on the ABC for factual information around many facets of my life.
Being able to access proper journalism not opinion but facts on many areas of our community, cultural and political life is integral to the proper functioning of our society.
The reporting on natural disasters and covid has been exemplary at a time when malicious misinformation abounds.
The ability to podcast and listen again and again to come to a full understanding of difficult issues is excellent.
The defunding of such an important and neutral service is a risk to our democracy. To have a reliable and unbiased service no matter the colour of the government is important. The community recognises that defunding this important service is a chipping away at our democracy.

Elizabeth R
NSW 6330

Same as above. Bloody Liberal Government are trying to silence the truth & discussion presented by them hence their failure to interviews & discussions on the ABC but only on commercial channels.
Totally their way of stopping unbiased truths being made public

Elizabeth R
NSW 2533

The ABC is the best channel at responding to & reporting on current Australian issues. Shows such as Four Corners, A Current Affair, Australian Stories & Q & A reflect views & provide information on real people around us & their views & personal experiences.
The bushfire coverage was excellent & helped me understand what was happening in my own area of the Blue Mountains as well as other areas where I have family & friends living. This was helpful as we felt in personal danger & were concerned about our friends who live in rural areas.
The variety of sources for their news, topic experts, politicians, views of people working in the area helps to deepen understanding of issues & this informs our actions. I just read an informative article on the best face masks to wear to protect from corona virus infection and will be purchasing or making one ASAP. Working in a health related area it is important to make good decisions on the best way to protect self & others. Learning from errors that have been made & improving ways of working are potentially life saving actions. Information is sought from various sources to ensure reliability & consistency. The ABC is one of those sources.
I highly value the ABC, for it's up to date news, high Australian dramas and films. It is about, for & by Australians. Please subsidise this valued platform.

Elizabeth S
NSW 2777

The first thing I hear every morning is the News on ABC Illawarra, the 7.45am bulletin followed by AM. Even in these stay-at-homes times I set my radio alarm so I can hear the important information these programs contain.

Norman Swan's CoronaCast before 10am is another must, as is The Conversation from 11 to 12, then the news bulletins throughout the afternoon.

During the bushfires the radio was tuned to ABC Illawarra day and night. Fires came quite close to our house in Kangaroo Valley and during this anxious time my husband and I relied on the ABC to keep us abreast of the progress of the fire front and to relay the advice from the Rural Fire Service regarding when we might need to evacuate. At this time the ABC was literally a life line.

Every evening I look forward to the ABC's TV offerings (dramas, docos and comedies as well as the 7pm News). Sitting by the fire and watching the ABC's many excellent programs is the high point of every day for me. This is especially so now that visitors are few and far between.

The many presenters on the ABC have come to feel like friends to me. Even though I haven't met them in person, they have been 'on air' long enough that I feel I know them. They certainly come across as warm, caring and intelligent, and concerned with the well-being of their listeners.

In future there will be more catastrophic bushfire seasons and likely more health or other emergencies that our nation has to face. Without the ABC - our emergency broadcaster - we could find ourselves 'up the creek, without a paddle'. I know I'm just one of millions who believe that it's vital we have our ABC at full capacity.

Elizabeth T
NSW 2577

As we lurch from bushfires to floods to coronavirus, the thing that keeps me sane is knowing I have access to reliable, evidence-based, local information every day from the ABC.

The ABC's regional reporting told me which of my friends were at risk from the fires over the summer and might need some support. The ABC now keeps me abreast of the news on COVID so that I can plan my life and my work. Norman Swan's COVID reports give us the best science available in language we can understand. They cut through the nonsense from spokespeople pushing their agendas, and from the fake news and partisan politicking that appears in my social media and in papers like the Daily Telegraph.

The ABC is a gem and we should be increasing its funding, not cutting it.

Elizabeth W
NT 2042

I trust the ABC to deliver open and honest stories - the ABC is the first place I google to get the latest news when I'm not at home and watching the news broadcasts.

With this pandemic touching many areas of Australian industries, and people from all walks of life, I feel safe in knowing the reporting that is presented is up-to-date and relevant and made with integrity - I go to the ABC for getting the answers I need to keep informed. Please do not make any reductions to our beautiful ABC - give it a hand up - not a slap down.

Elizabeth W
NSW 830

As my children grow up, the ABC is the best and safest broadcaster of children's television, online and printed content. They're educated, entertained and not influenced by commercial advertising. (It's enough of a challenge negotiating the supermarket or mall without bring the temptations into the home!)

As adults, the ABC has been our essential source of critical information at times of need - the bushfire cover was phenomenal and, as we were travelling through necessity up and down the eastern seaboard, critical.

Living regionally means that the ABC including ABC Radio, is an absolute essential. A life saving essential.

COVID coverage has given us the facts, the information and explanations we've needed.

And an essential part of our economy will be the film and content production industries which employ so many people. I don't know how we'll develop a strong Australian industry and voice without the ABC being able to take the risks and the opportunities, to produce or help produce the content Australia needs to create. Beachside soapies and Highway Cop variations just don't fill the bill!

Aussie doco's, comedies, music, drama's etc - we need to have the choices that the ABC creates and/or broadcasts as a balance to everything else that's on offer.

Please, don't let political agenda's sway and influence decisions on the national broadcaster which is here for all of us. We need it to give Australia an independent platform and voice. And if it is further diminished or, god forbid, closed, Australia is lost.

Eloise N
NSW 2481

The ABC is my go-to broadcaster, first when I lived in Sydney and now in regional NSW.
I listen to ABC radio and watch ABC television for news, the stories behind the news, analysis and entertainment.
The ABC is invaluable, especially in times of trouble.
In my opinion the ABC should receive more funding instead of being subjected to budget freezes and budget cuts.

Elvira d
QLD 2324

As an educator, I rely on ABC news for all my updates. We no longer have newspapers where I live, and the ABC news is most reliable, authentic and non-bias. As a family we also rely on its Dramas so watch as they are well cast, topical and address issues of current society. I can't stand commercial TV as it's full of sensationalised broadcasting and driven by ranking and popularity. Our children are growing up watching ABC for its clear and non-bias delivery. Give them that opportunity by not cutting the ABC budget. Please.

Em W
VIC 4703

I rely on two things only for news about Covid-19 and any other event in Australia- common sense and the ABC!
No news service is perfect but some are less perfect than others. Because the ABC belongs to the public, we have a duty to keep it well resourced so it can do its job for all of us.
I don't trust news which is privately owned because it's main focus is not the public's interest but private pockets. And that constant ear bashing of advertisements is soooooo annoying!
So stop cutting resources from our only reliable news source in times of need like bushfires and pandemics polities, give yourselves a pay cut instead!

Emily C
VIC 3054

The ABC is my consistent and reliable source of accurate information regarding the COVID-19 pandemic. They provide expert information and analysis of the situation as it unfolds. This information and news is updated regularly in line with real-time developments. It is the first place I go to to check for news and information. They provide me and my family with confidence that we can access the best and safest information. This gives us a sense of stability and security in this fluid and unsettling situation.
In addition to this, the kids content has gives our kids stability and normalcy in an otherwise uncertain time, especially from Australian content such as Bluey and Little J and Big Cuz with local stories and accents which provides our kids with particular comfort and joy.

The ABC is the beating heart of our county. Please don't force it onto life support with restrictive budgets. We all deserve better than that. It's our ABC. Please fund it properly.

Emily S
SA 3051

Avid abc listener and viewer. Relying on abc 7.45 for my daily news dose

Emma B
NSW 5173

I love the ABC in Australia seeing it as a strong foundation of our modern day culture very similarly to the BBC in the UK as an impartial, world focused media agency.

Emma C
WA 2099

I stopped watching the news completely for at least 3 or 4 years because I was so frustrated with the sensationalism of it all and the bias, I deeply mistrust commercial media because there is so much opinion peddled as fact. I live in WA but my family are all in NSW, so during the bushfires, and any large scale disaster in Australia or around the world really, I was tuning in to the ABC 24 hour news channel every morning while I had my morning coffee to keep up to date with what was going on.

ABC is absolutely the only news source I trust, not only is it fair and factual, but it keeps the sensationalism in check. I particularly like Joe O'Brien in the mornings, he quite often has interesting little statistics or additional information on something that's more than just a sound bite.

Then when Coronavirus hit, I felt a deep-seated need to keep myself informed rather than relying on the advice of the politicians as their advice and priorities seemed to change to suit their agendas. Again, ABC is the only news source I trust for this.

This institution should be given the respect it deserves by our politicians. A country in which our only options are commercial ones is a sad prospect indeed.

Emma D
VIC 6966

The ABC is one of the only news channels that I can trust. It is integral to distributing honest and balanced information to the public that is not fueled by business, politics or agendas. It has been the most reliable source during this pandemic and through crises such as the bushfires, where society has been blanketed in fear-evoking and ineffective mainstream media.

Emma T
NSW 3199

I depend on the ABC for FAIR, UNBIASED reporting of local news. I can also depend on the ABC for QUALITY locally made television shows. Further cuts on the ABC will only result in the collapse of an Australian institution, one that provides a vital lifeline to those who live in country Australia.

Endriko T
QLD 2220

The ABC provides reliable regional and local news. Living regionally we would miss out on important and reliable news. FOUR CORNERS is presented by some of the most intelligent and talented journalists Australia produced. ABC, the only station that does not make me run away from the television due to unhealthy advertising of fast food and other life-style hazards that encourage Australians to be obese and misinformed. At night I listen to RN on 95.3. I love Nightlife with Philip Clarke. Great 'behind the news' presentations interviewing educated science honouring AUstralians. Well researched. I would be willing to pay a membership to keep this standard afloat. DO NOT DECREASE FUNDING OF THE ICON CALLED ABC.

Engelina B
NSW 4565

ABC reports on the Corona Virus have been informative and the reporters have been asking questions which I feel have been answered well but if there has been stalling the reporters have asked for more detail. Programs like Four Corners, Landline, and Media Watch give us some facts which have resulted in attention being focused on important problems requiring Government explanation and attention. One of my favorite programs has been Back Roads which shows Australian life outside the big cities and I was particularly pleased when they told the Biloela Family Story. Fortunately, I have been blessed in that I didn't have to suffer the devastating Bushfire experiences but I did hear of the big help that the ABC was to alerting the people when they were in danger. I grew up through World War 11 and can still remember that the ABC news was the most trusted in giving us daily information from the war zones.

Enid M
VIC 2151

My experience during a summer in Melbourne's outer suburbs: The only way to source information about the bush fire was via ABC TV as there was a delay with online information. Without the ABC I would NOT HAVE KNOWN that the bush fire was only one block away from me and that I was in danger. Australians need the ABC. It would be negligent and dangerous for the government to cut funding to the ABC.

Equa F
WA 3088

ABC RN is the ONLY reliable source of reporting, and of covering areas of interest to me. The programs that come immediately to mind are The Philosopher's Zone, The Science Show and, as a Christian Minister of Religion, I value Religion and Ethics.

More recently Dr Norman Swan's reporting on the coronavirus pandemic has been, and is, without peer. The Health Report is a program I rely on for balance and accuracy.

My regular listening also includes ABC FM.

I value that the ABC radio can be heard wherever I travel in Australia.

Eric M
QLD 6271

I watch and listen to the ABC. They entertain and educate children. They provide news that is a needed counterpoint to the commercial stations. They provide content that is more to my liking than most that is available on other networks. Mostly though during emergencies they are the most reliable source of information.

Eric M
NSW 4552

During the recent bushfires my wife and I were very grateful for the incredible coverage the ABC provided because my brother-in-law and his wife live close to Kangaroo Valley and conduct an animal sanctuary on their small property. Telephone contact was lost during the afternoon early evening on New Years Eve and it was only because of the round the clock service were we able to confirm that there property was not taken by the fires and that we were able to go to bed with the knowledge that they and their animals were safe.

No other news service is able to give that commitment and provide that coverage.

The same has to be said regarding the Covid-19 pandemic - just how members of the public would receive the updates and safety measures which change regularly without the ABC is a mystery to me.

Don't touch the ABC!

Eric White

Eric W
QLD 2010

2019 and 2020 have been years when we have needed accurate reliable information about what is going on our country and around the world . During the drought, the bush fires and Covid 19, ABC radio and television has kept us informed about the rapidly changing events. Importantly, we can rely on the ABC to provide information that we can TRUST. Having 'Aunty', has provided our family and community with a constant friend and companion, to guide and support us through the challenges of daily life. Please protect and support the ABC as an independent public broadcaster.

Erika H
TAS 4520

Hi, my name is Erin and I live in Ranelagh, in the beautiful Huon Valley of Tasmania.

When I sat down to write a little something to say how the ABC has been there for me during 2020 I realised something meaningful.

It's not just 2020 the ABC have been there for me. I grew up with the ABC. I watched Play School when it was Benita and John. We would always watch ABC news in the evenings after dinner when I was growing up. I've learnt about the world through watching current affairs like 7.30 and Lateline, Four Corners and Q&A. I've watching many groundbreaking Australian series and films on ABC Television, not to mention the amazing comedy that came up through series and sketch shows and evening variety shows. I LOVED Recovery on Saturday mornings as a teenager and would stay up and watch Rage with headphones on when bands would host and play their favourite music.

I used to drive to work listening to Triple J, now I'm older I listen to Radio National. I subscribe to so many of the ABC's podcasts for news and for entertainment that I listen to when I'm exercising or doing the dishes or laundry or cooking (I used to get a real kick out of the Cook and the Chef, then Poh's Kitchen).

I visit the ABC news website every morning when I wake up to check what is happening in Australia and the world, particularly with the global impact of COVID-19 it has been instrumental to keeping me informed.

The ABC is simply a part of my life and has formed who I am.

I need the ABC. Australians need the ABC.

Please, don't cut the ABC's budget in the October 2020/2021 budget. Please, restore funding that has already been cut.

Sincerely,

Erin G
TAS 7113

The ABC is the heart and engine of the Australian population. There TV & radio programs are first-class as is there journalists. The liberal government of Australia should be ashamed of themselves with the budget cuts they have put on this radio and tv ICON. With the number of awards they have won it speaks for itself.

Ernie P
NSW 7010

To me it seems, that all the TV stations equally responded to any adverse situation that we had to face in the past or present. Somehow, I have no 'issue' with any TV station. But at times I think, that the ABC does receive enough of the taxpayers money. They do a good work - for us indeed, I do agree.

Perhaps there are more important things to allocate our money.

But perhaps - we could 'sort out' some anomalies re;
the SBS. ? cheers. Ervin.

Ervin R
NSW 2763

I listen to the ABC NEWS in the morning, and watch the television broadcast at night. Because IT IS RELIABLE WITHOUT TELLING ME WHAT PRODUCTS I SHOULD USE! In fact a former college now an expatriate also watches the ABC television to hear reliable news from Australia.!

Eva S
VIC 2023

The ABC has been my go to site for news for the last few decades. Recently, they have got me through the bushfires, with their coverage providing reassurance as I listened for news of family in the fire zones, and for information about COVID-19.

ABC news can always be relied upon as thorough and sensible. Their impartiality is important to a balanced view of the issues affecting the world, and something I rely upon enormously.

Their programming is important to me also. ABC Kids is a wealth of quality viewing for my children, especially their original programming. We need more Australian content, and ABC serve an amazing array of Australian stories. It's wonderful to see their support of Australian programming, ensuring jobs for Australian actors and crews.

Their funding needs to be increased to allow them to continue doing their amazing work.

Eva v
NSW 3219

ABC should be independent from government and allowed to report news and information freely

And defunding it is criminal and it shows how low this government is by its actions

Evan B
NSW 2263

I rely on the ABC for balanced information about Emergencies even more so in recent times of Bushfires and the COVID pandemic. When traditional media appears to have lost interest in journalism and focusing more on "click-bait" I rely on the ABC to have local news and information.

My children have found the TV/on demand channels invaluable during homeschooling.

Overarching all of this my trust in government has been waning due to the level of donations that appear to affect decision making. The funding of a journalism body that remains independent of external influence is one of the only balancing factors in retaining trust in government. Please don't ruin this.

Evan D
TAS 2258

As a sometime liberal senate voter I totally object to any cuts to the ABC and implore you to reconsider any possible cuts. The ABC is a world class organisation which reports the news in a very professional way, whether it be on TV or radio. It's other fantastic news programs such Australian Story, Foreign Correspondent, Four Corners, 7 30; report and Morning Breakfast News are 2nd to none. The commercial channels are just insignificant in comparison.

The online news website is far superior to the BBC.

I rely on the ABC for all my news and trust them to give me honest reporting at a local, national and international level.

We as Australians are so lucky to have them and their wonderful journalists and production teams.

This year alone they have kept us updated with the NSW and Victorian Bushfires and the COVID-19 pandemic. I couldn't have managed without them.

Norman Swan and Alan Kola give amazing health and economic updates.

Give the ABC the credit and funding it deserves and PLEASE no cut backs to their budget.

I want to be able to continue to vote liberal.

Thank you for your attention

Eve M
VIC 7000

I am retired and live in a country town in Victoria. I have been a fan of the ABC for the last 40 years and it is my life line for both daily news, interest programs , entertainment and general information both on radio and TV. To be honest I don't listen or look at anything else either during the day or at night because I have found over the years that it provides the most high quality, factual, interesting and unbiased information available on the media. I can't bear the thought of having to resort to commercial radio and TV with their hysterical reporting and poor quality mundane programs. MY friends and family all have the same view and the younger ones also really appreciate the children's programs and comedy shows which they find far better than those offered by other media outlets.

PLEASE make no cuts to the ABC in the 20 - 21 budget.

Eve W
WA 3225

I trust the ABC so the news reports keep me informed without dramatic overstatement, thus contributing to calmness despite what is happening in the world.

I love music, so ABC FM brings me great pleasure while working, relaxing or driving.

I find programs such as Back Roads, You Cant Say That and Old People's Home for Four Year Olds, inform, illuminate my understanding, appreciation and admiration for my fellow Australians.

Quality drama programs like Stateless raise questions and explore issues with insight and skill.

thank you ABC

Eve W

VIC 6008

When the black saturday fires happened I relied on constant radio coverage from ABC because thier reporters were right in the know. At the time we managed a retirement village in Moe. Being Kiwis we didnt really understand the gravity until it got dark at 2pm from smoke. Without ABC keeping us up to date we were pretty worried for our residents and village. Thankfully we only had ash damage and the fires were stopped before reaching us. Full marks to ABC for being there on the day.

Eve. K

NSW 3280

As an older person of 78 years and living in a regional area, my appreciation of the abc updates during the bushfires was very important to me, I live near a national,park, and my days were of total smoke haze and anxiety, without the abc 24hr news updates I would have been totally isolated.

During this pandemic and the importance of reliable advice, I tune in to Dr Norman Swan on a daily basis, he has been my guide this entire time.

As I haven't ventured out and have been having my contactless shopping done for me, I am a regular viewer of the ABC for their ABC IVIEW programs, the local productions are brilliant, also the economy updates on the nightly news are by a highly qualified economist.

The news and weather reports are all of excellent quality, no sensationalism like the other over the top, frequent advertising stations.

I take an avid interest in politics, and really appreciate the ABC for a straight to the point, informative, well researched, well presented team of investigative journalists.

The ABC news app is excellent, it's my mobile phone "go to" every morning prior to getting out of bed.

Also SBS have excellent movies and various other series.

(The only time I am not tuned to the ABC is for the NRL.)

Evie W

NSW 2257

After I retired from full-time work I became a Lifeline crisis supporter, working on the phones for a decade. I was struck by the number of callers who had classical music playing, some mentioning that music helped them with their feelings of despair. Classic FM was a favourite. Now, some years later, in the midst of Covid-19, I start every day with ABC Classic. It's a combination of the music, the superbly talented presenters and the sense of 'family' - something I feel part of and deeply value.

I would also like to endorse the excellent work of Landline. I can't think of another national program that speaks so directly and with such an informative format, to regionalAustralia. We love it and take heart form hearing the shared stories; drought, floods, innovative farming ideas and up to date information on the markets. A brilliant contribution to country Australia.

Evol M

NSW 2582

I live in the Blue Mountains. The ABC for coverage was vital throughout the unprecedented 2019-2020 fire emergency.

Also the ABC produces and broadcasts Australian stories made by Australians.

Faith H

QLD 2783

We need the ABC to give us reliable trustworthy news and information. ABC needs well educated and well paid officers to produce all the thoughtful and in depth programs that we listen to to inform ourselves about the world in a rational and in-depth way. Please finance ABC properly so that it can continue its essential role in our community.

fay o

QLD 4061

My name is Faye as a senior citizen like all of my friends and our generation watch and rely on the ABC. It is the only channel we can trust for honest reporting ,plus we don't have to be bombarded with adds. The intertainment all appeals to us . All programs keep us informed as to what is going on in our lives . NO Cuts to the ABC it will effect the lives of so many.

Faye C
VIC 4211

The ABC is an Essential Service for all Australians and urgently needs funds for their operations As well, the Australian Arts depends on the ABC for many applications. I hope the Federal Government will remember this free to air Serbivr it gives all Australians

faye J
SA 3095

I live in the Adelaide Hills and in December last year my property was significantly impacted by the Cudlee Creek fire. It was only when I heard an advice to evacuate, broadcast on the ABC, that I realised just how close the fire had come (so quickly) and that I needed to get out straight away. I evacuated safely, but without the ABC I may have left it too late. The ABC's emergency broadcasts fulfil an extremely important role - one which is likely to become even more important in the uncertain future produced by climate change. Cuts to the ABC's funding have occurred with monotonous regularity over some years. It is important that this trend is halted and that funding for our national broadcaster is maintained at a level which allows it to fulfil its vital functions. Consequently I ask that there be no further cuts to the ABC in the budget.

Felicia B
NSW 5242

We relied completely on ABC reporting of the fires needing to know if they were an immediate threat and keep us informed of areas that our family and friends were living in. It was extremely important to know about the air quality die to asthma problems in our family. We could access this I formation any time we needed to. ABC did a supernova and much needed job.

Felicia C
NSW 2075

The ABC is the most essential media organisation in Australia. It provides a lifeline for so many people during crises and in every day life. It is such a good source of all sorts of news and entertainment across such a broad spectrum including all the local ABC radio stations as well as the major city stations. It keeps people from loneliness and isolation - more than many people would know about. Also, ABC TV provides so much news and background behind the news that is not available anywhere else. It gives politicians and other important people a platform to speak so that they can appeal directly to the viewing audience. For so many people it gives uninterrupted viewing of the huge variety of programming it produces to suit all age groups and and all people in our society. It is an absolutely essential part of Australia. The only thing wrong with the ABC and which only the government can fix is to stop taking massive funding away from the ABC and do the right thing - increase the funding massively and immediately. Thank you

Felicity B
VIC 2290

Dear Sir

I rely on the ABC for giving me facts and not headlines that are worrying and blown out of proportion. During the bushfires the ABC reported on where the fires were, what direction they were likely to take and their intensity, which was very helpful in my decision on routes to travel or even if I should travel. I relied on these news reports.

During the ongoing COVID-19 pandemic I am relying on the ABC Kids programs to entertain my grandchildren at the end of the day when we have exhausted ourselves with play at home, an hour in the park, and essential shopping expeditions. The programs for children are age-appropriate and attention grabbing. I don't like children watching hours of television, however, I find these programs encourage thought and action.

I believe the ABC is for everyone and very reliable and honest.

Regards

Felicity C
VIC 3219

Without the ABC I would know NOTHING about Covid-19 and what is required of citizens. My knowledge would be dependent on various people with various opinions

Felicity R
VIC 3102

I am a 48yr old women that has lived all over the world. I always find a way to tune into public broadcasting whether in Australia or abroad.

It gives me a calm, unsensationalised view of the world. Stories from the cities to the bush. Stories in a calm, educated, factual informative way. It seeks to bring the facts. It brings us together. It doesn't seek to divide us. It doesn't hide.

For example, Life Matters - what a team. Kind, caring listeners that explore topics so we can hear both sides of the debate. Coodabeen champions - fabulous. I don't like football but I listen to the Coodabeens every week and i love the members of the public contributing, young and old. God Forbid - incredibly informative. Off Track...The TV - Charlie Pickering, Shaun Mcaulef. Leigh Sales.

Australian society will be all the poorer when a strong public broadcaster is absent. Politicians need not fear but embrace. Let them do what they are capable and proud of doing.

Felicity T
NSW 3185

The ABC has been an essential service for my household this year, through multiple crises.

In January this year we were on holiday in NSW and relied on daily updates on bushfires to know where it was safe to travel. With hundreds of bushfires burning, it seemed like only the ABC had actual comprehensive coverage that went beyond the headlines, to cover every area. When we returned to Sydney we also relied on daily news reports on when it was safe to go outside and when the smoke was too hazardous.

In March and April we were in lockdown and we relied on the ABC for daily factual and accurate reporting on COVID. There was a lot of misinformation at the time, including many pundits getting airtime over doctors, but the ABC and Dr Norman Swan were a trusted source on what we had to do.

Since then they have given significant focus to economic analysis of our recovery options, at a time when other media simply focuses on the politicians' version and how much money each person might receive - short-sighted and largely useless information.

We have seen firsthand the importance of a properly funded ABC. We have seen firsthand that more budget cuts will further hinder their ability to give factual and comprehensive news and analysis. I trust the ABC above all other news sources and I know that it needs proper long-term funding, instead of cuts.

Felix T
VIC 2024

The ABC is my main source of news and analyses. I trust their fair and detailed analyses of issues including the coronavirus crisis, bushfires, floods and drought.

I depend on the ABC to hold those in power - including Government, institutions and business accountable - especially now, when it seems to me that deception is easily overlooked

The ABC's commitment to Australian stories, through shows like Back Roads and Australian Story - are very important to me - as they inform me as to the lives of my fellow Australians.

Most of all, I love the ABC for the courage and commitment they have to fairness and to the facts.

My Will is that you ensure the ABC's funding returns to at least its 2010 levels to ensure their great work continues.

Fernando L
VIC 3059

Living in a bushfire zone, we depend on the ABC to keep us informed during the bushfire season. We have also relied on the ABC for updates during the Covid 19 pandemic, particularly as we live in Victoria.

For my mother who is bedridden and unable to have visitors, the ABC provides her with contact with the outside world, as well as providing entertainment.

As an educated Australian I like to be informed, as well as entertained to the point where 80 to 90% of my media viewing is of the ABC or SBS. It's time to recognise the true value of the ABC and provide it with more funding, not less so it can continue to provide a quality, community service. This is especially true in light of the fact that Google and Facebook are going to be asked to pay for news articles, which helps private media organizations but because the ABC is publicly funded, once more it dips out.

Fiona C
ACT 3551

The ABC has been part of my life since the very beginning. I was brought up on its wonderful children's programming and we watched its high quality family drama as I grew through my teenage years. It was a life saver for me through the loneliness of an abusive childhood and I was able to lose myself in the positive stories of ordinary Australians and how they were able to lift themselves out of adversity to a better place.

As an adult, it was the ABC that informed me of the Brisbane floods, the destruction wrought by cyclones, fires and other disasters, and instilled in me the community spirit and knowledge needed to lessen the burden that victims of these catastrophies faced in the clean up effort. It's high quality documentaries gave me an interest in stories behind the news, lessons from history, an interest in economics and politics and developed in me strong social responsibility. And it was the ABC that has been the biggest motivator for me to volunteer in my community.

The ABC has given me the quality no nonsense knowledge and motivation I need to act in the interests of the Australian community and make the personal sacrifices required to keep our healthcare workers and more vulnerable citizens safe during this pandemic. My greatest fear is that without the ABC, the fake news, divisive opinions and sensationalist conspiracy theories spread by sky news, Rupert Murdoch and other commercial news outlets will destroy our democracy and bring this country to its knees. I consider the ABC and independent press to be a critical pillar of our democracy and without it we risk a rapid descent into anarchy, lawlessness and division. We are already seeing this in the midst of this pandemic where people are being encouraged and incited by shock jocks to push back against the critical social cohesion we need to combat this scourge. It is dangerous. It's divisive. And it is working against the interests of this nation and its inhabitants. The ABC is a lifeline and antidote to this dangerous mob mentality at the very times we need it most.

Fiona C
QLD 2602

Not only does the ABC bring us the latest news unbiased and without fear or favour but presents us with current affairs programs such as 7.30 Report, Foreign Correspondent, Media Watch, 4 Corners and a host of other programs which inform and entertain us with intelligent discussions and debates.

It is the quintessential right of every Australian to have access to the full range of ABC programs.

Do not be the government that kneecaps this invaluable asset.

Sincerely
Fiona

Fiona E
ACT 4101

Unlike our politicians the ABC is constant and reliably there for the people - be it in fires in choking smoke or during the pandemic.

'A country cannot call itself a sophisticated or developed nation unless it can tell its own stories.' [Stella Miles Franklin]

Stop the death by a thousand cuts to our ABC.

Fiona H
NSW 2602

We live near a huge stretch of bushland south of Sydney, and were packed to leave from mid November 2019 through to February 2020. By January we were all pretty frazzled and when the RFS fire app showed a fire near us at 4.30am, which we and the neighbours couldn't see, we rang the local ABC radio to get it verified. They confirmed it was a false alarm and broadcast that to put everyone's minds at ease.

Fiona M
NSW 2515

Every single day I listen and or watch the ABC.

I like to be informed by rational clever interviewers, and correspondents. I like to be entertained by smart witty radio hosts, I like to be informed by the up to date Podcasters, who have researched and interviewed many people. I love the music choice. What's not to like about the ABC? PLEASE Re instate a decent workable budget to sustain this very valuable resource.

fiona o
QLD 2576

My family live in a regional area and rely on the ABC for news, current affairs, and for radio public information during fires, floods, cyclones and any thing else that may effect our local area. The information that we get from the ABC is simply not available from other sources because we live in a regional area. They are an integral part of our family, community, state and nation.

We also rely on the ABC for news and information about global news, issues, current affairs.

Any cutbacks would be disadvantageous to my region, my state and the nation. During the previous fire season we relied on the ABC for information which was vital for I family because we are asthmatics and we were effected by smoke. The effects that we experienced were minimal compared to other communities, where I believe that the ABC information announcements were lifesaving for many communities around the country.

I have relied on the ABC during cyclones and the information that we accessed was vital so that we knew when to bunker down, and when it was safe to emerge outdoors. Literally life saving data during critical times.

The ABC has been the vital connection through many critical situations, they were at times my only link to the rest of the state. During fires and floods we have received updates on other areas where we have had loved ones or friends. The peace of mind, faith, trust and reliability that the ABC has given my family, community, state and nation cannot be overstated. This is a vital service, not an indulgence.

Fiona P
VIC 4680

its Vital we preserve the ABC. It's the only serious news Australians can rely on, and funding cuts will inhibit their ability to keep Australians in the loop with genuine information. Be it the bushfires or COVID updates, we need it. It's the only source I trust. Commercial news is corrupted and biased. We need the truth!

Fiona V
NSW 3192

My personal story matters. I fled domestic violence just prior to the start of the pandemic and was in a women's refuge for 5 months in Sydney with many other women coming and going. I was terrified of what would happen given the potential for an outbreak here in Sydney and what that would mean being in a refuge with so many other women coming from so many different circumstances living in close proximity of each other... i was terrified. I was unsafe in so many different ways... and the ABC not only kept me informed on Covid matters... but helped me understand the ripple effect across my community and beyond. The ABC also helped explore and debate social concerns in meaningful ways and offered me new perspectives and ways to address my anxiety about life at the moment. Please be part of preserving our ABC. Its voices are ours and many of us cannot speak to or question power or the powers that be like the ABC.

Fiona (Nuala) C
WA 2048

I am so grateful to the ABC to keep me informed with its unbiased reports on what is happening locally, nationally and world wide. I realized just how lucky we are in Australia after travelling overseas. Our broadcasts were superior to those I heard in comparable countries including Britain and New Zealand.

I realized that I had been taking our ABC for granted. I also enjoy its wide coverage of sports music and entertainment and have noticed that the cut backs over the years have reduced its ability to cover national events of interest which are now done poorly by commercial interests.

Due to the huge cut backs wonderful series of drama, comedy and facts are not accessed or produced nearly as much as years gone by and are sorely missed.

Bring back a well funded and resourced ABC.

Fiona and Barry L

VIC 6026

I grew up knowing no radio but ABC. My children watched no other TV in their preschool and junior school years - it was important to me that they could watch quality shows and without influence of advertising. In my retirement it is still my main source of music, and I listen to no other news. The ABC's investigative news stories are crucial to my feeling that corruption may be unearthed, and our people informed intelligently and objectively about what is going on. I rely on its non-sensationalist commentary and news coverage. During this covid pandemic I have relied on the intelligent commentary and advice of Dr Norman Swan.

Florence T

WA 3127

The ABC is such an important part of my life and the lives of most people I know. It is such a powerful 'connector' and contributes to such a powerful sense of community and belonging to our unique country and all the relevant issues that occur in our shared lives (eg covid; fires; news) as well as keeping us intelligently informed re all relevant local, national and international issues/ developments; and contributes to robust and intelligent discussions; it also provides such wonderful entertainment/ programmes both local and international. It contributes to our robust democracy: this is such an important role in a world where democracy is often threatened. Its funding must not be threatened

Fran D

ACT 6157

My elderly father was stuck at the NSW South Coast during the bushfires last summer. We live in Canberra. Phones were down, the internet was down, I couldn't reach him and was unsure as to his whereabouts. It was impossible to know what was going on and it was a very tense few days as we tried to track him down. By streaming the LOCAL South Coast radio stations via the ABC website here at home I discovered that I could get a sense of what was actually happening there in real time. This felt like a lifeline and it kept me sane. In times of disaster we ALL rely on the National Broadcaster for accurate and up to date information and this year has made that SO obvious. Please don't cut the ABC any further - it's an essential service. It's not just television or radio!

Fran R

QLD 2612

I have relied on the ABC to keep me up to date in terms of how I should be behaving because of Covid. They systematically stick to science and factual information in a way I cannot rely upon from other TV and radio sources. Their use of Norman Swan, a reputable medical reporter as a steady hand has been a relief.

Frances H

QLD 4552

The ABC has always been a fundamental source for news and media for me. I think it is vital to stop cuts to the ABC budget, which continues to receive blows every year. ABC news provides insightful, broad reaching news sources that doesn't rely on sensationalism to sell a news story. It's independent of Murdoch media which continues to be an Australian media powerhouse.

Triple J is such an important radio station to support homegrown talent, and provides great opportunities for artists to grow. Furthermore, it's such an important platform for the arts as a whole. The Australian music industry is such an integral part of our culture and Australian music is so unique - without funding triple j would never be able to provide platforms for people to showcase their music, particularly at music festivals.

Francesca G

NSW 4560

The ABC is so important to country people for not only news but in times of emergency. This year the regular updates on the fires surrounding our area were priceless. No other body can communicate with such authority using local sources of information. It is imperative that the ABC not have further funding cuts but have greater funds to support the whole nation. Act responsibly in relation to the ABC.

Francis M

NSW 2454

The ABC is the only reliable source of news in Australia, the ABC gives me news of others states like Victoria where my family are whereas the commercial channels mainly just give you news in your state, and the big cities.

Also the ABC brings in the best shows like doctor who and other English stuff instead of just giving you that American crap.

Francis S
QLD 2210

The ABC is obliged to serve the entire population. Part of its remit is to inform on science, philosophy, history and world events. Additionally ABC fine music is a major outlet of western civilization music. Why must my side of politics want to undermine the very bulwarks of the best of Australia, e.g. The ABC, Universities , CSIRO and environment? Why cannot Australia re assume its former leadership roles as a good world citizen.

Frank E
VIC 4655

I rely on the ABC for the best coverage of Australian and international events, the most objective reporting and the least sensationalist. With the possible exception of SBS, no other channel comes remotely close in objectivity, depth or sensible coverage.

The ABC should be fully and securely funded on a five to ten year cycle. The ABC is an essential service to all Australians and must not be treated as a football for governments to kick around to suit its prejudices.

Frank H
VIC 3056

I have (and always will, fingers crossed) relied on the ABC for news, current affairs eg Insiders, four corners, q&a, foreign correspondent, media watch and 7.30 and many more. ABC is fair, balanced, informative and OURS. Please keep up with excellent work

Frank M
QLD 3106

The ABC matters hugely to me as a source of balanced, informed and thoughtful news and opinions.

It plays a significant part in my daily intake of what is going on in our country and our world.

Frank McCullagh

Frank M
NSW 4075

Since I was a boy I have listened to and then watched ABC broadcasts and telecasts. Learning early on that I did not want or need advertisements I found ABC to fit the bill. News, sport and sensible entertainment was there aplenty.

Now since my retirement in 2002 and moving to Tweed Heads for ten years I truly appreciated regional and rural ABC. Bushfire coverage. drought coverage and traffic reports when driving between the Tweed and Sydney for eighteen years has been invaluable. With cousin and many friends now in regional and rural NSW, the ABC assists me to stay informed about conditions in all these areas.

Please do not reduce ABC capacity to provide this irreplaceable service to me as a Sydneysider and to all my regional and rural contacts. It is necessary.

Thank you.

Frank O
VIC 2213

I rely on the ABC as a reliable source of unbiased news free of sensationalist journalism such as is exhibited on some commercial radio stations and TV channels.

It is an essential service and needs to be funded well as a matter of urgency.

Fred J
ACT 3666

Never in the history of the ABC have tax payers contributed less per capita for a trusted and reliable news source. In regional disasters only the ABC produces comprehensive round the clock information that saves lives. Despite the News Corp and IPA hysteria, the ABC produces fair and balanced content. Most TV shows are original, clever and informative. The special category reporting and discussion is outstanding in programs like The Science Show, Health Report, Big Ideas etc. I listen to many podcasts from Radio National every year and can't believe how little in tax I contribute to this monumental service. The ABC is the national icon delivering great services to all Australians, near and far. It is time to correct the funding that is commensurate with its status and range of programming. It is particularly important in these times to help offset the News Corp monopolistic rubbish that gets served up to feed the masses.

Refund the ABC!

Frederick Schelb

Canberra

Fred S

VIC 2611

The ABC is essential to my life!

I was raised hearing the reliable news on the BBC and since coming to Australia I have depended on the ABC to keep me informed on significant world events. They have nothing to sell except the truth unlike the privately owned and used media.

fred w

QLD 3068

The Australian Broadcasting Company is the only trusted News information service in Australia that the population can rely upon to give a true and unbiased reporting about national and international affairs that are vitally important to the Australian people.

There is no other Government Agency to do this vitally important service for the Australian people.

Frederick P

VIC 4507

Our Auntie when a bushfire occurs when a pandemic occurs for the vast majority of people to whom do they turn the ABC! While other media feed biased distorted news looking at the advertising revenue impact Auntie without fear or favour

frederick w

QLD 3196

The ABC teaches and models correct English for migrant families like mine.

Since 1950 when we arrived , the ABC has been a reliable source of information and Australian content, which has helped us settle and integrate into the Australian community. Four university graduates!

Independent journalism of the highest standard has been the making of our robust democracy and Australian identity.

I have lived in Canada, in Germany and holidayed frequently in The Netherlands. In none of these western democracies, where I understand the language , has public broadcasting surpassed the high standard of our ABC. It is a gift, not to be trashed!

When travelling in SEAsia and the Pacific, I have observed that our ABC is valued and trusted , and services should be enhanced, not cut back.

Reliance on American or British reporting , documentaries or drama , undermines our sovereignty and national identity, and there by our influence for good in our geographic region.

I want a strong, independent public broadcaster to present diverse opinion and reflect ourselves to ourselves, celebrating the cultural and language diversity of our people and honouring the First Nation people and their legacy.

Fund the ABC to deliver top quality programs and make it more readily available in our region.

Thank you

Frederika S

NSW 4069

I relied on the ABC for TV and radio for information during our horrendous bushfire season. I currently rely on the ABC for news about coronavirus and its impacts around Australia and the world. I rely on Norman Swan's CO-VID reports to be informed about current medical opinion. I rely on Mad as Hell and Charlie Pickering on ABC TV to give me some reason to laugh amidst the madness of 2020.

Freya M
NSW 2480

In January/February 2020 we at Tuross on the south South Coast were surrounded by fires. We evacuated three times to an pre organised spot on the beach. In front of Coila Lake in the dried out wetlands we thought we'd be safe. When the fires breached Moruya and headed South East we thought we were lost. The ABC and the FiresNearMe app were constant companions providing up to date information on the terror surrounding us. The Government has absolutely no idea how important this ABC service is to us if it continues to withdraw financial support for political reasons.

G W
VIC 2537

The national broadcaster offers a reliable news service, particularly during the bush fires. Their programming schedule is excellent. The cuts will impact some great shows, including Foreign Correspondent, Four Corners and Media Watch, as well as home-made dramas and documentary series. I particularly like, You Can't Ask That!

Gabbi P
VIC 3031

The ABC is the only news I can rely on. It doesn't peddle fake news, it doesn't entertain conspiracy theories, and it is a vital service during crises. It's our Public Broadcaster and this Government has already skinned it to the bone. Instead of getting out the chain saw you should feed and restore it.

Gabriel F
NSW 3236

Hello,

My name is Gabrielle and I'm a uni student living in Drummoyne, NSW. I'm writing to you regarding the ABC budget. Throughout The Black Summer bushfire season, I would wake up and immediately check the ABC website and podcasts to get updates on the devastation. My family members throughout the country listened to the ABC on the radio pretty much all day, desperate to stay up to date. Even when we aren't in times of crisis, I find the ABC to be a wonderful, easily available, and generally without bias news and entertainment source. I use the podcasts to keep my finger on the pulse of what's happening in Australia, even as I travel.

Growing up, ABC Kids programs were so very special to me. I look forward to my own children engaging with wholesome public media as I was able to.

I am asking for NO BUDGET CUTS to the ABC and would greatly appreciate the restoration of formally cut funds. A thousand jobs have gone since 2014. These budget cuts effect real Australians each day. Whether it's providing us with jobs, critical news, or entertainment– the ABC is crucial to Australian life and needs to be treated as such.

Thank you,
Gabrielle

Gabrielle C
NSW 2066

ABC news (and now the Coronacast) is my go to place for reliable, thoughtful journalism.

ABC Kids feeds my daughter's curiosity, creativity and humour.

Now is EXACTLY the right time to be increasing the budget for this essential service, not removing it.

Gabrielle G
QLD 2016

House and dog sitting for my daughter at Christmas seemed like a gift. While she went on a delayed honeymoon, I pictured myself on the glorious Merimbula beaches. Then the sky turned orange, then red, then black and the air was thick with smoke and falling ash. Like Armageddon.

The reassuring presence of clear, unsensationalised reporting by the ABC saw me through that surreal and terrifying experience.

The intentional dismantling of the ABC will leave us in the hands of unscrupulous media moguls with their own agenda.

Gabrielle R

NSW 4350

I'm an 80-year-old retired Librarian. My student years were in the era of Commonwealth Scholarships, and the ABC's responsibility for the Symphony Orchestras. There wasn't much money at our place, but we lived lives enriched by good music, and all the other cultural and informative programmes that the ABC provided. I'm still an almost all-day listener to Radio National - I need to know what's going on in the world, and I can't get that from commercial radio! During the bushfire crisis, I needed to know what was happening in areas where I have family and friends - and they needed the ABC more than I did! Now in lock-down, I need the quality journalism, current affairs, in-depth interviews, cultural and entertainment programmes provided by RN's wonderful people. Hamish MacDonald, Geraldine Doogue, Leigh Sales, Daniel Browning, Paul Barclay, Andrew Ford, Richard Aedy, Ann Jones, Robyn Williams, Jason Di Rosso, Julian Morrow, Kirsti Melville, Antony Funnell, Sabra Lane, Edwina Farley, Phillip Adams, Linda Mottram, Meredith Lake, Amanda Smith, Thomas Oriti and many more excellent people have helped me stay sane and shorten the days. Then at 6 there's ABC TV, Yea!!! A bit of SBS sometimes. Can't stand the commercial channels! I'm sad that so many RN programmes have to be repeated - #S%@!! budget cuts!! PLEASE restore the ABC's funding.

Gabrielle S

NSW 2016

As the fires roared up the South Coast of NSW, I was responsible for the safety of my helpless, late stage Alzheimers afflicted husband. Unwilling to evacuate unnecessarily, such disruptions being very hard on dementia patients. Who do you rely on for timely accurate information? Silly question.

We were lucky, very lucky - the fires did not directly impact our village, and by the time things did look very bad, my husband of 54 years had passed away quietly and peacefully in his sleep, in his own bed, two days after Christmas. Grief and relief make a peculiar mixture.

Gae F

VIC 2540

I relied on the ABC for information and direction during the Covid 19 crisis. Daniel Andrews and Norman Swan provided clear reliable advice.

I listen to ABC Classic during the day. The announcers have been innovative and entertaining through out this time. We must support and fund the ABC generously.

Gael B

NSW 3104

We in our family have relied on the ABC for many years for the honest and accurate news and current affairs programs that are offered. We have also enjoyed the variety of other programs such as Landline, Back Roads and the wonderful dramas that the ABC has made. These days my grand children are enjoying Bluey and all the other excellent childrens programs. We were totally reliant on the ABC for information during the Bush Fire season and now during the pandemic. So please do not cut the funding for the ABC as we need them there into the future.

Gai W

NT 2265

Dear Treasurer,

I have been consuming media for more than 70 years, both here and in the UK, and have learned enough to know that in the ABC we have a rare gem.

We should be supporting and developing it, not destroying it by your "thousand cuts".

Please do the right thing by Australia and restore adequate funding for our national broadcaster.

Sincerely,

Gale T

VIC 2576

The ABC is the voice that wakes me in the morning, my source for news and the place I go to for thought provoking conversations throughout my day. It keeps me connected, informed, and most importantly, curious.

Gareth C
VIC 3280

I reply exclusively on the ABC and SBS for my daily news. None of the commercial channels even come close in terms of reportage and analysis.

The suggestion that the ABC is biased is ridiculous when compared to the voices of Alan Jones and his ilk.

I lived in the UK where licence fees are compulsory and I would happily pay the same here to ensure a free and quality news provision. The newspapers in this country and Murdoch rags full of his opinions and those of Trump.

For goodness sake protect the free press at a time when honesty and truth or a premium in reportage.

Gareth E
NSW 3951

Hi,

One of the most important Australian assets is being stripped by political chicanery.

The ABC is above politics, every Premier and PM since I came here in 1982 has abused the ABC. Why? Because it was getting under their skin by exposing their irrational and often hypocritical behaviour.

Time and time again, it has been the ABC that has exposed wrongdoing, more than any other body.

During disasters who do we turn to? The ABC.

I know I especially purchased a n old battery powered radio to ensure I had reception during the bush fires .

I would happily have an extra \$100 a year taken in tax and to be given directly to the ABC to ensure it could continue operating independently of politics or vested interests.

Long live the ABC.

gareth t
NSW 2320

The accuracy, quality and reliability of the ABC's news and current affairs is unmatched by the commercial media.

The ABC's coverage during the bushfire crisis was an essential part of the nations emergency management arrangements as it is in the current crisis.

As a retired professional firefighter I can confirm and commend the role of the ABC in all manner of emergencies I attended through 25 years of service.

The ABC provides the information for our family to make informed decisions for our safety throughout the bushfires and the current crisis.

Garry E
WA 2299

I grew up in the Pilbara

The ABC was and still is the most reliable news channel . For country Australia the ABC is a essential channel of communication , ie for cyclone and flood information and warnings (for info on COVID19) . More ppl will watch the ABC to gain up todate and comprehensive information, also more people trust said information . To cut this service is to endanger those peoples lives . The ABC will always be a more accurate and trustworthy source than any commercial station .

Considering the recent bushfire disaster and the current COVID19 crisis any reductions to the ABC, could be considered criminally negligent . If the govt persists in this course of action I would consider them liable for lost of life and property damage in future emergencies .

The ABC is Australian as weetabix and meat pies at the footie . It is part of what makes Australia the country it is .

It is part of the Australian ethos ,as much as the Sydney opera house and the great barrier reef .

To have politicians which come and go like the wind and mostly less memorable tear down the ABC is a disgrace .

Garry M
VIC 6151

As parts of the social media is becoming more and more abusive, it's vital that the public broadcaster is strengthened, independent and resilient, the presenter of the facts and truth. If the federal government has any credibility, any faith in democracy, they must restore in real terms the funding of the ABC and SBS. This really is a test for the Morrison Federal Government.

Garry R
NSW 3180

The ABC is the only trustworthy media outlet. It is a service industry for all Australians non dependent on wealth. It is the station that looks after the arts.

Garry W
NSW 2533

Let us have a perspective, that is not based on a revenue return, or sensationalism. It's not perfect, what is?, however it let's the light of thought come in. Maybe that is what truly scares governments, people who are sovereign and can think for themselves.

Garth Ashford

Garth A
WA 2300

Hi. I only trust the ABC news as it does NOT have a vested corporate interest; I am not being sold products; I am not being manipulated to think one thing (that is in the interests of the media owners group) when the truth might be another thing. The ABC is the only media channel that has a charter to report truth, not represent opinion as "truth" like some right wing outlets. We need to keep the ABC!

Gavin K
NSW 6000

I grew up in rural New South Wales. The local ABC from Albury, was our lifeline in time of fires storms and floods. Even though I am retired and live in Canberra, The ABC is the main source of news and information, particularly the 7.45AM News, and AM. The 7pm TV news is essential watching in our household and has been for at least 50 years. In the 2003 Bushfires that ravaged part of Canberra and last Summer's horrific fires in our region which again threatened our suburb, the ABC was our main source of information and warnings. The Internet proved to be a total disaster as information was often hours old or worse inaccurate. The cutting of funding is already impacting the quality programmers we have come to expect from our ABC. The commercial stallions dish up trash, often from overseas and totally irrelevant to Australian audiences and insult to our intelligence.

The ABC might be critical of your administration but in the name of democracy make sure the Corporation is properly funded so it can comply with its Charter. It is not a 'lefty organization so stop lying!

Gavin O
QLD 2905

I was diagnosed with cancer in January this year and have undergone treatment for the duration of lockdown and relied on ABC news to advise re safety of engaging with outside world, etc. I also have two sons living abroad who have relied heavily on ABC news in preference to their unreliable local news sources.

ABC cultural programmes have also been vital to me throughout my treatment process to support my mental health.

Gay J
VIC 4069

I have listened to, read online or watched the ABC everyday for as long as I can remember of my 56 years. Along with SBS, it is the only source of media that I trust. The ABC is such an important part of my life and I am very afraid to imagine not having the ABC. I value it most for having interesting programs and podcasts that I rely on to hear about a diverse range of topics that interest me. Essentials in my life are: Off Track, Late Night Live, The Bookshelf, Conversations, ABC news, 7.30 Report and whatever Fran Kelly and Geraldine Doogue are doing.

It is unfathomable that this national treasure keeps being stripped of more jewels every budget. It is nothing short of a tragedy.

Gaye G
QLD 3139

We only watch the ABC and SBS for news. It is crucial that the ABC not have its funding cut any further. It is truthful and reliable. Regional areas depend on it. They have to make up shows now in Australia because they haven't got enough funding for anything else! Please don't cut it any further! Yours, Gaye Nial.

Gaye N
VIC 4114

Our family has nothing but respect & admiration for the ABC and we know this country would be less informed of the facts if this current government is allowed to make any further cuts. So called funds for the ABC is in effect our money from taxes on our hard earned money.

Long live Aunty.... :pray:

Gayle A
NSW 3630

We have ABC Breakfast on before school as their reporting is accurate, up to date and not sensationalised. I find my 13 year old has less anxiety with the calm manner of the reporting. For myself the ABC News Facebook Messenger updates are succinct and reassuring.

Gemma P
QLD 2590

The ABC is the only source I rely on for valuable, reliable, honest news. I wouldn't bother looking at or listening to any other station as I know their media is not reliable. To me, the ABC is absolutely essential to working towards a nation with positive values.

Kind Regards,
Gemma.

Gemma P
NSW 4054

To The Morrison Government

I would like the ABC, Australia's first public broadcaster, to remain on air, fully funded. I would like to see the broadcaster's funding "increased"... not more cuts. The ABC is the only broadcast I listen to. It's the only one I trust. The only one that gives a spread of views and produces some of the most enjoyable, educating accounts, stories that I've ever heard. I always walk away from my listening feeling better informed about what is going on in my local world and the broader world. I felt scared recently thinking of Government cutting back on the ABC.

I do not trust the private sector, especially Murdoch. How frightening to think he could be the filter for my understanding of world events. I would stop listening to the news or reading anything on line because I don't trust it.

The ABC is scary for Government, I understand that. They ask you the questions you need to be asked to be kept honest. Have the courage to lead honestly. If you believe what you do is ok... then answer their questions honestly and inform the public of what you are doing ... stand by it .. and face the electorate. If you can't do that, then you also are very, very scary people and should not be representatives of the Australian people.. because you're not.. you would be lying to Australians .. pretending to be something you are not.

You believe in yourselves?... then you need to prove it and be transparent through a fully funded ABC.. that will ask you the hard questions .. just as they should.. as Australians want them to do

Sincerely
Gen Mangan

Gen M
WA 2154

The ABC children's programs has kept my grandchildren entertained and their parents sane throughout corona and I expect beyond and their news and other programs can be relied upon to provide unbiased and transparent reporting of current events with reporters and presenters who possess true professional integrity and talent definitely not seen on other junk news commercial and sensationalist channels. Please preserve this for all to continue to enjoy!

Genevieve B
QLD 6064

In our household we look to the ABC for reliable news - local, national, global delivered not in soundbites but with dependable context. We expect sound investigative reporting on the issues of the day which hold relevant authorities to account. Through programmes such as Australian Story and Back Roads we enjoy a window into what it is to be Australian. For those living in the country where I once did, the service of the ABC is vital. Though not personally affected by recent bushfires, we were able to see what was happening in areas where I have family. The constant comparison re finance with commercial media ignores the fact that the ABC is a public service trusted by the public. In the current coronavirus crisis the up to date information regularly provided is vital. We do not want to see constant cutting of the ABC's budget.

Genevieve C
NSW 4120

My husband and I have relied on the ABC to give a true accounting of Australian and overseas issues. The news service provided by the ABC has always proved to be a FACTUAL news service (rather than providing opinion pieces pretending to be news - as seen in some other news services). In 2020 with the world in chaos we can rely on the ABC to continue to inform us with true news and entertain us with its many other programs including new dramas as well as old favourites.

Genevieve M
VIC 2450

Pre-Covid I was travelling overseas. The fires were raging not far from our town. The ABC kept me close. I was never so reliant on hearing how things were progressing. I've grown up with the ABC, it's been my constant companion. More than just a media outlet, a true and trusted friend.

Genevieve O
NSW 3685

I remember as a child listening to the ABC introduction music to the 0745 news on 2BL every morning before school and now I rely on the ABC everyday for professional/unbiased reporting and entertainment. I use the website often during the day and use the radio app in the morning when I walk and I also listen to James and Richard in the afternoon if I can. I usually watch the ABC news and the 7:30 report and catch any of their dramas or comedy later. (This has been lacking in variety lately due to the continued cuts) The ABC has remained strong and supportive to me personally and others in our community through all our recent traumas and devastation. I find the suggestion of further cuts to the broadcaster really worrying. To me the ABC is like a family member always in the background ready to help and support through any crisis and offer a good bit of drama and light relief when needed. Being one of only two information sources I trust and in these worrying times when the public has so little trust in Governments I find it very interesting that funds are being cut. It just supports my belief in the corruption in this funding process. The ABC belongs to the public and should remain well funded and not undermined by dubious sources. Thank you.

Genevieve W
2571

I am an 87 year old retiree and am at present stuck in Thailand. I cannot get back to Australia without spending 14 days in quarantine and it seems unlikely that I would be able to leave again for months. The on-line news which seems to run for 24 hours on the internet keeps me more than up to date with everything which happens in Australia even if it does give a little too much time to all the not very charismatic State Premiers. The ABC may have it's faults but if it went and I had to rely on the commercial channels then I would be thankful that maybe I am old and not have my too much life ahead of me.

Geof Allenby
gallenby@hotmail.com

Geof A
VIC

The Murdoch press are totally untrustworthy and chronic misrepresenters of the truth. They deny climate change and fail every analysis of objective, honest reporting. They have destroyed the reputation of the news media in Australia.

Only the Guardian and the ABC are left to provide factual messaging to the population of Australia. that's why I rely on the ABC.

Please don't reduce their funding or continue to emasculate their operation.

Geoff Dober

Geoff Dober
sagari@ozemail.com.au
VIC 3141

Geoff D
NSW 3141

May I respectfully suggest that any Australian government with a "boot on the neck" of the Australian peoples ABC loses the respect of their constituents; which flows simply and directly to alternatives at the ballot box.

The ABC Delivers; to all classes; creeds; nationalities; ages; in States; Cities; Suburbs; Towns; and the Bush.

Just in case our leaders miss the point; no other service comes close to matching this. Any tampering with this ball will cause a send off; possibly for a protracted time.

Geoff D
VIC 2487

I write to express my support for the ABC.

At the moment , most of the news is bad. For me in my middling to later years, as my living and vocation is now looking impossible to revive, I look to the ABC for a balanced and intelligent angle on Covid 19 and other crises. Where in Australian media would you get to hear someone like Walid Ali posing the philosophical questions at the heart of today's issues or some amazing local musical talent coming from left field? Or (to state the obvious), a news outlet that is bound by charter to represent the diversity of national interest as well as ask difficult questions of our business and political leaders?

For me the ABC represents the best of Australian thinking and creativity - something I cannot claim for commercial media with the strong exception of SBS (which of course also has an essential social charter).

The ABC puts me in touch with ideas and people who think beyond where the next dollar is coming from. While the economic future is a concern for all of us especially now, I know I'm not alone in thinking that our current predicament marks an existential point of reference - for what has been a barely controlled explosion in enterprise for many decades, an explosion that has taken on exploitation as a vehicle for commercial success and has despite many warnings started to exact a heavy price.

I respect the ABC for reflecting this crisis in its news outlets with varied discussion and ideas - as opposed to the sensationalism and vilification against individuals and panic that fuels the commercial media.

I don't love everything the ABC does. Some years ago some kind of internal political wrangle ended with some fantastic radio shows being axed and replaced by what I can only call inane 'chat' shows. Then again, this seemed to me to be an echo of the malaise that has struck the BBC - and directed by the institution's political masters. As an active ABC supporter I wonder about the need for so many religious talk shows - and wonder why such excellent shows as "The Planet" had to be sacrificed for them. Just weird.

ABC TV news breakfast has been a lifeline for my family in keeping informed through this crisis as well as 774's mornings with the absolutely brilliant Virginia Trioli - someone who reflects a deep interest in the world and its people for their own sake and prodigious interviewing skills. She is a breath of fresh air.

One point I'd like to make is in regard to the news around those individuals who have endangered all of us by flouting and ignoring the rules that have been installed to protect us all during Covid 19. Rules have been a bit of a casualty in the blooming of fake news and lies that seems to be now a permanent fixture within commercial and political systems - and I'd like to support the ABC's careful reflection of impartiality in the broadcasting of these people's transgressions. The commercial media loves to put an individual in their sights - its the M.O. of 60 minutes for instance, which is ironic as so many of these individuals are simply exercising their rights as primary- and putting themselves before everyone else - stretching the rules and ignoring the common good - which government and the large corporations it is sympathetic to, do everyday as a matter of routine....

The ABC represents something else - consistently reflective and socially responsible messaging. Conservative in the best sense in its social function and liberal in the best sense in its creative output.

The government's attacks on the ABC reflect the other thing - a reflection of too many problems going on in our political system to list here..but resulting in the type of corporate force tactics which doesn't belong in government. ..and I'm sure many in the present government regret the scant protections the ABC has remaining - and work at eroding those too.

Which is why the ABC is not only precious - its fragile too. I have been around the world and seen what happens to too much government interference or not enough government support to public broadcasters. On one hand state TV becomes the mindless mouthpiece for a dictatorship or oligarchy - or in the 'free market' BBC's public television (yes it all used to be public) is now littered with mindless reality and talk shows. PBS can barely field a handful of independent shows. If commercial media is the only evolution of broadcasting then one must ask if the human brain itself is devolving.

ABC drama and music (though not as strong as it used to be) is a source of inspiration and imagination for me. It means that a young musician, writer or dramatist knows that there is a possible future for their clever but unique talent. It's the most reliable source of information regarding our indigenous people. Its been far and away the best source of broadcasting for our kids - and a source for balanced information in a storm of barely regulated fallacy and commercially compromised information. Why? Because it has to - it is chartered to and this is what makes it unique. I'll vote with my feet to support it - and live in eternal hope that this government wakes up!

Geoff Hughes

Geoff H
VIC 3095

I am 82 years of age. I grew up in country Victoria and wherever we lived my parents always listened to ABC radio. I have continued that practice, relying on ABC Radio and TV for essential information about national and local events, for entertainment and world news. I am ashamed that there are fellow Australians who urge Government to further cut ABC funding. INCREASE ABC FUNDING!

Geoff P
QLD 3068

I do my research - I don't just take any media outlets opinion as fact on ANY topic... there is just too much misinformation and politicised trolling in our society today.
I can confirm that the ABC is the most balanced representation in the Australian media landscape at the moment and dearly hope the government would end the cuts to their funding, they are a beacon of light in a dark place right now.

Geoff T
NSW 2454

ABC Classic fm lifts the spirits and supports the moods of its listeners. It's listeners I assume are representative of a broad demographic. I grew up in western NSW where the only radio was 2CR Orange in the days when 2 BL did not extend to rural areas. ABC classic fm is necessary for bush people too.

Geoffrey A
NSW 2460

As a longtime supporter of ABC TV and Radio for current affairs and investigatory journalism, without the bias inherent in commercial media beholden to their owners. High quality is displayed in ABC TV productions despite cutbacks over time by the Federal Coalition party. ABC is wonderful organisation providing a singular, believable, voice in a crowded media landscape.

Geoffrey B
VIC 2257

For me/us, the ABC has been an essential source of accurate information during the coronavirus crisis. I/we have found the biased sources, such as the science-denying Murdoch media, totally misleading and unacceptable in these dire times.

Ditto, for my/our rural situation, in times of bushfires, floods or other disasters, the ABC has been / is the ONLY reliable source of information.

Our families, especially our grandchildren have trusted the ABC to keep their children / our grandchildren engaged and informed when schools were / are closed - as is happening right now in Geelong and Adelaide.

Above all, I/we have depended on the ABC to hold those in power accountable at a time when deception is easily overlooked. I/we see ethics and transparency paramount to the future of our fragile democracy, with vested interests being allowed to unduly influence the corridors of power.

As I/we believe in the fundamental importance of the Arts to community health, the ABC has significantly helped us stay connected through its drama, music, comedy and commitment to Australian stories, across all forms, especially radio and television.

AS has been repeatedly demonstrated during crises, a public-owned broadcaster is the ONLY reliable medium. The science-denying private media have been found to be totally unreliable, especially where the coronavirus pandemic and global warming have been concerned.

Geoffrey B
VIC 3500

geoffwilliams2012@hotmail.com

Living in the country we need the ABC for entertainment fire and flood warnings. We find all we need on our ABC and would not like to live without it.

Geoffrey W
NSW 3722

Hello,

We need to fund our national broadcaster. The ABC is the only broadcaster I trust for my news, programs and weather. It's unbiased reporting is necessary for this country to be correctly informed and there for succeed. De-funding and allowing influencing in reporting undermines the ability for this country to function fairly. PLEASE stop strangulation of our public broadcaster.

Yours truly
George Cheeke

George C
VIC 2096

My wife and I rely almost totally an the ABC for news, information and entertainment and have done for decades.

It is so good not to be subjected to the self-interest, profit-driven garbage put out by the ex-Australian, Rupert, who dumped his nationality for a buck he certainly didn't need. His father must be rolling in his patriotic grave! HE was a man of impeccable scruples. Dame Elizabeth was also an Australian Hero in so many ways.

I cannot imagine how tedious life might be if we were forced to be subjected to the likes of Andrew Bolt, the puppet who blurts out trash each day that the Rupert and Gena fairies have planted in his thick skull overnight. This world has people with no scruples or self-respect!

In times of stress, the ABC is always the contact point. When genuine information is required, ABC is the place to go.

Millions of Australian children have grown up learning from the invaluable programs on the ABC. Australia needs a strong ABC.

GIVE IT MORE FUNDING - NOT LESS!!!

Cheers,
George

George E
VIC 3806

Our radio and Tv is set on the ABC nearly all the time- the exceptions being when we watch programs on SBS or the football on 7! Impoverishing the ABC will impoverish our lives and make us very negative to any political party responsible.

George G
NSW 3152

All Australians need a well funded and free from editorial interference ABC. The ABC's arm's distance from the commercial and (hopefully) political world is our only safeguard from disinformation. All other media outlets are subjected to bias news and disinformation pressures from advertisers. God help us if our ABC is weakened.

George M
NSW 2776

One doesn't need to be a budding Einstein to discover why the Liberal far right devote so much energy to attempting to destroy the ABC. There's a very clear connection trail that anyone can follow, such as:

The Liberal far right doesn't have enough control over the ABC to be able to stop the ABC reporting on government blunders and corruption.

Too much government energy is focused on how to cover up activities they have approved which would not be approved of by the electorate.

A large part of government drive for secrecy is directed at bypassing parliament and describing decisions as 'in cabinet confidential'. Bypassing Parliament is to bypass the electorate.

Many decisions of government are required to proceed via appropriate protocol which government expediently bypasses, quietly ignores or brazenly use their party majority to override existing laws. For example protection of structures by 'heritage status'. Government can present a bill to parliament to cancel a heritage status which slides through unnoticed by the government's majority. The requirement to notify the electorate of the plan can be placed in a small advert in the local paper, not infrequently a week or two AFTER the Government decision.

Most commercial media can be controlled conveniently with a quiet word to management, because if they don't oblige their advertising income can be subtly withdrawn.

The Federal government has submitted a Bill 'for a level playing field' for media. The Bill proposes that anyone plagiarising commercial media must pay a fee. People plagiarising the ABC is OK, so it's open slather to plagiarize the ABC without any credit or compensation to the programmers and journalists.

All Liberal and Labour politicians rely on election funding by advertisers.

The ABC doesn't need to please advertisers (or government) so all reporting can be honest and provide electors with unbiased facts.

The Liberal far right can subtly remove funding to minimize or dismantle ABC reports reaching the public.

The Liberal far right can send the Australian Federal Police in to harass and embarrass ABC reporters and staff on trumped up charges- while pretending the charges weren't initiated by the government.

The law can also be focussed by government agencies onto journalists to reveal confidential sources of information and take action to shut down the source.

The government can control the appointment of senior ABC staff, selected for their negative far-right views.

So the farce continues, candidates make outlandish promises to the electorate contrary to the backroom promises already made to financiers to their election costs.

George Paris

George P

VIC 2283

As Australians living overseas for many years (more than 10 years!), ABC has been a constant source of news updates from home!

George Y

VIC 3441

As I write in my cottage this morning, an elderly isolated person, I listen to the pure harmonies on Classic ABC selected by the talented back room team, with the presenter who is one amongst the charming, life affirming group with their beautiful unique lilts and accents who grace the programmes and sustain me with their well informed, cheerful commentaries on the fine music selections. This gift of auditory beauty and harmony is available whenever needed 24 / 7.

In the afternoon I will shift to what I consider the sister station - Radio National and be informed and entertained by the stimulating programmes that takes me through debate, discussion, lectures and interviews with an eclectic band of fascinating guests always led by superbly talented presenters.

The chief issues of the day are later discussed on "The Drum" by a panel of people who have expertise related to the particular subjects, again led by well researched and sympathetic presenters.

Each evening, whether on TV or Radio National, one can find a variety of stimulating programs of topical political, social or human interest invariably led by presenters whose unfailing professionalism is highly appreciated.

Georgette C

NSW 3934

During the summer bushfires and now during this pandemic, it's the ABC which has kept us up-to-date and informed. You can depend on the ABC to cover current concerns locally, nationally and internationally. As a librarian and reader, I religiously listen to and watch ABC book shows. My husband depends on ABC cricket coverage. For drama, documentaries, comedy and current affairs, we rely on the ABC. And ABC RN is the background to our lives. I give thanks every day for the ABC.

Georgia P

QLD 2508

Our household does not have a television BY CHOICE. We are very reliant on the ABC, preferable Radio National for all our up-to-date information.. We do not purchase the local newspaper - again by choice and that makes it all the more important to have good and reliable information from the ABC news and other programs.

Georgina B

QLD 4068

I rely on the ABC because I live in a democracy which needs an independent media with world class journalism. I feel like I get this from the ABC. It also gives me a sophisticated culture which I can call Australian because of its analysis of philosophy, politics, science, the arts etc. I love the ABC - we need more of it not less!

Georgina C
NSW 4883

The ABC has wonderful programming on both radio and television. Australians would be far less informed through high quality reporting, journalism and interviews if they had to look elsewhere. Please protect the proud tradition of excellence that the ABC has maintained, especially through the bushfire crisis. Your government seems intent on eroding the ABC as much as possible, forcing people out of their jobs and limiting their ability to report on important developments in Australian and globally. I want my children and grandchildren to be able to benefit from everything the ABC has to offer. You should be increasing funding at a time like this when everyone needs more quality media, not cutting funding. Thank you for listening to my submission,
Georgina Ballantine

Georgina V
NSW 2066

Living in the south of Canberra we were dependent on the ABC for details of the Orroral Valley fire and the fire in Namadgi National Park. We trusted the reporters in this emergency to give us the reports on the fire front. Like the fire fighters, they were heroes. Now with Covid19 Norman Swan and the Chief Medical Officers keep us informed. Through the ABC lives have been saved. The reward for the ABC? Cutting funds, programs, outstanding people losing their jobs.

Geraldine T
NSW 2905

Dear Sir/ Madam

I listen to ABC radio each morning to listen to my region's local news. I then listen to what is happening with Covid so that I can keep myself as safe as possible. I listen for opportunities to help others in my community.

During the bushfire period, ABC radio was my best friend and a great comfort.

ABC TV is already feeling the effects of cutbacks with a lot of repeats. This is annoying as I can't afford other media such as Netflix. Nevertheless, I thoroughly enjoy excellent programs such as Landline, Gardening Australia, The Drum and many more. I also enjoy Australian fictional series and movies, which the ABC champions.

They provide intelligent and entertaining material which educates me, (with subtitles because I am getting deaf) and keeps me in touch with what is happening and what people are thinking.

Please don't make further cuts to the ABC.

Geraldine W
ACT 2519

I love the ABC, so progressive and I trust their news coverage so much more than commercial channels.

My kids love ABC Kids app and the kids programs the ABC produce.

Gerard H
WA 4005

I listen to the ABC radio and TV every day. In particular I was glad to receive information about the bushfires Covid 19 on a regular basis.

I would prefer to continue listening to all the shows I do now, including the 7:45pm radio news.

Gerry L
VIC 6028

The last time I saw my mother alive she had a mouth full of solid food (NB. Mum was supposed to be eating soft foods only.) and I could not wake her up. When I asked the Doctor what was wrong with my mother he said "She went down like a load of bricks". When I asked him again what was "wrong with her" he told me that "you should ask your brother" (NB. My brother had Guardianship and my mother's condition was confidential.). He then walked out of the room and I never saw him again. I would like to thank this Doctor for his disregard for my mother's life because it has given me the energy and will to fight for better Aged Care. I would like to thank the ABC because when nobody listened they were there and when nobody cared their investigative reporter rang me. The ABC did not run my story in the end but the fact is that without the ABC my mother's story would have simply been forgotten. Now that COVID-19 is rampaging through our community it is clear that the lessons of the past have not been told and they do not matter. Today my GP told me over the phone that 99.7 % of people will recover from COVID-19 so in other words these stage 4 precautions don't really matter. When he said this I laughed in embarrassment because he clearly had not met my mother who died from woeful Aged Care but to me she really mattered. The ABC matters in so many ways and there are so many people who have stories that will never be told but as my mother once said to me we all matter and we all deserve to have our stories told. This is why public broadcasting matters and why I strongly believe that the ABC should receive more funding.

Gian B
VIC 3187

The ABC is and always has been an important, valuable, independent and trustworthy news and current affairs source for me. I would hate to see its quality journalism and news services diminish as a result of unnecessary budget cuts. I see taxpayer money being mis-allocated and wasted on other frivolous schemes (e.g. sports rorts) and things like some politicians' dubious claiming of expenses, so why should the ABC suffer when this sort of stuff goes on? Governments of all stripes need to be held to account and this is precisely what the ABC is good at, so it should be properly funded for the benefit of all Australian taxpayers.

Giancarlo M
NSW 3184

Every morning I read the ABC news for reliable, trustworthy news, including essential information during the Covid pandemic, such as accurate info about restrictions and trustworthy medical info. On a more general note it connects me with the broader Australian community, provides quality intelligent TV and radio. This country would be the poorer without it, or if it is hobbled by funding cuts, and its absence would harm our sense of national identity.

Gideon J
NSW 2193

I have relied on the ABC for all of my life to present stories across the political and social spectrum. Now I see my feed increasingly biased towards the Murdoch anti-intellectual and anti-artistic platitudes pandering to an imagined lowest common denominator. Such a disappointing turn of events but understandable given the political regime of money grubbing carpetbaggers in government who are appointing political hacks to positions of influence throughout the "public" service.

Gilbert G
QLD 2043

ABC is so important to me as it provides sensible real information without dramatising like other commercial stations. Also because I live on my own and have no one to bounce ideas off, I trust the ABC to give me true news and not false news. I also love shows like Shetland and Vera etc that I look forward too. Plus all the wonderful documentaries. Thank you ABC.

Gilian H
VIC 4214

I first realised how important radio was when I was sharing a two bedroom flat in London with three other young women. I was the lucky one who had had a university education but one of those girls said you can learn everything watching the BBC. I look back now and think how much we learnt.

Then I came to Australia and oh so luckily found Radio National. There are still names I don't know how to spell (because it's radio of course) but that I will ALWAYS remember - like John Kaga (see, I told you I don't know how to spell the names - and

I bet that dates me!) However, at weekends, I used to put my radio in my pocket and earphones into my ears and set out steadfastly to do whatever physical work needed to be done whilst listening to Radio National.

Recently, when we were asking ourselves what kept us sane during these present strange Covid times, I thought: friends, books and Radio National.

Some programs like LNL are old, old favourites. I have a Phillip Adams reminder for 10 pm on my phone (and another one for 4 pm next day just in case I missed it!)

And another reminder for Norman Swan though he doesn't seem to be on at 9.30 any more so the reminder sends me to the Coronacast podcast which is interesting, informative and entertaining - even the Mia Culpa!

A program I am surprised I like so much is Download this Show which is probably intended for Radio National's younger (well, younger than me!) readers but still manages to hold my interest and helps me understand the digital world a bit better every time.

When authors are interviewed I write down the names of all the books that sound interesting. Of course I only manage to read a fraction of them but I am SO SO SO grateful to the authors and interviewers who have sent them in my direction.

I can honestly say that, living on my own, when occasionally I have felt somewhat flat during Covid, I have almost always finished the day feeling enormously more energised because of a program I have landed upon or a book that has been recommended.

I can never thank Radio National enough - and consequently the ABC - for all it has given me.

I could embarrass myself further by trying to spell the names of current RN people I am grateful to - but I won't! Shows like Big Ideas, Religion and Ethics, Soul Search, Country Wide, Awaye, The Health Report

and SO many more that I will think of as soon as I have posted this off!

Many years ago I joined Friends of the ABC when an older friend and I heard that Melbourne sport was going to be delivered from Sydney in an earlier ABC cut. How strange! Neither of us was the slightest bit interested in sport but the idea of "our" sport being broadcast from elsewhere was unthinkable. That friend, now 105 years old, remained a staunch supporter of the ABC for many, many years, and I feel I am also writing on her behalf. She introduced me to some of the most influential books I have ever read and I wouldn't be at all surprised if she said she and her book group had got the titles from Radio National those many years ago.

I am SO SO grateful to the ABC; my heart breaks each time I hear of a funding cut.....

Another moment I will never forget: I was employed to help Aboriginal and TSI students with maths. Some of them were quite noisy and difficult. When I heard that Kevin Rudd was going to deliver the apology speech I decided to take my small group out to my car to listen to it on the radio. However the school was ahead of me and had set up the school hall for all Aboriginal students. So we all went in there. At one point in his speech I was so moved I would like to have got a tissue out of my bag but the silence in that big hall was so complete that I realised just the zip on my handbag would have been too loud. I was so proud of those students at that time. I have never forgotten that occasion and I am sure they haven't either. Thank you to everyone who organised it and thank you to the ABC for all you do.

Please don't cut ABC funding any more.

Regards,

Gill Scott.

Gill S

VIC 3757

As a retired person heading rapidly towards 80 years, I am more than ever reliant on news and information I know I can trust. Now living in a lockdown zone for some months with more to come my need for reliable information is even greater. So I turn to the only news and information source in which I have confidence that I will not be lead astray. I like that they check their sources thoroughly and that they do not just go out and find the malcontents to peddle populist messages as many others seem to do. The ABC is integral to the safety and health of our nation as has been shown numerous times over many, many years. Fund it properly and securely and do the right thing for the nation. Further, respect its independence and let it do its job without fear or favour.

Gillian C

VIC 3029

I rely on the ABC for my daily entertainment, no matter what time of day it is. Without the ABC I would not watch any television or listen to any any other station as I know what I get from the ABC is honest and truthful. We need to keep this station going for people like myself who rely on the ABC.

Gillian F

NSW 3806

The ABC keeps me sane, listening to highly intelligent articulate presenters and interviewees, presenting disinterested reports, keeping me abreast of current affairs and their historical context to say nothing of the vital role the ABC plays in times of national emergencies.

Gillian H

NSW 2538

The ABC kept my self & family up to date during the bushfire season. At Xmas I had my partner's daughter, my son & girlfriend stay with us. We needed reliable information, so they could get back to Sydney and London. After Xmas my family from Canberra stayed and they to find a way home, with children. The ABC kept us informed on ways to get safety back home.

Gillian L
VIC 2540

I simply don't know what I would do without the ABC. I am glued to the radio during this pandemic as I was during the bush fires, and I get so much listening pleasure from the many and varied radio programs otherwise. As for TV - Insiders, 7.30 and The Drum are really the only programs I trust politically and let's not talk about Four Corners! I love MY, and it IS ours, ABC, I love the dramas, the comedy, the wonderfully informing programs (Back Roads anyone? Compass anyone? Etc etc) and the just plain 'only on the ABC ones, Anh Doh, You Can't Ask That etc etc etc. It is UNIQUE, it is WONDERFUL, and it IS OURS. We pay taxes. It is SO important to our identity not just in cities but regionally. We turn to it in times of crisis and it never lets us down. We turn to it for news, music, laughter, tears, companionship, information, entertainment, empathy, and to quite literally take us out not only into our world but all of Australia and beyond.

gillian r
NSW 3227

In regional Australia, the ABC is particularly important as a source of information. During last summer's bushfires, our village was threatened by the Currowan fire and a smaller one to our north. The RFS website, while useful, was slow to update on a rapidly-changing situation and quite non-specific. We relied on ABC radio to keep us accurately informed and, to an extent, comforted. ABC reporting has also helped us make sense of the pandemic, through its news, interviews and investigations. There's an extremely high level of professionalism in its marshalling of facts and presentation; we are incredibly lucky to have that and should be doing everything we can to preserve that. The ABC is also a major source of entertainment. Obviously not everything broadcast appeals to me personally, but that's the point of a public broadcaster: it serves a diverse population.

Gillian S
NSW 2540

Throughout the last 10yrs, and more importantly through COVID, I have chosen the ABC as my primary news source, both on TV and radio. I want reliable journalism that is not centred on negative drama in society, but instead focussed on real problems, issues and positive stories that keep Australians well informed from well researched & professional source. My personal favourites are on TV: Four Corners, 7.30 report, Australian Story, Backroads, Foreign Correspondent, Mediawatch and Dateline; while on Radio: 702 and classic.fm. In addition to those, I stream iView on my iPad for interesting documentaries, series and films.

Gina L
NSW 2105

When you need the truth the only news Australians can rely on for the TRUTH is and will hopefully always be our ABC

Glen D
VIC 2452

As a child in the 80's, I grew up hearing the voices of ABC journalists and news presenters on the television and radio. The ABC represented the gold standard in journalism- truth, integrity, and holding power (& politicians) to account.

I can not adequately describe in words the immense importance and value of the ABC on, and in, my life. From an early age it has been with me- teaching me, leading the national conversation and setting the standards by which journalists judge themselves.

Before the 24/7 news cycle, beyond the cynical manipulation of commercial news media, the ABC gave us honest, brave & fearless journalism that defined us as a young nation, upholding these most quintessential Australian values many of us are still proud of. In a landscape of tokenism and partisan news opinion-ism, the ABC remains a thing of pride for us as Australians. A bastion of all that is fair & good.

In this age of climate change denialism, of devastating bushfires & the horrors of a global pandemic, this is more Important than ever before.

It is incomprehensible that this Government, indeed any Government, continues to strip our beloved ABC of the funding & resources required to continue to deliver on what we as a society rightly expect. Honesty. Transparency. Journalistic excellence.

Please ensure that the ABC, this most revered and important Australian institution, continues to receive the funding required to continue to teach us from infancy into adulthood. To hold men & women of power to account. To uncover the truth. So that it remains a symbol of our Australian values & spirit. We cannot let this invaluable resource, our most important guiding voice, be silenced.

Thank you,
Glen Moore

Glen M
NSW 3070

I love the ABC. It provides a beautiful array of up to date information whether it's bushfire coverage, Covid alerts or arts, movies and documentaries. I want our current government to support the ABC as it reigns above other MEDIA outlets. I watch it daily. I love the presenters - professional and mature. We need the ABC to stay. Please do not disappoint the Australians who treasure this iconic and must remain industry.

Glenda M
QLD 2756

At present I rely on the ABC and Norman Swan for accurate information about the Covid 19.
I am impressed with their interviews (radio and TV) of persons from all sides of politics.
The regular traffic reports are invaluable.
Can't think where I could get this useful information elsewhere without commercial advertising

Glenda P
WA 4104

I have listened and watched the ABC my entire life, it is the most reliable source of current affairs and quality entertainment.

We were living on the outskirts of Melbourne when the Black Saturday fires were raging close to us, it was terrifying as we listened to the updates but relieved to have the ABC to keep us informed.
I live in ritual WA and have family in Melbourne including an elderly mother in aged care. It is very distressing not being able to visit her so it is hugely important to me that I get honest information via the ABC.
I think it's safe to say we all rely on their unbiased reporting, we couldn't and don't want to live without it.
Sincerely Glenda Rufus

Glenda R
VIC 6330

I rely on the abc for reliable, up to date information in covering many fields - technology, science, foreign affairs, current affairs, arts, literature and music. It is my chief source of entertainment without which my life would be utterly diminished. It is Like having a special entertaining, amusing, learned friend. I would be near suicidal to lose it. It is a great institution.

Glenice R
NSW 3149

The ABC is the ONLY station I trust to give me honest, reliable information.
I do not trust the corporate stations just as I don't trust our corporate puppet politicians.

Glenn D
QLD 2570

The ABC provides an excellent news service as well as entertainment (documentaries, talk back opportunities on the radio). I am nearly 56 years old; Aunty has been an integral source of information since I was a small child. The network provides an important service to all Australians, young & old, city & rural. No more cuts to the ABC, please.

Glenn H
WA 4650

Dear Prime Minister and all Members of Parliament.

The ABC is my most trusted and watched program and News supplier and has been my lifeline and advisor during the Covid-19 out-break. The truthful, brilliant and unbiased News Reporting and the entertainment shows such as the current affairs and comedy shows have been a source of knowledge, education and levity for me both prior to and during these hard and trying times.

With the slow but sure erosion of funding - in Real Terms - to My ABC by the Federal Government there will be adverse affects on the variety and quality of News reporting and entertainment programs which I rely on for most of my information and entertainment requirements.

Please Properly Fund, Protect and Save My ABC.

Glenn N
WA 6110

Living daily with the effects of PTSD from an unfortunate adoption has made me hypersensitive to the accuracy of the information that I choose to rely on to make decisions about what I do about what is going on around me and the state of this planet. When the percentage of our society polled on who they trust in the news and opinion presented by the ABC reaches up over 80% you would have to have a subversive agenda to want to cut its funding... so it's pretty obvious to me what's going on and the easiest way to resolve the problem is for the Governments policy and actions to become as trusted as the ABC.

Glenn W
VIC 6055

I a bushfire situation (getting rather common these days) and the power goes out, along with phone communications the ABC, and ONLY the ABC is still there giving us critical, life saving and decision making information 24 hours a day, 7 days a week. And several times we have only had our car radio to listen to it, because, as I said, the first thing during a bushfire event is that the power goes out.

The ABC is a vital tool in giving people the information they need to ensure their safety and survival.

Every time the funding is cut from the ABC, I wonder whose life will be put at risk because of that funding cut, and I can just about guarantee that it wouldn't be the lives of and person who was complicit in the funding cutting decision - no siree!

Glenn Wilson
Tallangatta Valley

Glenn W
WA 3701

I rely on the ABC each and every day for Classical music, News Bulletins and TV documentaries made in Australia.

Glenys Davies

Inglewood WA

Glenys D
NSW 6052

To the current government

The ABC has always been a hugely important thing in my life. It provides trustworthy information, is not strident and it values balance in the arguments it presents.

I understand the reason that the government originally sought to penalise it, many years ago over an international security issue.

I believe Malcolm Turnbull was responsible for initiating the first cuts while claiming that they weren't cuts... And I agree the ABC overstepped in reporting that an overseas government was being bugged by us. Idiotic, thoughtless, cavalier show-off stuff.

However I think the point has been made and the ABC can and will continue to learn to balance their judgement on what they should broadcast and what they should not, particularly for national security.

However it is not okay to cut a major source of information that thinking people rely on. Thoughtful dialogue by people who are not out for self aggrandisement or not backed by commercial interests.

It is unthinkable that we should lose this national treasure as it has been called. So please do not cut them further because they are "us" on many different levels.

They are not divisive, they are multicultural and they offer a fantastic scope from which all of us can benefit from and be the better for, every day.

Thank you

Glenys

Glenys W
NSW 2250

Dear Prime Minister

Earlier this year I was travelling Australia. During that time I relied on the ABC local stations to keep me updated on bushfire activity near me, storms near me and COVID-19 restrictions. The ABC is critical to all Australians in this space. We cannot rely on media news generated by owners who deliberately lie and mis-represent the facts.

I trust the ABC to keep me truly informed.

Regards

Glynis Whitfield

41 Ayrton Street, Gungahlin, ACT, 2912.

Glynis W
WA 2913

Keeping up to date with Corona virus info, I only relied on the ABC both radio and TV. I run a cooking school and volunteer at a food service outlet.

I closed teaching sessions, reopened these sessions and resumed volunteer work entirely on ABC broadcast.

Global news about issues with countries in the neighbourhood are important to me, not only as a global citizen but also due to family ties. I could only rely on ABC for some level of accuracy.

Gnanaletchumy J
NSW 6020

Dear budgeters,

My experience with the ABC could be summarized as follows:

I listen to some programs on Radio National, and to News Radio (mainly for its - diminishing number of - rebroadcasts of BBC programs).

A couple of years ago, I got sick of NR's longish promo ending (with affected solemnity) "... without bias, or agenda". So I emailed various ABC CEOs a couple of times, suggesting that it should be a significant part of Journalism101 that no-one could possibly be unbiased, and that the more clearly persons realize-and-acknowledge that, the more they'd be "Australia's most-trusted news source".

Thankfully, I don't think I've heard those counter-productive promos for some months. - But RN's recent series of promos don't seem promising: "... RN. - Think bigger".

It would be good if RN took some of its own medicine - and the ABC would be more trusted, and give the government no excuse not to fund it better!

Nevertheless, I believe that the ABC's news is far more credible than most public alternatives. - Please fund it better, (so RN doesn't have a narrow-minded ~250-word limit on emails to them. (Compare the 10,000 character limit of the White House). So much for thinking bigger! - Next we'll have to tweet!)

Sincerely,
Gordon Kennard.

Gordon K
WA 2515

Today I turned 82. So I have been listening to the ABC for 82 years.

Although I can't remember those first 4 or 5 years, there is no doubt I heard it, because my parents have always relied on the ABC for news and information. We lived on a farm and we were always tuned to the ABC coming to us from the tower near Wagin. Whether it was the 12 o'clock New, the Lawsons or Blue Hills, the Argonauts' Club, BBC news at 9 PM, the Goons and many other comedy show, we were listening. The ABC was part of our life on the Farm.

And all these years later the ABC is still part of my life through ABC Radio National, ABC Classic and ABC TV.

Thought out these awful past 10 months of Bush fires and COVID - 19, the ABC is constantly there keeping us informed and up to date on the latest news. If for the last few years of my life, the ABC was closed down I would be devastated.

Come on other Seniors, please join me in supporting our ABC; our life long friend.

Gordon M
VIC 6158

ABC news is priceless for keeping me updated, whether it be online or via the TV. 2020 has proven this constantly with its bushfire coverage and the ongoing COVID-19 pandemic. I love the 24 hour news channel; keeping you updated whenever it suits you, and the constantly updating ABCE news online with all the highly reputable journalists. ABC radio is as vital for this too. When I need a laugh, ABC Comedy always is there, whether it be Hard Quiz, the Micallef show, Charlie Pickering, Rosehaven - this list is priceless.

Grace K
VIC 3145

Through all emergencies, bushfires and now COVID19, we've always been able to rely on the ABC for prompt, efficient news bulletins to keep us up to date with what's happening.

Graeme C
VIC 3699

I am a frequent listener to RN and I have come to rely on Coronacast on weekdays. Its advice and recommendations have sometimes had to change in the light of experience and research but it is the kind of informative and authoritative public service program that only the ABC would provide.

Graeme H
VIC 3068

I depend on the ABC for unbiased reportage

Graeme H
VIC 3160

I am 90 years old and have listened to Radio National and viewed ABC television for several decades.

To me, the ABC has been many things throughout its history. It has been like a University. It has been the most reliable source of news. It has been an essential watchdog of the actions of governments and corporation. It has been an entertainer of many kinds, and suiting a wide range of tastes. And it has been a vital service to the population in times of addressing bush fires, floods, cyclones and pandemics.

The ABC has been struggling to continue in all of these roles, but as their needs and importance increase, its resources are being reduced, to the detriment to Australia.

Graeme L
NSW 3068

My name is GRAEME RICHARDSON. The ABC has been "there for me" in regards to the reporting of un-bias news. Which is VERY important. And also the quality of drama, (which is my genre of choice), that has been of a high standard. IE: "Vera". And of course, helping through COVID-19, by reporting quality information and help. Keep up the good work ABXC! And as for the Federal Government giving the ABC more money? ABSOLUTLY!

Graeme R
VIC 2011

I live in Mt Waverley, a suburb of Melbourne. The ABC news and current affairs programs are a very important source of information.

These programs play an important role in Australia's way of life.

Instead of cuts to the ABC budget, please increase their budget.

Graeme Walters

Graeme W
NSW 3149

The ABC has been the only reliable analysis for debate to address the unprecedented threats to our communities posed by bushfires & corona virus, and is essential for countering the alternative facts from right wing politicians and commercial media shock jocks, working in unison and clearly controlled by self-serving and unscrupulous big business bosses hell bent on power and profit at the expense of an informed democracy.

Graham B
QLD 2119

Even the Government (as detailed in a recent 4 Corners program) accepts the success of State Actors in spreading disinformation such as linking 5G and Covid-19, anti-vaccination campaigns etc. Glaringly, we see the President of the United States, supported by Fox Media and others, use his public profile to constantly lie and broadcast mis-information to the extent that the truth is essentially drowned out in the soup of information. We do see this in our own Government's approach along with a persistent and deplorable approach to avoiding accountability.

As such, it is imperative that I can rely on some readily identifiable sources of information for what can be verifiable and largely impartial information on the important issues of the day and which in turn holds those in positions of power to proper account. The ABC stands out as by far the best source of such information with its variety of programs, presenters and broad reach across Australia.

The ABC is a "service" which is fundamental to our democracy and the funding cuts (a freeze or any any other disingenuous name) of recent years threatens to leave us with news services which are slaves to profit only and not committed to the greater good of this country. Fox News and Sky News are essentially quasi-political organisations who exploit far right views through division and sensationalism - nothing even close to responsible journalism!

The ABC is defined by responsible journalism (and yes, mistakes and mis-steps do happen, but they are always publicly addressed) and they are accountable to the public as evidenced by the faith the public expresses in the service. A "service" must not be hostage to profit and the norms of a business enterprise regardless of public benefit as are the Murdoch media enterprises.

My vote at election time will not go to any Party not fully supporting the ABC!

Graham Black

Graham B
NSW 4032

My wife and I had a brush with death via the South Coast bush fires at Manyana on South Coast. We were kept fully informed via sustained ABC reporting on the fires, allowing us to make a vital call to head out to the Highway with flames getting worse in Manyana Forests

Graham C
VIC 2230

I begin each day listening to RN in order to get a picture of the weather which I need to plan my days activity. During the bush fire crisis it was the only way I could securely know what action to take to protect my home and the family. The ABC provides a myriad of additional programmes which ensure that each day I am aware of what is happening locally, across Australia and around the world. After 80 years of listening I know that what I am being told or seeing is based on unbiased, non commercial and factual information. This makes the ABC unique in Australia. The ABC brings compassion and comfort to millions of Australians and for many it is a lifesaving means of communication. THE FAILURE OF SUCCESSIVE LIBERAL GOVERNMENTS TO PROPERLY FUND THE ABC MAKES IT VERY DIFFICULT FOR ME TO SUPPORT THE LIBERAL PARTY IN ANY OF ITS ENDEAVOURS. Australias future needs a stronger, better resourced ABC and the Govt could make it happen tomorrow. The ABC is just as important as Health, Welfare and Education. Graham H Crapp

Graham C
VIC 3228

The ABC is central to objective journalism in this country - it is so important to facts and balanced judgements. The Murdoch media is a blight on democracy - how anyone can absorb the right wing rubbish and populist fiction spewed out daily by its various outlets like Sky News and the Murdoch print media is beyond belief. And in recent times there is a trend, in my opinion, for the once respected media like Fairfax to be moving to the right with an often expressed political agenda - to the point where I cancelled my once valued subscription recently. The ABC is my daily go to through its TV Channel, online and mobile. Any attempt to interfere with the funding and views expressed by the ABC must be strongly resisted by thinking and reasonable Australians!

Graham F
VIC 3040

Please do not cut the ABC broadcaster any further. We rely heavily on the ABC to keep us posted on a daily basis during these troubled Covid times. Isolating in beautiful, green Hurstbridge is no hardship but it is a long way from the hub of thongs and we need our ABC to inform us so that we know we are complying with lockdown rules and are able to safely source the things we need. We are elderly and the ABC is our main source of news and entertainment. We rely heavily on its high quality newscasts, documentaries and hard hitting comedy and satire. Thank you ABC.

Graham H
NSW 3099

The Australian Broadcasting Commission has been an important PUBLIC institution since its inception. I listened to the ABC when Jim Dibble had hair over all his head. My family relied on the accurate delivery of local, national and international news by the ABC.

In my 75 years of life, I have seen many changes to the character of Australian society. I have worked with children as a teacher in many public schools in NSW. We relied on the ABC for music and other educational resources like "Behind The News" not necessarily available to us otherwise, especially in places like Bourke, Broken Hill and Lake Cargelligo.

The ABC's charter really asks it to represent the aspirations and hopes of ALL Australians. It has kept in front of societal growth and change with ground-breaking programs covering a wide range of Indigenous, multicultural and multifaith backgrounds. It has researched and revealed many important local, national and international issues.

When principal of Bourke Primary School in 1980s I was greatly impressed by the professionalism of reporters like Quentin Dempster when we were dealing with a racially-charged issue. He was not interested in 'gotcha' moments. He wanted to produce a responsible report. My school was not involved but I hosted the media to explain the situation and request professional support in reporting the situation factually. The issue was not swept under the carpet and miscreants were dealt with. The dignity of local people was retained. The issue was not sensationalised to the extent that it could have been.

In the area of entertainment, music and the arts, the ABC has enabled those who would normally "not get a go" in strictly commercial spheres to showcase their talents. TV programs run on the ABC in the 90s have now found their way on to commercial channels after the ABC recognised their excellence in the first place. Many entertainers and reporters in current commercial media owe their training and their subsequent success to the culture and training programs at the ABC.

The ABC has allowed a wide range of talented people to experiment and produce creative productions that would not otherwise have been made. It is sad to note the reduction of ABC state orchestras and similar general Arts and creative programs.

As a child and teenager, I was an avid fan of Julius Sumner Miller, a brilliant science educator of the time. Who would not remember "Why is it so?", a show that inspired many a science student to stick at it. I could go on but the ABC's record is there for anyone to see. It has contributed (and should continue to be funded to contribute) to the educational, professional, social and general well-being of ALL Australians.

And, if you ask anyone in the bush, why do you listen to the ABC, you could be there for a long time listening to the answers. Listen to Macca on Sunday for an insight into that. In every local, state and international emergency, the ABC often provides the only available source of information.

The ABC does not compete with commercial enterprises, it provides avenues for innovation that for-profit broadcasters cannot risk. It complements what is going on elsewhere. Fund the ABC's charter activities so it can do its job.

Graham L
NSW 2914

The work of the ABC during recent bushfires and similar events and their ongoing production of quality Australian content warrants increases in funding no the death by a thousand cuts current Government applies. We need media that are examples that make us smarter and think more not not the mindless pap from commercial networks.

graham o
NSW 2525

I have watched ABC TV since TV began in Australia.

This is the only media service I can rely on for unbiased coverage of important events and it is such an essential service that funding must be maintained and probably increased.

Graham Patterson

Graham P
NSW 2350

During this unprecedented time I have relied on the unbiased, comprehensive and accurate reporting on the pandemic by the ABC not just to keep informed of how to personally respond the various changes to socially isolating. but also for the broader analysis of the current situation and future issues.

From the daily reporting of the situation, to the in depth and measured reporting by Dr Norman Swan and the wide-ranging discussions of the impact of the virus on life in Australia by Q&A, I believe the ABC has contributed immeasurably to Australia's successful management of the crisis by keeping the population informed and updated on the situation.

I am sure that those who have personally been impacted by other natural disasters such as fire and flooding feel similarly.

I am distressed by the Government's reduction in the ABC's funds that will impair this capability that will not be replaced by other media organisations who driven by profit and have no incentive to cover the gaps left by defunding the national body.

On another note, I have also noticed that the ABC is struggling to keep producing/purchasing quality drama and comedy with many time slots now being filled with repeats of shows that have been aired earlier in the week. In short, I, and Australia, need a viable ABC that can continue to maintain the high standard we have become accustomed to.

Graham W
QLD 2303

Although I live in the city and therefore have not had to be so dependent on drought and bushfire reports, I do know how vital that information is to friends living in the country. It is with the COVID-19 pandemic that the ABC has been and still is important for us. Not only are the television reports essential watching, I find the ABC news app on my phone is brilliant. With the continual erosion of reliable news services in Australia, the ABC is more important than ever as a platform for reliable, fact and evidence based information that is easy to access. I am afraid the commercial TV news services don't come close to what the ABC provides.

Graham Tilbury T
VIC 4165

Don't cut the ABC further, put money back in.

Grant C
VIC 3021

My wife and I no longer rely on the free to air commercial stations for our news. The narrow minds and topics are constantly repeated as if nothing else is happening in Australia or other countries. It seems as if there are no real investigators out there when there is so much that should be reported to the public.

We prefer the ABC for our news as we know that we will be updated on both local and world news. The topics are not controlled by what is going to be printed in the next days newspaper. I see topics relating to Australia's environment, Aboriginal culture and issues that concern real Australians. I see topics confronting for government and big business that would be ignored or briefly touched on to appease the general public.

Simply, it seems the only place I will get the opportunity to know about real issues facing Australia, is by watching the ABC, the other all read from the same narrow minded script.

Grant N
NSW 3228

I live on a remote property in the Shoalhaven, my husband is a physicist and lecturer at Wollongong University and I am an artist. For both of us, the ABC is our essential news source; if we want to know what is going on we go to the ABC News website, TV or radio - no other will do! The ABC is prepared to ask questions that no other broadcaster seems capable of doing - this is an essential element of democracy which I deeply value. We must always have a strong impartial broadcaster, and this can only happen if it is funded by us the taxpayers! All other media runs on vested interests which limit its capacity for impartiality.

It is never okay for the government to make funding changes at the behest of competing businesses (other media outlets). If these other media outlets/businesses cannot operate profitably with a well funded ABC in place they should not be in business. A request by these organisations to strip the ABC of its funding is no more than a lazy request for easy profits. The government's job is to provide services to the general public - their citizens (us, we the people), it is never the government's job to enable greater profits for any business by disempowering a competitor, especially one as important to Australia as the ABC.

During the Bushfires, ABC was essential in keeping us well informed as to what was happening in our area. Our property was in a high-risk zone and having the ABC providing regular updates was essential.

And of course for drama music and Australian stories the ABC is the only place to go!

The ABC must be fully funded - and I request that you rule out any cuts to the ABC in the October 2020 budget. I would also request that funding that has been cut over the last few years be restored. In fact I would be encouraging the Government to increase funding for theABC!

Greer T
NSW 2577

ABC is a big part of Australia's community identity.

Let's be real, any entity that is driven by profit will not be impartial.

I live at Milton on the NSW south coast and when the fires raged around us the ABC radio was the only reliable source of information.

Electricity was out and the internet and mobile phone network were out or jammed with panicked users.

The tourists were banked up in their cars along the highway from Milton to south of ulladulla and they slept in their cars for the night waiting for the highway to open.

I bet they were all tuned into the local ABC radio otherwise they would of been totally lost & confused.

Regards

Greg Anderson

Greg A
QLD 2538

If anything funding should be increased and the government needs to back off . There are good unbiased journalists etc just starting out that need to see the abc as a good career move. I can see the government is doing all it can to undermine the only unbiased open minded media source left in Australia we cannot allow this to go on.

Greg C
NSW 4818

My wife and I are retired teachers. We don't have any cable services (Netflix etc) and can't stand the mindless advertising and programming on commercial radio and TV . So we rely on the ABC TV for quality programmes- drama, documentaries, quality and balanced news and discussion etc. Over the summer bush fires, we relied on the ABC for up to the minute coverage and warnings. During the enforced corona lock down, and long before that, we listened to and still listen to ABC radio daily for intelligent programmes and entertainment.

The ABC is an indispensable public asset- it is our lifeline to balanced, intelligent and truly Australian content, without the massive political bias of other media networks and the crass commercialisation of non- public broadcasters. We NEED the ABC, and it needs MORE funding, not less. When the government can hand out millions to Fox yet cuts the ABC's budget- this hows the LNP does not care about ordinary Australians.

Greg D
VIC 2305

Informative, reliability, unbiased, factual and trustworthy are some of the words I would use to describe the role which OUR ABC to our family over past months.

Greg N
QLD 3550

Please don't cut the ABC

INCREASE the funding

When cyclone Debbie impacted us in the Whitsundays we relied so heavily on our ABC

They gave non sensationalist news

Just helpful facts

Greg o

NSW 4802

As a regional resident I am totally dependent on the ABC for trustworthy and accurate news and current affairs, weather reports etc. Having been totally burnt out in the Sir Ivan Fire of 2017, losing 1500 head of livestock, buildings, 60 km of fencing I am very aware of the importance of the ABC to report/ communicate with the wide Australian populace and locally to disseminate information and advice during such tragedies. Our kids need them, we need them undiminished. Greg Piper

greg p

QLD 2843

Please consider more, not less funding for the ABC, as they are the news outlet which I most trust. An horrific year has meant that I and a lot of folks have required unbiased reporting re fires and the virus. ABC has, in my opinion, delivered such reporting and will, I hope, into the future. To do this, they need funding to be increased, not diminished. Let's face it, we're all in this together.

Greg R

NSW 4655

I rely on the ABC News, particularly the morning 07.45 bulletin on Sydney 702 radio for an advert free update. The announced cut of this bulletin prompted me to write to my local member, for the first time ever. I asked for a response without spin. That was too hard. John Alexander responded with the Liberal Party line, about cost cutting, ignoring the community service that the ABC provides, which the commercial stations ignore.

Greg T

NSW 2113

I feel very passionate about the ABC and the role it plays in the lives of Australians. Why should we even have to be writing these messages? the federal government's ideology driven attacks on the ABC and its draconian cuts to the ABC should be opposed by all right thinking Australians. We watch the ABC and we vote, should be our mantra and we stare down the federal government that tries to weaken and undermine the effectiveness of the national broadcaster to do what Australian people expect it to do. reinstate the funds that have been taken from the ABC!

greg t

VIC 2042

I listen to the ABC to keep updated. I would like to hear more critical analysis of the prevalent consumption of corpses(animals) & intoxicating substances (alcohol, drugs(both legal & illegal)) & the links to the Covid 19 virus & compromised immune systems but the ABC has value

Gregory N

QLD 3460

I only rely on the ABC during the coronavirus crisis?

I only rely on the ABC's emergency broadcasts in times of bushfire, flood or Covid 19.

I only rely on the ABC to hold those in power accountable at a time when deception is easily overlooked?

The ABC helps me stay connected through its drama, music and commitment to Australian stories.

Greig L

VIC 4133

My family relied on the ABC to provide accurate, up to date information on the bushfires. Even when we were overseas we could rely on the ABC to provide detailed, localised tracking of the fires and the disaster as it unfolded. Now during this awful pandemic, we rely on the ABC's blog, Dr Norman Swan and regular news updates to know how it is progressing and how do I and my family stay safe. The ABC is a rare jewel of our democracy, providing unbiased (yes really) news and information on the state of our country. We need to build the ABC's capabilities, not defund them. One day your life may depend on getting clear, accurate information from an ABC broadcast, ours do at the moment in Victoria.

Guy M
VIC 3089

So what would motivate a 60+ year old tertiary educated, Melbourne residing woman to write about "The ABC of what you need to know?" The simple answer is Concern. I'm concerned that I need to remain informed and up to date with accurate well researched NEWS and current events. I'm concerned that the local and wider Australian community needs to be able to hear, see, and read up to date balanced news, and that our younger members will have access to quality information and programs. I am concerned that quality programs can be resourced and developed here in Australia, and that we support talent and creativity. Never before has it been more critical for our government to support the ABC to remain able to provide the different range of programs the Australian society needs. At the beginning of 2020 we remained accurately informed as the ABC once again took on the role of the emergency broadcaster during the horrific bushfires that ravaged our country. The ABC has been there at the forefront of Bushfire, flood and drought reporting. It has kept the community up date with information. It has had insight and amidst an ever diminishing budget provided much needed appropriate resources and programs for our children during fires, floods and now the pandemic with its distance/home learning situation. Now we are in the midst of a pandemic and the ABC is once again providing balanced timely information through a range of media options. Can other sources provide this? I don't believe so. I have found other sources to politicise, and sensationalise. Other sources will naturally have vested interests because they are privately owned. In the end it boils down to TRUST and I trust the ABC. I ask respectfully that our Government shows leadership towards our national broadcaster and ensures its funding is not further cut but rather enhanced so that the Australian peoples can see that all in government respect and believe in having an honest, trustworthy ABC.

Gwen A
VIC 3056

The ABC has been my saving grace for the past 12 months as my husband passed away in July 2019 and I found solace in my Morning News catch ups with ABC News Breakfast and the wonderful coverage of bushfire info as well as in recent months keeping up to date with Covid Happenings. If the ABC funds are cut further, Australians will be so much worse off - a national Broadcaster is a life line and a friend to so many of all ages. The ABC is essential and any cuts are a knife in Australia's soul. Thank you ABC - I look forward to my evening viewing now.

Gwen F
VIC 3939

I haven't had any person problems but my heart goes out to people who are suffering I have family on the front line here and and abroad I wish people would try to support each other rather than let their political beliefs override common sense and blaming politicians of the opposite political persuasion for this traumatic time

Gwen R
NSW 3960

The ABC radio and television is crucial in keeping me informed of 2020 horror events from devastating bush fires ,to floods and then covid19. I always feel this news is trustworthy not influenced by commercial interests. That ABC has been part of my life and my education for 78 years. Please DO NOT DESTROY THIS AMAZING AUSTRALIAN INSTITUTION by continual funding cuts. Good government would value the ABC.

Gwenda Z
NSW 2225

Climate change 95% saturation coverage until covid came along. Now doesnt exist. ABCs "agenda" that took up so much air time not important any more!!

Guy fawkes gorge sterilisation fire (referred to as bees nest fire) not even covered to protect National Parks by ABC. Area run and managed for over 100 years by local landholders. Control burning carried out by them (not an aboriginal exclusive operation) cattle grazed NOT ONE MAJOR FIRE IN 100 YEARS National parks took over 1980s cattle removed. Approx every 6 yrs a major fire and the latest the biggest. What survives in protected country NIL LIFE TREES ANIMALS. Getup doent have this catastrophe on your agenda. Virus in Vict Coverage of Andrews incompetence nil coverage.Sorry he is a labour protected species. Murray on TV a 1 hour programme (2 researches ABCs 5 minute summary before Q&A "10" researches) obviously very competent!!

I could go on and on but with your "agenda " i would be wasting my time

haddon b
NSW 2453

During the resent Bushfires the only accurate information came from the ABC. Rural Australia would be a cultural wasteland without the ABC. Stop giving money to foxtel and support our ABC

Hans S
SA 2441

I am retired and over seventy years of age, the ABC is my/our prefered TV channel for all content. Governments interfering in the running of this entity need to be very careful I will not vote for one that does.

Harold F
VIC 5252

To whom it may concern,

Please fully fund our ABC. Having a fully funded ABC not only creates jobs in a coronavirus economic downturn, but throughout 2020 it has yet again proved vital to the safety and psyche of Australians.

I live in Bruthen in East Gippsland, I relied heavily on the live radio reporting on ABC Gippsland to ensure the safety of my 2 pre school aged sons. ABC reporting also helped to build a sense of compassion and community in this devastating and traumatic time, by telling the stories of local people, it made east gippsland feel heard, ABC is our voice, its our safety, its our community.

ABC also produces the best Australian breaking news which is of the most trusted integrity of any news source, it tells stories because they should be heard not just for advertising revenue and shock jock material which should be considered hate speech (e.g Alan jones). It unites a multicultural and diverse modern australia, it celebrates rural life and all the tapestry of what is magical about Australia. ABC creates the best Australian comedy, kids TV and drama, it has been my lifeline during covid lockdown, it makes me feel Australian and proud to be so. I cannot comprehend why any government would want to try and destroy the heart of the australain humor, psyche and spirit.....our dry wit, our love of this country, our story telling, history, quirkiness, tolerance and mateship....this is from ABC. ABC is our soul.

Please protect the essence of what it means to be Australian by fully funding the ABC. What kind of country are we without a soul ??

Thank you for doing whats right for the australain people, our culture, or heritage and the very essence of our beautiful auatralian fabric depends on this.

Kind regards,
Harriet cook

Harriet C
NSW 3011

I'm resident in Pymble, Sydney, and co-founder of the Institute for Sustainable Leadership, architect, town planner and have a PhD in management. I totally rely on the ABC for trustworthy and balanced national and international news. I also enjoy ABC documentaries, and watch regular current affairs programs, in particular Q&A, Insiders, 7:30, Four Corners and Foreign Correspondent.

There is no program in Australia that has covered the recent bushfires and the Covid-19 calamity as well as the ABC.

The ABC is a national institution and every bit as good as the BBC in the UK or ZDF and ARD in Germany, and I cannot for the life of me understand why the Coalition is hellbent on destroying this august and incredibly important institution.

I deeply resent attempts by the Murdoch Press and the Institute of Public Affairs to silence the ABC with the obvious ultimate aim of privatising it.

If the Coalition succeeds in destroying the ABC, it will forever have lost my and a few of my friends' vote.

Harry B
VIC 2073

We rely on the non partisan, non commercial ABC for unbiased news and expert advice. The daily bulletins and multitude of excellent programs offered by our iconic broadcaster, which is the envy of many nations in our region, give us the certainty to continue life with a minimum of panic and the facts we need to make wise decisions. The inclusion of a variety of opinions, is welcome. Its important in such a diverse nation to include the outliers, the minorities, and the dispossessed without giving disproportionate attention to false flags. We think the ABC navigates this minefield of information with a certain strength and authority. It is vital that the funding for the ABC continues at this most critical period. Not to do so would be tantamount to sounding a death knell for democracy in Australia.

Harry W
VIC 3122

The ABC has been essential for getting me and my family through the uncertainty of 2020. My preschool aged kids learnt about coronavirus and the importance of hand washing from their favourite Play School presenters while they were no longer able to see their friends and extended family. My husband and I have been able to forget the stress of the day watching Aussie programs like the hilarious Rosehaven. And we were able to educate ourselves watching important documentaries like In My Blood It Runs. ABC is our most trusted news source and we would be lost without it.

Hayley D
WA 2250

During the bushfires threatening the ACT, NSW and Victoria this year, I Spent hours trying to find out the situations threatening the safety of loved ones and friends. I couldn't have done that without the help of the ABC. Please don't cut funding to the ABC

Heather C
VIC 6059

I don't live in a bushfire or cyclone or flood prone area. I don't have children being educated at home. I don't live in a remote community with no other media. Like everyone else in the country and the world this year, I am living under the various versions of lockdowns due to the coronavirus.

But that does not mean that the ABC is ONLY necessary during crises. I rely on the ABC for up to date factual information and news, analysis and opinion based on proven facts and evidence, in all facets of daily life. Health. Politics. Policy. Drama. Religion, ethics and philosophy. I have forwarded the Behind the News and the other offerings for children being educated at home to the parents caring for those children. The ABC is the first place I go for trustworthy information about any and all matters.

And to my mind, beyond the natural and health crises we in Australia and the world are enduring this year, the bigger crisis is the Morrison government's ideological attacks on the ABC, cutting its funding under cover of the coronavirus and the budgetary stresses. The Morrison government's willingness to overtly favour commercial media (particularly NewsCorp) through funding allocations and in preventing the ABC and SBS from being able to be compensated for news (intellectual property) used by internet giants like Google and Facebook, is alarming. The Minister for Communications, Paul Fletcher, ignores all letters written to him asking for the ABC's funding to be restored and lies about the facts of the funding cuts that have been proven by many reliable sources like PerCapita and RMIT Fact Check.

The crisis beyond the natural and health issues is that posed to our democracy by attacks on our independent, public broadcasters. I refuse to be dominated by the propaganda machine that is NewsCorp and refuse to pay for any of their garbage.

In despair at the state of our democracy, our country and our world.

Heather D'Cruz
4 St. James Street
Geelong West
Victoria 3218
E: hmdcruz@gmail.com

Heather D
NSW 3218

Dear ABC thank you for being there, I rely on you for so much i.e. Trustworthy up to date information. On current coronavirus crisis, wonderful coverage on terrible fires/floods experienced on my South Coast this year, I so enjoy the wonderful drama and Australian stories you bring us. To all of you that make this happen THANK YOU

Heather M
VIC 2540

The ABC is my constant companion during this Melbourne lockdown. Whether it's listening to the radio, watching the ABC News Chanel or just getting a few moments of light relief or escapism from ABC TV, it remains one of the constants of my life.

Heather M
WA 3136

I trust the ABC's news reports and in depth reports on international and national controversial situations. I enjoy Australian Story and programs about Australia generally. I also enjoy very much the ABC Classical music programme on the radio and Radio National. I believe the cuts are to do with government not wanting to face the truths which ABC relate so honestly and clearly.

Heather R
VIC 6162

ABC conversations podcast is a lifeline of stories that connect me to something essential, I walk with it several times a week. Living in Victoria, I now work from home & have been on lockdown with my kids for most of the year. The ABC is my adult company, a reliable source of information. It's a public treasure and defunding it would be short changing is all.

Heidi D
VIC 3941

In lockdown we have relied on ABC in many ways. As parent to both inform and entertain our kids. The playschool special episodes about corona virus have been essential in us making sense with our toddler about the changes, challenges and expectations. Along with this as adults we rely on the ABC for news both tv and radio. Triple J and the hack program have been a lifeline to unpacking the expectations and staying connected as well as informed.

Heidi R
WA 3143

The ABC has been part of the fabric of my life for 69 years. It has informed me, entertained me and taught me so much of what I know about the world. It has been a source of enlightenment, has led me to most of the books I read and the music I listen to. It is an anchor. This year however I have never been more grateful for the steady presence of our National broadcaster. Through the terror of the bushfires to the ongoing horror which is COVID 19 I have been well informed and indeed comforted by the presence of exceptional journalists and reporters on my screens and radio. Their brave and balanced coverage keeps me informed but not alarmed and often moved to tears but not despairing. The fabric of Australian society is strong because of the ABC. We depend on the ABC to hold us together. For the health of Australian society the ABC must be properly and generously funded into the future.

Helen A
VIC 6290

I rely on ABC for clear, unbiased factual news and intelligent analysis of state-based national, international and local news.

I trust the ABC to cover news truthfully and without bias or racism, in the public interest, and assisting whole of community understanding, and drawing on expert commentators. Where there is controversy, I expect simple explanations of differing points of view.

I expect entertainment which satisfies principles of human decency, inclusion, and hope.

Helen B
QLD 3121

Hi, I'm a Nana living alone in a city far from family and precious grandchildren and my story is very common. I don't bother with Facebook etc. and I can't use a smart-phone due to hand impediments. The ABC has been a saviour during lockdown and distancing. I love it! And I rely on it! There is no substitute.

I've been disgusted at the regular cuts to the funding by successive governments over many years.

PLEASE listen to us and bolster the funding.

Sincerely
Helen Broadhurst

Helen B
NSW 4170

Dear Minister,

The events of this year have highlighted the vital importance of the ABC as a reliable, safe source of information. ABC reporters on the ground during fires helped to keep us safe. They seemed like a lifeline of reliability.

During the Covid-19 epidemic, the ABC has been the source of reliable, expert information and a source of reliable government measures. The ABC provides depth and reliability without needless sensation. Our ABC is vital to all voters. Please fund it adequately. Thank you.

Helen C
NSW 2060

The only news I believe is from the ABC.

During this Covid 19 rubbish there has been so much underhanded approvals for fossil fuel companies to make our climate worse, the ABC has reported the truth.

The ABC helped during the fires with updates on where the fires were and news on what was happening.

I have found the corrupt Murdoch press twists everything to the Government side while the ABC comes out with the truth, that's obviously why the LNP want to downsize it.

The ABC also has some wonderful AUSTRALIAN shows that I believe must be continued.

The ABC is for TRUTH, that's why the government want to destroy it.

Helen C

VIC 2251

I find ABC reporting of events both local and international events and issues are without bias and straight to the point with explanation. My trust in ABC is excellent. Most of the time, I am tuned in to the network more than others. The shows about people, experiences are admirable. I do hope that the budget of the network is maintained and not slashed. ABC is for the people!

Helen G

QLD 3055

I have found that ABC news broadcasts throughout this pandemic have been the most invaluable tool to navigate through these tough times. They give you up-to-date details on everything that is happening in the country - from coronavirus updates to job-seeker, through to the most current details of our economy.

I would not rely on other news sources as I do the ABC for their to-the-point accuracy and their transparency.

GO ABC!

Helen Harvison.

Helen H

TAS 4114

I am 74 years old. The ABC has been a constant in my life from 3AR in Melbourne as a child, and galloping around the dining room table to Kindergarten of the Air, to the Argonauts. It was my introduction to classical music with my mother listening with me.

She was listening and called out to me when President Kennedy was killed.

Through out my life ABC radio and television has kept me informed.

I live in rural Tasmania. I need to hear the bush fire warnings. I need to hear the news. I listen to it each morning. I watch the Drum each evening, then the 7.00pm News and 7.30 Report.

I have stayed updated with the corona pandemic. I am comforted and informed by classic FM. I am entertained with Rosehaven. I watch thoughtful programs like Total Control, Stateless and Media Watch. I am updated with issues by Four Corners and Foreign Correspondent. I enjoy Mad As Hell.

I live alone by choice, but I have the ABC with me each day.

I am appalled at further cuts. It is essential that we have reliable, non biased, un watered down news and content.

Yours sincerely,

Helen Hussey,

Helen H

NSW 7054

To Whom It May Concern

The ABC has always been a part of the life of my family. Its news coverage, current affairs programs and radio stations are intrinsic to our daily lives.

In a world which is increasingly overwhelmed by superficial and meaningless media, the ABC is a haven of truth, balance and sincerity. In relation to news and current affairs, its commentary is unfailingly ethical, factual and informative.

The ABC promotes integrity, examining issues which are of fundamental importance to us all. It seeks to clarify and shed light where there is sadly, generally, obfuscation or falsehood.

It is heartening to know that there is one source which can be relied upon to simultaneously inform us, inspire us to question and encourage us to prioritise the truth above all else.

It is inconceivable to think that funding of such a nationally essential media instrument is constantly under threat.

I understand that incumbent governments dislike commentary which is critical of them in any way. But, seeking to censor that commentary by threatening funding is petty and diminishes the stature of government which should, above all, honour its role of defending the right of media to be independent, objective and free from the threat, or reality, of funding cuts.

Life would not be the same in our family without being able to turn on the radio to listen to ABC Classic FM, ABC News Radio, or Triple J or to switch on the TV to watch The Drum, ABC News, 7:30, Foreign Correspondent, Four Corners, or Australian Story.

The ABC is often a lifeline for remote and regional communities which have little or no access to other media. Cutting funding to the ABC is equivalent to cutting off a lifeline for these communities.

The ABC is an icon and needs protection and full support from the government rather than funding threats or cuts.

Thank you.

Sincerely,

Helen Huszar-Welton

6 Pambula Ave

Prestons NSW 2170

johnlena17@hotmail.com

Helen H

VIC 2170

I am an 84 year old woman. I was brought up listening to the ABC, beginning with 360 when it was classical music. The ABC has been my lifeline to the outside world as long as I can remember,

From RN at 6 am to LNL at 10pm. I have lived through bushfires when there was no electricity in 1960 to listening with my husband when living on the Mornington peninsular during Black Sat.

I am now a widow and the ABC is my lifeline to both RN 774 and FM for music when I need a break.

Wed at 5.30 on RN to hear my granddaughter Louise being interviewed from London was the feeling it has gone full circle.

I cannot imagine living without being able to listen to the ABC

Helen j

TAS 3136

I am a 68 year old retiree, mother and grandmother. I live on the central coast NSW and I was heavily reliant on ABC radio particularly for updates this last summer as the fires weren't far away.

I used the ABC radio app while on a short family trip to the UK on December so I could be updated on the fires. I would have had 2 very worried weeks but because I could get information I was totally happy to accept as reliable, I knew the fires at that time weren't a threat to our home.

And since March this year I have solely relied on the ABC radio and tv plus online bulletins for accurate and timely COVID-19 updates.

So that's 9 months of essential vital (in the real meaning of the word) information.

I submit this very sincerely.

Helen Killick

Green Point

Helen,King,4520,nebohelen@yahoo.com,THE ABC,Without the ABC there would be insecurity

Helen K

NSW 7009

Power failure where do you go battery wireless ABC i have listened to A.B.C. since birth 1932 Communication necessity My computer skills limited AGE hearing sight can be fulfilled by the volume button .Essential communication tool Off to lunch Wireless tuned the only human voice in my home. I HAVE BEEN ALONE FOR 16 YEARS.

Helen L
VIC 2283

I am a 76 year old woman who has lived in or near Melbourne all my life and I have been listening to the ABC for at least 73 of those years. I first really relied on the ABC for life and death information on Ash Wednesday when I was living on a farm in the Macedon ranges with the fires raging all around and a wind change saving our property at the last minute. Since March this year I have relied entirely on the ABC - Radio National and ABC TV - for information about the Covid 19 pandemic and what I could and should do about it. Norman Swan was my guru on the subject and Daniel Andrews was a real voice of reason, unlike so many other leaders. Apart from those crises times, I have always relied ONLY on the ABC to get unbiased news reporting and commentary as well as many excellent current affairs programs for ALL my understanding of politics. That is vital,, but no less important to me has been the ABC's almost lone coverage of the arts - for my whole life - over at least 50 years (I am a retired book publisher). Not to mention the many programs that have been my education in subjects outside the arts which have been in my life for decades such as the Science Program, the Music Program, The Health Report, The Law Report and all the different programs on Economics - plus more generalist programs like Life Matters, and now that I am a particularly isolated old woman in this crisis, I have Radio National on all day, and watch ABC TV and its excellent news, Australian drama, comedy and especially satirical programs all evening. That is practically the only source of Australian content there is. I have also followed the progress of decades of funding cuts to the ABC with a sinking feeling every time, and right now it is even more urgent that we can keep one source of accurate reporting which the Australian government should be funding more rather than less - it is so vital to a democracy - look at America under Trump - and without such an organisation we would follow the US into the corrupt, amoral dictatorship which is the US is fast becoming under Trump.

Helen M
QLD 3052

It's New Year's Eve 2019 and the members of our entire immediate family, scattered in SA, ACT, VIC, NSW and Qld, are glued to their radios, except for my son and his wife. They're cowering in a flat by the waterside in Mallacoota, as the inferno approaches. They have abandoned their mud-brick cottage and studio on a bush block on the outskirts of the village, taking with them irreplaceable musical instruments, scores and as many of the artefacts a musician and dancer depend on as they can. The rest of us, so far away, are texting and phoning each other, terribly afraid for them. We are all tuned into the ABC, in particular ABC Gippsland, which is tracking the fires as they race towards 'Coota, destroying the great forests of east Gippsland in their path. We devise a plan. Since the two in the path of the fire have no way of knowing its progress as they lie in wait for the onslaught, one daughter and her husband take on the role of contacts. Throughout the night, we are all awake, tapping the resources of the ABC, tracking the fire and relaying its progress. The Mallacoota firestorm was a tragedy, but my children survived. You cannot imagine how important it was to hear the voice of the ABC throughout that terrible night. It is times like this that we rely on the ABC more than ever. I am 84 and have never in my entire life ever listened to any radio service in Australia but the ABC. That's because I trust and respect the comprehensive high-value independent role they play. My radios have batteries, since it is the ABC that keeps me informed when the power grid fails. You learn this when you live outside the mainstream in Australia. The ABC is an indispensable national resource.

Helen M
NT 4560

I am reliant on the ABC to provide me with reliable information on COVID-19 developments as this comes up on my phone and keeps me informed. I also listen to ABC radio and enjoy Australian Story and 4 Corners which provides me with connection on the big issues. 7:30 report is brilliant and Leigh Sales is an excellent journalist. Please don't do any further cuts to funding for Australia's ABC - give them more money. They keep people connected, especially in rural areas.

Helen M
WA 836

I live in the Great Southern in WA - in the bush. At The end of March I self isolated as I am over 70 and my partner has a chronic disease. The radio and television news were our contact with what was happening in the outside world. We chose and relied on the ABC for unbiased news on the virus throughout that time. I have watched commercial news from time to time and find the broadcasts sensational and not as professional as that found on the ABC and SBS. I still work part time and listened every morning to the 7.45am local news in the car on my way to work. Due to the government cuts this vital and local news broadcast has come under the axe. In WA we love getting local and WA news and I would hate to see our broadcasts becoming Eastern State central. I would hate to see more axing of ABC services and would urge this government to stop their continued slashing of ABC funds.

Helen Nash

Helen N
QLD 6333

I love the ABC and listen to RN every day to keep informed and entertained. We all need an independent media to give a balanced view of the news and to hold our politicians to account. The Coronacast podcast and the Health Report with Dr Norman Swann has been an informative and timely way to stay abreast of the pandemic during these strange and unsettling times. Please don't cut funding to the ABC, all Australians need this service now more than ever.

Helen N
NSW 4152

All the talking points suggested have been relevant to me this year, but in particular my Radio National has kept me informed and up to date during both the bushfire emergency (I had to evacuate twice) and the current Covid 19 situation. It has been a reliable "go to" as an antidote to the unreliability of social media platforms.

Helen N
VIC 2541

The ABC news has been the only reliable news coverage over the last 6 months. All other news either exaggerate, dramatic and create a sense of kaos & feeling of helplessness. ABC news are the only channels I listen to as I don't trust the other channels. Please keep the funding to ABC they provide a vast array of amazing shows, documentaries and news which are even keel and not one sided or dramatised. They also provide opportunity for upcoming talent which we know in the past feed into all the other chanel.

Helen P
NSW 3228

As I have a property in Colo that was in the path of the Gospers mountain fire, followed by the largest flood in years, I cannot stress how important the amazing ABC was, in providing so many communities with critical information and up to date news. Communities and people everywhere rely on the factual, empathetic, informative and unbiased reporting that the ABC provides. I have been so angry watching the ABC funding being diminished by the current government and am horrified that there is more to come. So many excellent programs and people have been lost each time these cuts occur. It is time to stop and ensure the ABC receives the funding it so deserves. The current COVID-19 pandemic is just another example of the excellent job the ABC does in keeping people everywhere informed and up to date. Please HANDS OFF THE ABC!!

Helen P
QLD 2044

I am so grateful for the ABC. It has been a touchstone throughout the extraordinarily difficult times of drought, bushfires and now Covid 19. TRUST is so important when the world is scary and full of uncertainty. I trust the ABC and their accurate, unsensational reporting. I am a taxpayer and I genuinely believe the ABC is worth every cent of pre cuts spending.

Helen R
NSW 4055

Whilst travelling in late January, early February this year being able to listen to the ABC was vital. We were travelling back from Tasmania to NSW via Victoria knowing what was happening with bushfires and road closures was extremely important. Any time we travel within Australia the ABC keeps us informed of local issues and keeps us entertained.

Helen S
NSW 2203

The ABC has always been extremely important in my life but in the past year it has become essential for not only accurate, detailed, impartial news but also for keeping me entertained, connected to fellow Australians and the rest of the world and especially for keeping me sane, calm and imparting a sense of hope as the world falls apart.

During the bushfires I was glued to the ABC news channel as my family at Tumbarumba and Canberra and friends at Murrumbidgee were in the path of the fire and the ABC channel gave me great coverage of the situation as it unfolded.

During the Covid lockdown the ABC continued with exceptional daily press conferences, statistics and impartial commentary as well as interviews with health professionals and politicians. It also provided great entertainment (advertisement free) with quality drama not available on other commercial channels. As I'm a poor sleeper at night I have ABC radio on all night and when I frequently wake up I'm reassured by the announcers voice and talkback callers that I'm not alone and others out there have concerns like mine; or by listening to the quiz (nightlife program) or a book reading I'm lulled back to sleep or at least stopped from tossing and turning about the state of the world.

Programs such as "Four Corners", "Q and A" and "Foreign Correspondent", not to forget "Insiders" have been excellent sources of what's happening in both Australia and the world. And, my day could not start without a cup of tea in-bed as I listen to the 7.45 am news followed by AM. This lets me know currently if there are hotspots (Sydney) I should avoid, or if things are getting better or worse so I can make a decision about mask wearing.

Library browsing is still not available in my local government area in Sydney, so I would be bored silly without the ABC tv and radio programs. I would watch commercial tv if it had decent programs for an educated, intelligent person, but honestly these are few and far between. And where there is the odd one it is ruined by mindless advertising.

So you can see the ABC is essential and life would be unthinkable and not worth living without it! Please give it a huge injection of funds so it can continue to flourish into the future, as it is truly "Our ABC".

Helen S
VIC 2221

The ABC has always been my go source for up to date and accurate information. I live in a high risk bushfire area and it dates back to Ash Wednesday in 1984, when I listened to 3LO radio reports.

Every year there seem to be more and more emergencies and events where accurate information is essential. The ABC has people on the ground throughout the regions.

The ABC also plays an important role in investigative reporting on important issues which otherwise would not be brought to the light of day. Commercial news sources often do not cover these sorts of issues very well because of vested interests.

Helen S
QLD 3808

Hi,

I am stuck at home looking after my younger sister who has dementia, and I rely on the ABC to give me carefully researched, truthful assessment of the daily news. I trust it's coverage to be unbiased, as opposed to the politicising of another channel; to rely on fact as opposed to opinion; to be measured in its reporting as opposed to emotional ranting of some pundits; as an ex primary school teacher I can do nothing but praise its educational content, particularly for regional Australia; for the diversity of its programming which celebrates all Australians; for, when it has the budget, its promotion of Australian Drama and comedy content. And probably, most importantly for 2020, it's value to its listeners/watchers, during the recent bushfires. I was able to be reassured as to the safety of relatives and friends from Sydney to the Blue Mountains, from Nowra to central Queensland. And now, giving us the daily information about Covid 19 without laying shameless political blame in this most stressful of times.

Helen T
SA 4343

During the Covid lock down in SA, I relied on the ABC radio and TV news service for up to date, reliable and commonsense information. As I was isolated at home for three months, I would have felt even more alone, without the excellent range of programs on I-view, the podcasts and the very interesting 891 talk back radio shows, and especially the entertaining 729 Richard Fidler series.

Helen T
NSW 5043

During the fires we were scared.

Fires south, west and north. We were packed ready to head to the ocean. 89 year old Aunty was staying with us for the Christmas holidays.

The sky was black. We had candles at 3pm. Telephone and mobile towers were burnt down. Electricity poles burnt down. We had no information.

ABC radio on an old transistor kept us informed. Continuous reports from all the surrounding areas. Warning people to leave when their area was threatened. Calming down frightened people, letting people tell their stories.

Informing rescue and fire services when listeners could not get in touch themselves.

We are so grateful to the ABC for their help during the fires.

ABC was amazing. ABC helped us all. ABC is essential to all of us.

ABC is necessary to all Australians who wish to be informed of the facts, who want quality listening and viewing.

We can only trust the ABC.

The ABC's funding must be reinstated and their independence maintained.

Helen W

WA 2546

I have relied and still rely on the ABC news all through the Corona virus Pandemic for trust worthy news and statistics of the virus. I turn on the ABC news every morning to see how the rest of the country and the world are coping with this pandemic. ABC news is the only news I know I am getting straight from the horse's mouth and not through others' opinions and bias, it is true blue news all the way and the only one I trust

Helen W

VIC 6122

The ABC has always given me the facts to then digest and make decisions for the right things to do in our society. It would be sacrilege to take away this forearm from the people, who incidentally pay for the right of having a free press. Please protect our voice and ability to voice our views. This is from the undervalued of our society. Thank you for listening

Helen W

TAS 3155

I rely on the ABC for all my news. I want facts, not sensationalism to sell copy for advertisers. I rely on the ABC for truthful pandemic news as it happens, especially when I have family and friends in areas of concern. I rely on online news, truthful news, so ABC is the only place to go to

Helen W

VIC 7140

ABC radio national is how I connect with the outside world, without them I'd be blind, deaf and dumb. Every morning the ABC gives me an insight into Australian breaking news, and also into world news. I wouldn't want to be without their insights. ABC on the weekend is how I relax. Fantastic insights into politics, history, science and more. I would be devastated if there were further cuts to the ABC.

Helena B

QLD 3055

I want you to know I watch ABC news every day because I trust it specially when I need the truth about something

I can't imagine life without the ABC what a sad day that would be

I sincerely hope you will not cut the ABC budget any further we need the ABC for its truth and investigations, thank you, Helena Koning

helena k

WA 4131

The ABC has always been an important part of my life in News and entertainment, but in 2020 it played a very real part in updating my husband and I on the real threat to our property during a fire in the Gabbadah, Moore River and Yanchep bushfires which was very close to our home.

The ABC gave us the updates as to how safe it was in our area and without that contact we would have found it quite impossible to know how to respond. It is important to have the ABC in semi and rural areas to fill us in on all events that are happening, whether it be an emergency or News, we could not live without the ABC.

Hellen H

NSW 6041

For me there's only one source of information i know i can rely on.And this has been the case for the last 40 years,i don't watch the garbage on the commercial channels,if an important story is presented it should NEVER be interrupted by commercials.I know i can trust the ABC for bringing the news as it is,where else do you find the investigative reports like the ones presented on Four Corners or the interesting stories like the ones on Landline and Backroads.Thanks ABC for bringing us uptodate and informed with thanks to all your presenters and reporters who do such a great job.
Best wishes to all of you and keep on going on forever, thanks also for NOT having these clowns of the IPA on Insiders anymore,i never understood why they were invited.Insiders is ,i think ,the best program nowadays on t.v.

henk s
VIC 2758

Hello,
I am wanting to share some facts. I would be lost without the ABC. Usually - I only watch the ABC or SBS TV. And the radio stations are the only ones I listen to. I love their relevant current affairs programs and cultural ones too.
But I rely even more on the ABC when there is an emergency. In fact would be lost without it. An emergency like Covid. I check daily with the ABC news App, facebook page and tune in nightly to the TV news.
I can't imagine how the ABC is managing to put out a quality product with all the funding cuts, but it does. Imagine if it could be injected with the funds it needs to be even more comprehensive and continue to reach out to rural and international areas?
PLEASE don't cut more funding. PLEASE reinstate lost funding and make available even more. We Australians rely on reliable, unbiased information to stay safe.
Thankyou,
Kind regards,
Henrietta Camilleri

henrietta c
WA 3352

Other than the ABC, where could I find programmes covering science? In my experience, does not feature regularly on any other TV or radio. We are incredibly lucky to have programmes such as The Science Show, which has been on Radio National for about 50 years. ABC is far better radio than any commercial station in Australia and possibly better than all but the BBC worldwide. We need to keep it, unadulterated by commercial sponsorship.

Hilary J
NSW 6160

In a time of crisis, the Murdoch press will only try to get profits from people's crisis. We need the ABC, it has a proven record to help every one in the country.
If you support the ABC that action will provide jobs for many generations with integrity and real journalism rather than the rubbish media we have to endure in Australia
Please fund the ABC, it is our window to every Australian house

Hilda C
NSW 2136

As soon as Covid raised it's head, I started following the news on ABC and am still doing it now to keep up to date. We need to keep a source that is not sensationalist and balanced.

Hilke M
NSW 2066

I don't need adverts in my life. I just need the real facts. I need reliable honest journalism. I need authenticity. I need highly skilled and qualified journalists with integrity. I can completely trust the ABC and SBS. I knew that everything I heard and watched on ABC was absolutely true with no frills and exaggeration.
This country has BRAINS and intelligence so we need the ABC to reflect that - not some tarted up rubbish dragged from the bottom of the cesspits of drama and exaggeration. Lift your game feds and libs. Don't be embarrassed to show your ignorance. Maybe the ABC can open your eyes and ears to the truth, too! Try it today!

Holly B
NSW 2478

ABC is a reliable and cherished news source that provides independent, unbiased and well- researched reporting. It is also unique in telling the stories of a diverse range of Australians through programs such as Australian story and landline. It is incredibly important to Australian culture and way of life and as such deserves greater funding in the 2020 budget.

Holly J
NSW 2031

Never ! i will protest ,if this government starts a problem with the ABC ! I start protesting , any way i can ,including getting support from willing politicians , really , horst , the last satellite hobbyist still alive !

Horst S
NSW 2529

We live quite remotely although only 25 mins from Coffs Harbour. There are no longer any local papers, they have all closed down. The internet is intermittent at times, and we suffer power outages quite often. Therefore we rely on the ABC for news, particularly through the bushfires, the floods and Covid-19 so far this year.

Howard D
NSW 2456

Last Xmas I had to drive from Sydney to Adelaide and back to be with my older brother in the weeks before he died, and I then stayed for his funeral.

I left Sydney around the 19 December 2019 as fires were threatening to cut the Hume highway around Berrima. I left Sydney at 5am and later that morning the Hume highway was closed. On my return in mid January I chose to come back through Broken Hill as the Hume highway was blocked around Albury but the Great western Highway through the Blue mountains was more likely to be open.

All the time during both these trips I was able to keep abreast of the moving fires because of the ABC local radios. Between Adelaide, Broken Hill and Sydney every town was tinder dry and at risk of fire. It was a scary trip - the whole of Australia was on edge and I could see why as I drove through town after town that was ready to burn. So keeping track via the local ABC as I drove through each town was invaluable.

Currently I keep track of the corona virus primarily via the ABC. I can find updates on my ABC news app and also on Instagram. In comparison if I look at an App like Apple News, which picks general headlines of interest - I can usually find corona virus updates on ABC articles while articles by 9 and 7 news feature sensational articles - they are about shock surprise stories and dont seem interested in getting facts out there. There are other news outlets that seem more interested in creating conflict and doubt with opinion pieces. They can be stimulating and fun but are never sources that are constantly trustworthy in a crisis.

Ordinary citizens like me turn to the ABC when we want reliable and trustworthy information. Detailed reliable evidence based information depends on the latest technology, access to up-to-date and local information - with constant updating. This is expensive information, and in the context of crisis and sound operation of government institutions dependence on simple advise and opinions are dangerous.

Howard G
NSW 2036

We were staying down the South Coast when th Currowan fire was threatening Bawley Point. We relied on updates from the local ABC to time our evacuation from what was a life threatening situation. Local ABC broadcasts save local lives.

Howard S
VIC 2580

This is incredibly stupid, writing a submission to ask the government not to reduce funding in fact to increase funding for our National Brodcaster, the ABC. Australia is a DEMOCRACY, "Government by the People for the people" and even though 90% of the people think that during Bushfires, Floods, Drought and during the Coronas Virus the ABC has played a vital part. The people have spoken of the important roll it plays, Listen to the people. Refuse at you own peril! Yours Sincerely, Howard Willis

Howard W
VIC 3136

To whom it may concern,

I am passionate about supporting the ABC into the future. It has been a strong and constant support to me throughout a long life, as a source of reliable, clear and unbiased news.

In particular, the regular updates throughout the current Covid 19 crisis over the past months has been of the greatest help in negotiating this unsettling and potentially terrifying experience. I would turn to the ABC above all other news sources , for this or any other crisis. There is no perceptible political bias , and no sensationalising of events, which certainly assists me in staying calm.

Funding for the ABC has effectively been in steady decline for years, and I strongly advocate a full commitment from the government of the day towards keeping the ABC strong, functional and viable.

Sincerely,

Hugh Colman

Hugh C
VIC 3101

We were in Mallacoota for our annual holiday break, when the area was impacted by the bushfires on New Year's Eve.

Without the ABC providing information about the fires progress, and reassurance after the event, coping with a situation like that would have been difficult.

Being able to hear Daniel Andrews giving day by day updates was very enlightening.

A shame that the Federal Government which was noticeable by its lack of leadership at the time is the one to underfund such an important service!

The ABC is also the most reliable source of information on the coronavirus. It is a Gem.

Hugh R
VIC 3761

Throughout this year we have relied critically on the ABC to keep us informed on the Covid-19 pandemic, and before that on the bushfire emergencies. We listen to ABC local radio all day, watch the TV news on ABC at noon and in the evening, and get much of our entertainment (drama, comedy, concerts etc) from ABC TV and iView to keep our spirits up.

We listen to or watch press conferences from our Premier and Prime Minister and their Ministers and Health leaders.

I don't know what we would do without our ABC.

Huibert S
VIC 3806

As a Victorian, I've been following the coronavirus issues hee mostly on ABC, as it provides a clear and ad-free analysis of the situation together with up to date information about changes here.

Iain S
NSW 3910

Relying on the ABC to provide emergency information, not to mention reliable news content is irreplaceable in Australian society as we know it.

This government continues to abuse this right and pander to pay media.

Everyone sees it but arrogance prevails.

Ian B
NSW 2546

I trust the ABC above other Australian media outlets for news, information and entertainment. But, having relied heavily on the ABC during both the NSW bushfires and now the Covid pandemic, I'm not altogether sure that the ABC has helped, with its hyperbolic television coverage of the fires or its current saturation and repetitive coverage of the pandemic. News, information and entertainment aren't synonymous. Which leads me to the more jaundiced plea below.

I live in a small town in a region which over the last twelve months has had to confront not one but two vast bush fires (one advancing from the north; the other from the south) over the summer and a pandemic since. The region does not have a population large enough to support an intensive care hospital unit, a daily newspaper or a regional broadcast outlet. Its highway connection to Sydney (hospitals for instance) was closed periodically by the fires, while word-of-mouth information about the pandemic within our region is often blatantly wrong.

It appears that our region, like ones that are more remote, is simply unable to support commercially its own broadcast or newspaper media. It appears to have too small a population to be much on the radar of government services such as State Health and Emergency services either. And it appears to be of little interest also to our state/national media such as News, Nine and indeed the ABC, from which news, information and entertainment is broadcast to us, from Sydney. In the pandemic and under the earlier threats of bushfire it's our lives at risk.

I'd like to think that a national broadcaster could address such deficiencies local/regional supply of news, information and entertainment (hopefully, while also telling our stories to the world). But, rather than look for more local content, the ABC appears to be looking increasingly for new ways of expressing metropolitan content, such as through podcasts and other expressions that suit devices such as mobile phones and digital broadcasting rather than traditional radio and television on which the regions and the elderly rely.

As I see it, the ABC is desperately trying to be all things to all people and in the process is tending to emulate 'commercial' media in its increasing use of 'look-at-me' and 'listen-to-me' strategies. In the process it is failing to maintain its provision of more traditional news, information and entertainment such as for minorities outside the inner parts of metropolitan regions. An illustration would be the 'smoke-and-flame' coverage of the recent bushfires: the visuals were great but of little use to anyone trying to understand a situation (particularly if it threatened them).

All of this suggests to me that the ABC has succumbed to the same need as commercial providers of entertainment, information and news to be seen by their owners as relevant (whether or not it actually is relevant). The ABC is owned by all of us and should not be subject to commercial imperatives. Maybe it should have a clearer charter for determining independently of politicians what should be its content and how this is presented; certainly, it should be freed of the need for constantly reminding us in its radio and television broadcasts as to how good it is.

To do this, the ABC needs more security about its long-term public funding – and, if we have to look elsewhere for media such as internet radio and television for our big-picture news, information and entertainment and to find some new way of keeping an eye on local content, we need some clarity about the technological and content vision of the ABC: no more silly DAB experiments, for example! But that does require our politicians to actually think about the role of the ABC in and for Australia, and to focus less on what the ABC can do for them and the vested interests they represent.

Ian B
QLD 2576

The ABC was a great source of information in my day,, but over the last few years you have become so Lefty so you deserve to have your Budget cut. We need honest and fair reporting ,not this BS you give us..
Regards Ian C..

Ian C
NSW 4275

Over two years ago I tired of the bias of my daily newspaper, which I had read for all of my adult life. I needed something I could rely on, and turned to the ABC - via their website each morning for reliable local news.

It's kept me up to date through the bushfires, and now through coronavirus. It's given me unbiased news on state and federal politics, and the world beyond.

I hope to have a reliable source of news, and a place to turn to in the event of local emergencies. I want that reliable source to be ABC both now and into the future.

It's a great return on investment for my tax dollars.

Ian C
NSW 2112

I listen and/or watch the ABC every day both for education and entertainment. I am 71 and the ABC has delivered great broadcasts for as long as I can remember.

Now (in the pandemic) I rely on the ABC even more for accurate updates, advice and commentary.

Now, more than ever, the ABC budget needs a substantial injection of funds.

Please address this most urgent need when framing the budget.

Ian C
VIC 2154

A beloved three generation branch of our family were in the heart of the bushfires on the NSW South Coast. They were evacuated four times. Telephone and email etc communications were knocked out. The ABC kept us extremely well informed and comforted. The ABC also provided vitally important accurate, timely information to that family. What a job the ABC did! Invaluable!

i also write on behalf of my wife, Genevieve who is blind. She became blind 18 months ago. Prio to that she was a voracious reader. She is keenly interested in current affairs. Now she keeps in touch with what is going on through ABC News TV. She watches it about 8 hours a day. Her blindness makes her very sad. She would be bereft without the ABC.

ian c
VIC 3054

I am extremely concerned about the death by a thousand cuts being inflicted by the Morrison Government on the ABC. From the over one thousand jobs slashed since George Pell's mate was PM, to the appointment of a director (since sacked) who had no grasp of the importance of the ABC as THE emergency broadcaster, from the erosion of the arts profile on the ABC by a government that doesn't even have an arts portfolio to the emaciation of news and current affairs that stinks of a government frightened of scrutiny and criticism and the consequent erosion of living democracy and Australian values implicit in that emaciation (it's not just Scotty from marketing's government that needs this scrutiny, it's government of any hue).

Fund the ABC properly and be rightly proud of OUR broadcaster, along with millions of other Australians we demand no cuts to ABC funding in the October 2020-21 budget.

Ian D
TAS 3070

The value of regionally based news services has been demonstrated by its absence during fire seasons and pandemic infection reporting. Facts for each place are confusing when only a national service focus has priority. Bring back the local news desk, with a local priority.

Ian G
QLD 7001

I rely on my local ABC station to keep me up to date with events in my community. I run a small business in SW Qld and need ABC local news to alert me to what our community needs. The decline of our local Newspaper into a syndicated grab of state and national news has made my local ABC more significant.

Ian G
VIC 4350

I had been relying on Fox media outlets for my daily news, however all we got from the Murdoch publications was right Wing propaganda, therefore we now rely on the ABC for an unbiased reporting of daily world events. We expect that the LNP government will see more benefit in supporting Right Wing publications that do not give a fair and unbiased report of news that effects every Australian therefore we would expect t that this government will cut funding to the ABC as it gives fair comments in all its reports, which will not suit the LNP

Ian G
ACT 3551

Isolated and insular as a 72 year old pensioner?

NOT AT ALL. I have a window onto the world from a trusted source. I have highly valued reporting during the fires. Innovative ideas and challenging programs keep me engaged. Trustworthy commentary on corruption and daily politics. Up to date reporting on the Covid-19 epidemic as well as topical scientific issues and groundbreaking research. Programs that transport me into nature and the wild. Locally produced Aussie drama and indigenous programming. All through the ABC radio, television and podcast media. Smart, innovative and culturally sensitive. What a wonderful asset for a multicultural country. I started listening to the Argonauts program as a child. The ABC has offered riches beyond measure all my life. It is a true National Treasure and deserves much better funding.

Ian H
QLD 2617

I wake up every morning to ABC News at 6AM. I watch Landline on Sundays. I like the Grand Design shows, Escape to the country, lots of documentaries as well as cooking shows Back Roads with Heather Ewart just to name a few, ABC news and current affairs shows, weather reports the list just goes on. I like the informed no ads programs that you cant get on commercial stations

Ian L
QLD 4215

The ABC are integral to our functioning democratic society. They provide us with information the profiteers - think Murdoch etc. - won't. They are to remain impartial, unbiased and this is changing with this govt. Stop cutting their funding. They assisted Australians through the Bushfires that this Govt ignored until forced for PR reasons. This govt have blood on their hands for removing regional services that people were and remain dependent on. Provide full funding to the ABC. Get ITA OUT. Stop stacking the board.

Ian M
QLD 4870

For me....the ABC DRUM gives me the news I can trust....with a deeper understanding of my world around me

Ian M
QLD 4552

I am 70 yrs old and the ABC has been a big part of my life for most of those years. I have traveled extensively over the years and have always relied on the broadcaster to keep me informed with high quality information about events occurring here and overseas.

With the advent of social media I find the ABC to be an island of sanity in a sea of madness and misinformation.

It saddens me deeply to see successive governments chipping away at the ABCs ability to provide high quality information in what looks like both an attempt to save a few pennies and an attack on journalistic freedom and their ability to provide the truth about what is going really going on in this increasingly chaotic world.

It is OUR ABC.

OUR, being Australians taxpayers that have provided the money, via our taxes, to keep it going since the day it started.

Ian M
VIC 4551

We live in country in which the only major media outlet which is free from the pressure of commercial interests is the ABC. Even the SBS carries advertisements, and therefore has at least the potential to be subject to such influence. It follows that the ABC is the only media outlet that can credibly claim to be impartial. Accordingly I was horrified at the police raid of the ABC premises - an action which has never been properly explained - let alone justified. I believe that it is essential for it to be free to do its job, and be adequately funded accordingly.

Ian P
VIC 3125

SW Victoria is my home. The ABC is the essential service for local bushfire conditions. In addition, the broadcaster provides local news and discussions in a time when restrictions are reducing and restricting viable and reliable information when reception, as usual, doesn't favour the commercials.

Ian W
ACT 3242

I depend on the ABC to inform me of the truth about what is going on in my country as most of the commercial press, radio and TV are controlled by commercial interests in league with the coalition party governments. I also enjoy the large range of comedy, quiz shows and documentaries provided on ABC and of no interest to the commercial channels. And it is great to be able to watch them without advertisements knowing that I have already paid in my taxes.

Ian W
NT 2614

I am only 60ish and have a degenerative disorder that means I am more and more contained to my room.

One of the means to pass my time and keep connected to what is happening in both my world and the wide world is listening to the ABC. I rely on the well-balanced approach to reporting compared to the sensationalism of the other stations.

I dislike what other stations present as 'news' or mindless entertainment. I love the ABC content and the presentation - I feel I am not wasting my time as I appreciate the feeling of learning and growing.

I also appreciate how necessary the ABCs' reporting is, in emergencies, to the rest of Australia as the reach is nationwide.

I believe the ABC are provding a necessary service throughout Australia and deserve an increase in funding not further cuts and job losses.

Ibolya

Ibolya M
NSW 4051

I'm urging the government to support the ABC in fully on the next budget!

I live in remote town that subject to flooding, and through the ABC news I have had the correct information on how to get about and save my family, neighbours and friends!.

I would like to make sure that you are ours/my government will support your people, the good Australian citizens by providing budget for our ABC broadcast.

It's vital that you do, it's your duties and obligations!!.

So, please make sure you do.

Ilan H

QLD 2484

I rely on the ABC to keep me informed with the real Australian news without sensationalising it. I also rely on other programs on the ABC for entertainment and information regarding what is happening around Australian regarding our culture, farming and businesses.

Ileana W

NSW 4209

My partner and I live in the Blue Mountains. We are both retired and have some health issues like so many others. We are fortunate to be able to look after ourselves but we remain vigilant in this COVID environment and rely on ABC news for quality, impartial coverage of latest developments. Earlier this year we followed the ABC fire coverage on radio and TV for very obvious reasons. Fires were approaching from the north and south. Unlike many others we were fortunate to only be on Watch and Act for one night, however we were awake until approximately 4.30am when we received confirmation that the threat had eased. Throughout this time we kept updated via ABC local radio.

We watch and listen to a great deal of ABC coverage, and have done throughout our life. Over my career I travelled into a number of regional and remote areas of WA and NSW and know how important the ABC is to people in those areas.

To us, the ABC is not only a straight up national treasure but we know it to be an essential lifeline to all Australians throughout crisis periods, more especially in regional and remote areas.

Imelda D

NSW 2042

I am so grateful to the ABC. They are my lifeline on a daily basis.

During the Bush fires my family and I were completely dependent on the ABC for up to date status around the whole country, it was such a relief to have a resource that was grass roots and kept us in touch with our loved ones. I always love the ABC for news, music, classical musical, and podcasts but especially during Covid 19. I would be bereft without our National broadcaster as I don't watch or listen to any other radio or tv broadcaster.

Please don't cut the budget for this priceless community resource. It's ours, it's our community's, it's Australian.

Ineke V

VIC 2576

I rely on the ABC for correct information about COVID-19 and what is happening in my region. I don't want false information at all. It is enough that we get lied to by this federal mob. I want the ABC to get the funding it deserves because we need the ABC to continue to give us stories and info that will help us and alert us in case of fire etc

Innocenza Mary M

NSW 3677

Keep up the good fight. We can't do without you.

Irene K

NSW 2067

The ABC belongs to the people of Australia. I can rely on it to provide me with up-to-date relevant information.

Like many Australians, my family and friends are disbursed across Australia. I have a brother, who lives in Telegraph point and another, who lives at Johns river. In the last 12 months, more than ever, I've relied on my trusted broadcaster to give me the facts about the fires which ravaged the country. Later, the ABC has given accurate, timely reports during the pandemic. Norman Swan is the man who delivered. We knew his informative reports cut through the bias and fluff. The ABC should be expanded and their funding increased. You don't shoot the messenger!!

Irene K

NSW 2034

I do not have Wi-Fi in my home and use 'hotspot' from my mobile phone to access internet on my computer. This, along with ABC 'free to air' television and my trusty radio, is all I need to access most of my daily news, current affairs and entertainment, including 'podcasts' and 'conversations'. I rely heavily on the ABC, which is my 'only choice' on the radio and my first choice on the television. ABC facilitates professional, unadulterated, trusted, reliable, and honest information on so many platforms. Life without the ABC is unthinkable.

Irene m
WA 2101

I feel connected with the rest of Australia and Overseas when I listen to ABC Radio and Podcasts, while I am living and working in remote and very remote areas of Australia as a nurse. I trust ABC to produce honest stories. I trust my children can be entertained and also learn, when they are watching ABC Me and ABC kids. In the time of fake news and the labyrinth of social media, it is important to be able to tap in to a government supported factual and proactive Media provider. Keep it going!

Thanks, Irene.

irene s
NSW 6163

This year I was not expecting to face losing our farm in Bilpin because of the Gospers Mountain fire. Watching the blaze on the ABC grow and getting updates was vital to us preparing our property to face this devastating fire. We were able to track where the fire was and how fast it was approaching, and make our decisions in response to this. The ABC always provides a consistent and intelligent response to the situations we find ourselves facing. ABC broadcasting is not peppered with advertising or driving the agenda of a billionaire or corporate body. I have more faith that I am getting the real news that is invested in the lives of Australians.

Isabelle H
NSW 2069

I live in the Blue Mountains - an area significantly impacted by the recent bushfires. Living in a bushfire-prone area, you're always on alert and preoared and planning for fire season. And even though I don't belive the rhetoric of "no one could have planned for this" (the science, data and the experts were all pointing to this emergency), no one could have prepared for the impact on lives, mental health and the basics of living through the intense stress and anxiety of an ongoing crisis. The ABC was there for us throughout - a trusted source of news and information (both TV news and radio). I cannot imagine navigating our way through that crisis without the support of the ABC.

Aside from their commitment to bringing much needed information to people in need, the ABC are an agnostic, transparent and trusted news organisation - something rare in these current times.

We need the ABC more than ever.

Izanda F
SA 2777

I am a firefighter in South Australia and I went to all the major fires in my home state in this time my wife had to hold down the fort with my kids and as any parent can tell you that's hard work the abc helped her just by putting some cartoons on with the app she had a much better time of it then I did

J B
VIC 5000

I am coming off a high after watching Q&A last night (3/8/20). It was fabulous informaiton and a wonderful panel delivering coherent, sensible commentary about the current Covid crisis and the issues the government and community face in the short and medium term. ABC seems to be the lone voice disseminating responsible journalism, even having it's own watchdog Media Watch. Communication channels are very diverse now and options will no doubt increase in the future as technology developments give us all more choices. To its credit the ABC has joined social media, welcomes live commentary from its audience and in the future needs funding to ensure effective lines of communication related to times of crisis like the bushfires and coronavirus are available and can be accessed by all demographics in our society. So far the messaging around Covid though other media sources spreads conspiracy theories, fake news, false claims etc and it is so difficult to sort out fact from fiction for many people. We all know and trust the ABC to deliver facts and if things that are broadcast are not correct the channels of the ABC communication are brought to account. Please support the one credible source of news in this country.

j w
TAS 3016

To whom it may concern,

I am an Australian Citizen who relies upon the ABC to feed my knowledge base and as a resource for finding myself the truth about things. I do appreciate that the truth is not a popular topic these days and especially when it comes to politics, but as an elderly Australian that is what I am crying out for.

I do not wish to here spin, opinion or concocted stories to that might put me off the scent of truth, rather I wish to be given scientific fact and the truth about exactly where things stand.

Being home bound a lot of the time I wish to be entertained also, with great debate, discussion, enlightenment and also community and social factual updates.

I am an Australian first, therefore I wish to be able to hear about my fellow Australian citizens and how they are being confronted and threatened by the circumstances being thrust upon them, either by the environment, our politicians, big business and seriously unwise behaviours of others, which is quite common these days from what the evidence has shown me. By the way this evidence is all around us to be seen, regardless of what the spins and excuses might present before us.

I love Australia and I love the ABC. It is my family in that it enables me to engage directly with other like minded Australian citizens and to hear the wonderful variety of cultural, ethnic and diverse social dynamics that are playing out within this nation. The ABC is the only truly trusted source of news and factual debate about the current needs and circumstances of all Australians. The ABC is always the first to inform the people of the up-to-the-minute situations unfolding, which is critical for a well connected and willing to engage society. The ABC is all about the people of this nation and it exists for no other purpose, therefore to destroy it and to pulp down and undermine it it is a disgrace. This is only being done because there is a powerful desire in this nation to silence the truth and to keep the people ignorant of the facts about critical issues of importance to us all.

We all need to hear the truth, rather than lies, deceit, deception, spin and bland unsubstantiated opinion, which is rife among us these days.

Listening to Sky, which I do at times, to see what is being spread like a disease amongst the people in an effort to deceive and to corrupt the minds of the people, I find it astounding that they are so willing to present such disgraceful opinion and false information which is not based either on the bulk of scientific or researched materials. Sky is a politically biased entity which Murdoch determines the programming nature of it and also the spin and deception that is to be presented to the people.

I am an intellect and well studied, therefore my observations and learning are directly obtained from the evidence presented before me.

The ABC is the resource for substantiating and providing the facts supporting the evidence and the science, without trying to criticise it and demoralise it; or ignorantly undermining it.

I also cherish the light entertainment, the gardening shows, the many and varied intellectual programmes also, let alone the overnight shows when I cannot sleep. Discussion and the sharing of truth is something that I relish therefore the ABC is priceless for that service provision.

Ja J

VIC 7250

For bushfires and the pandemic, the ABC, both radio and television is the only station we can rely on locally for accurate up to date information. They are bipartisan so we know the news is not being tainted by owners in their delivery of accurate information.

As our national broadcaster they need to be free of government interference in funding and programming. The ABC has provided brilliant programming for all ages and needs in our family. I have been a lifelong supporter and consumer of ABC programming. Without a properly funded ABC it would be a huge backward step for democracy and innovation in Australia.

Jac V

VIC 3450

The ABC is an essential service in my life. Throughout the bushfires over many decades I've relied on the ABC to provide up to date information on road closures, levels of threat, need to evacuate. Again during Covid, I trust ABC to provide accurate, scientific information but in a way I can understand. Norman Swan was great. Both TV and radio are my constant companion in the car and at home.

ABC also provide great investigative journalism, bringing to light corruption, unethical behaviour etc. They hold all governments to account and importantly try to connect all Australians, in an inclusive way. They encourage openness, respectful conversation and Australian Story celebrates extraordinary lives of ordinary Australians, just as Backroads Celebrates a variety of communities. ABC - it's the essence of Australia.

Jacinta F

VIC 3690

I have no history or indicators of poor mental health, yet have found myself teary most days since the first bush fire reports in January. Through the reliable accounts from the ABC, we witnessed the inevitable consequences of climate change and collectively grieved for our country and the governments that ignored dire warnings for too long. Again through the dependable ABC reporting this year, we learnt of the downfall of George Pell and again collectively grieved for the loss of lives and livelihoods.

Now with the pandemic, our collective health and sense of control is supported by frequent, fair and accurate ABC news, online updates, health reports and panels.

The only silver lining from this pandemic is community building and global solidarity. We better support each other when we better understand. We understand better when provided with information that contains as little bias and as few hidden agendas as possible. No other broadcaster prioritises our well being like the ABC.

Australia's collective health and future is informed and supported by the ABC.

Please do not further compromise our sanity by cutting funding to the remaining institution in this country that we can trust.

jacinta s

VIC 3101

Whether it's bush fires, floods or the current pandemic We can rely on impartial news with no agenda, unlike News Corp or Nine.
Please ensure we fund the ABC to keep us informed, entertained and prevail our communities sanity in these difficult times.

Jack D
QLD 3230

Whether there are floods or bush fires or in the current Covid pandemic, I rely on the ABC to provide timely and accurate information.
Whilst there has been confusing and inconsistent messages from State and Federal governments with regards to the Covid crisis, Dr. Norman Swan of the ABC has been a source of reasonable and understandable information.
Funding to the ABC should be substantially increased, not decreased.

Jack K
TAS 4560

In 1967 the ABC saved my life with information during the massive bush fire in Tasmania.
In the last few years, it has twice given me the information I needed (I live in the bush) when fires were getting near to my property. Please restore full funding to this valuable national treasure

Jack L
VIC 7140

The ABC is the only reliable source of NEWS I can rely on each day.
It's informative, investigative and honest. What more can I say?

Jack S
VIC 3162

My wife and I are both in our eighties and for us the ABC is our constant companion. We just love Classic radio, We listen to our local & Radio National every day for our news and many wonderful documentaries. For us ABC is our lifeline to the world. And especially now in the midst of this pandemic. Don't cut back on our great ABC thank you.

Jack & Ria H
VIC 3219

The ABC is my most reliable source of up to date information and news. I live in a rural area near bush so I very much depend on fire information all summer and throughout the COVID 19 Pandemic it's been vital. Particularly as our restrictions have been changing as relevant to the state of the virus. It's everyone's ABC and now more than ever an essential service that needs MORE funding NOT less!!

Jacki S
NSW 3340

I'm writing this submission as someone who found themselves caught up in the disaster of the recent Summer bushfires. Our family, along with many others, were spending time on the South Coast of NSW, spread across two locations. The locations we went for holidays were not considered at risk, nor were they contained on information or fire spread maps generated by relevant authorities. Still, we were immediately threatened by fire on New Years Eve. We lost all power, communications and internet access. The only source of information we had was the ABC, via a battery powered radio.
If it were not for this radio, and the broadcast service of the ABC, we would have been totally isolated from any information.
I cannot stress how vital this service was at the time. It was the only way we had of gaining information, hearing where the fire had hit, and if our family members were in direct fire zones. We had nothing other than the ABC for over two days, and without this, the challenges, fear, stress, panic, worry and anxiety would have been unmeasurably higher, not just for ourselves, but the whole community.
Please do not underestimate the value of the ABC, it goes well beyond any small dollar amounts you will save by cutting the budget of this vital service.
Please, the community as a whole has been through enough this year, show some consideration and kindness towards people that rely on services such as the ABC and rather than cut it, why not refund it to full levels and rebuild this service that has the ability to unite and help rebuild communities? The return on this investment will undoubtedly be more than you spend.
Thank you.

Jackie B
QLD 2500

I have relied on the nightly 7pm ABC News Bulletin on television for the latest on COVID-19. Casey Briggs with his amazing board has made it easy to see what is happening. Even our teenager can understand the graphs. I rely during the day on the ABC web site to keep me up to date with what is happening. Short, sharp headlines with the full story just a click away. I want news that is true and unbiased. That is the ABC for me!

Jackie B
QLD 4520

ABC gives diversity, not just news and current events that is so much more important of late, but it helps me connect with my grandchildren on their level.

That is all so important, we can't forgo the opportunity to be a free to air station for all the people that don't want Foxtel or Stan

Jackie D
NSW 4280

My daughter was involved in I care , work cover .We listened to it over two day . We're els could we have been informed. The A B C is who we trust for news and up dates .program like Q@A invaluable to us !

jackie h
WA 2315

I was a secondary teacher who relied on the ABC for informed & reasoned information, news commentary & balanced judgements in opinion pieces. Now that I have retired I find myself turning to the ABC broadcasts news, conversations & podcasts to keep me connected to the world out there. I am an immigrant who has been educated ,& enlightened on issues like indigenous affairs, Australian political trends & politicians who have shaped our nation. I am passionate about the ABC which has been my lifeline to the outside world. Long may it flourish to speak truth to power!!

Jackie H
VIC 6101

The ABC – it made me Australian! Over the forty-five years I have lived as a citizen of this lucky country, the ABC has been not only a trusted source of news, information and commentary but also my most effective educator. From radio and ABC television I learned so much about the country and the people that have become my own, with all the rich and varied cultural heritages we share. While I was fortunate to be able to complete my tertiary education here, it has been ABC Radio National, in particular, that has expanded my knowledge and intellectual horizons, immeasurably, and I am ever grateful to the range and quality of its programming. This has been especially so during this grim pandemic, when as individuals, neighbours, and fellow citizens, we have depended so much on reliable information and advice. As we have depended also on the ABC's diverse offerings of music, entertainment and stories to maintain mind and spirit, not to mention the convenience of podcasts. And how relieved I am to access all this without having to endure relentless consumer advertising. Long may we take pride in the quality of our national broadcasting service, and how our beneficent Aunty helps to bond us as a nation!

Jackie Y
VIC 3146

I am a retired primary school teacher living in Sunbury, Victoria and the ABC is very dear to my heart as I will outline in my submission.

As our National Emergency Broadcaster

The ABC and ABC 24's channel content is current and reliable, and those who present it are professional and as a result they connect with viewers. Every day I turn to the ABC for my news. During this pandemic I have watched for updates and the latest information. It has covered all Premiers and devoted the time required to make sure their messages and current information has been relayed accurately to all. It has been comprehensive and allowed us to get information straight from the source. I have found 'Corona Cast' has been informative, as has 'The Virus' which has been reassuring in these trying of times.

The ABC always supports health alerts and provides advice required for the well-being of the public.

The ABC is a trusted source. During the bushfires of Black Saturday 2009 and the last summer period I relied on the information from the ABC. I relied not only on the television but very importantly on radio announcements and the constant and reassuring information given to all sectors of the community whether they be in Victoria or New South Wales which kept everyone in the picture. The genuine, concerned, and caring interviews that were given helped all to understand the crisis and needs of those at the coalface such as SES, CFA, Volunteers, Wildlife managers and of those who were in danger. At no time were the interviews sensationalist. The ABC is our national broadcaster and keeps us in touch with all parts of our vast country.

As an Educational Resource

I am a retired primary teacher and have always valued BTN (Behind the News) for my senior students. It has been invaluable over the years as it has presented current news events in a way that students can understand. My grandchildren have been watching it as part of their current home-schooling during this pandemic.

Investigative journalism

Over the years the ABC has brought to light many injustices and discrepancies through its investigative journalism which has led to further action. This action may not have occurred but for the determination of those involved. Programmes such as 7.30, Q+A, and 4 Corners ask the questions and vigorously pursue the answers. Monday nights are a must for me to watch the ABC!

Raising awareness to nationally important issues

The ABC has helped to bring to the public an awareness of current issues. It launched an initiative to raise awareness and support for the mental health and wellbeing of all Australians, to help those struggling with the ongoing impact of the COVID-19 pandemic, bushfires, and drought. Prior to this in previous years it has been involved with campaigns such as Mental Health and encouraging Indigenous culture. I have been made aware of various groups and their campaigns within our society due to the presentations of the ABC.

As a nursery for Australian produced programmes

The ABC has produced wonderful programmes and quality shows encouraging Australian talent and skills. Such dramas as 'Mystery Road', 'Total Control', 'Glitch' and 'Stateless' are but a handful showcasing quality talent and our beautiful country. Having Australian content that allows the ABC to introduce new talent and encourage existing talent is vital to the industry and to Australian consumers. It helps to keep our local workforce employed and to keep our talent in Australia. The wonderful award winning 'Bluey,' which I would watch with my grandchildren before Covid19 restrictions, is a hit everywhere. 'Australian Story' helps us all to connect with each other, as well as appreciate the struggles and stories of ordinary and extraordinary Australians. 'Landline' keeps us in touch with our country friends and helps us to appreciate their issues and concerns. 'Backroad' promotes country towns and highlights the wonderful communities who live there. Australian comedy on the ABC is something I look forward to each week. In this difficult time, to be able to have a laugh is particularly important for our mental well-being. Wednesday nights with Shaun Micallef, Charlie Pickering and the 'Rosehaven' team are a pleasant relief from the worries of the world.

The ABC's programming is varied to include so much, from music, drama, comedy, children's shows, gardening shows to the news and documentaries. I look forward to these programmes as they help me to stay connected with my local community and the wider Australia.

A true multi-media asset

Then there is ABC radio with broadcasters who have questions and want their listeners to get answers. Broadcasters who listen to the community and ask for their involvement.

Every weekend I make a point over breakfast to read 'Weekend Reads.' I look forward to Virginia and her thoughts and links. It is a part of my weekend ritual. I also enjoy reading Annabel Crabb's report on politics and keep up to date with RMIT ABC Fact check. In a world awash with misinformation and Facebook hysteria I know I can rely on my ABC. The ABC covers a wide range of topics and each is presented by very competent and might I say, endearing journalist/presenters.

Conclusion

The ABC is our national broadcaster and I believe it presents its news and interviews accurately, timely and professionally. It is free from commercials which is a positive that can be added to its many endearing qualities.

Everything it undertakes is done with professionalism and Australia at its heart. It is at times when our country is in crisis, that I know I can turn to it, be well informed and know I am not alone.

The ABC is our asset to be respected and protected. It is our independent media outlet, not beholden to profit or politics. The ABC has standards that should never be compromised by funding cuts. As an Australian wanting to protect our precious asset I request that no funding cuts be made to the ABC in the October 2020/21 budget and ask that cut funding be restored. It is our ABC!

Jaclynn J

SA 3429

I would be lost without Radio National News broadcasts. It is how I keep up-to-date with the latest news. I do not have a TV so I tune in on the hour to hear the ABC news on the radio. I then stay tuned to listen to the many informative programmes that are aired regularly.

Jacquelyn C
NSW 5173

To Whom the Liberal National Gov't Body it may Concern.
5th August 2020

Dear Sirs

Once again it is with extreme discontent that the general voting public 's A B C enjoyment appears once again maybe under further serious financial threat from yourselves, when is enough, enough. A B C gives great coverage, from floods, bushfires, Corona virus and our everyday life situations with good follow up series, movies, documentaries and programs I follow nightly to enjoy.

If another unfair ABC budgetary attack is played out by yourselves, it would be abhorrent and unacceptable.

This Nation is dependent on this wonderful Media Service and it angers me beyond a public voted coalition Gov't is publically financially dismantling such a wonderful Media outlet appears despicable..

I am wholly dependent on the ABC and SBS nightly for media and program coverage enjoyment and every large financial slice you take can only make its programs fade out causing further media mass professional unemployment under your wake. I am sick and tired of the continual budgetary actioning imposed on our ABC and will vote for change to have this restored as soon as voting comes around.

Yours faithfully
J Franklin

Jacqueline F
NSW 2463

Living in the Blue Mountains we are no strangers to living with the threat of bushfires. But as for too many Australians, this last season was way more stressful and scary than should be the norm. So we rely on the ABC as a steady reliable voice in these times. Without too much drama or hyperbole, we expect them to give us the facts. Also comforting is the thought that ABC radio will continue to be a lifeline if the power goes out and all other communication is lost. We need this national treasure to remain supported in a bi-partisan manner. We may not always agree, but we need to keep a dialogue open between all Australians.

Sincerely, Jacqueline Godfrey

Jacqueline G
QLD 2786

In January 2020, during a time of unexpected fires here on the Sunshine Coast in SE. Qld, I relied on the frequent and up-to-date bulletins from the ABC.

I trusted the ABC reporters we listened to every day, to tell me of the growth & direction of the bush fires through beaches never burnt before to know if my family who live across the coast and hinterland, were safe. It was shocking to hear that fires were burning through our beloved beaches like Noosa, Perigian, and Coolum; here in Maleny, Bridge Creek valley was filled with smoke for days.

Our community's admiration for The ABC was only bested by admiration for our heroic fire fighters; as community members we were united as we tuned in to the ABC.

Jacqueline H
QLD 4552

I am an older resident of the seaside city of Redcliffe, just north of Brisbane. I have been safe from bushfires - and other catastrophes - but I have family and friends in other parts of Australia who are closer to danger areas. I dissuaded a son and granddaughter from driving up from Sydney last Christmas because of what I saw and heard on ABC TV and radio. Another son and grandson have birthdays this weekend, 1st and 2nd August also in Sydney but now I know from news on ABC that the greater Sydney area is closed down and my hopes of flying down are cancelled.

We do get very strong winds along the coast and local ABC keeps me informed of danger areas, trees down etc.

I rely on the ABC, all parts of it, for entertainment, news, informative discussions which are further discussed with friends.

The ABC needs more money to keep it viable, to employ the staff, especially investigative journalists, so it can keep on doing what it has always done, informing the country and keeping it and the citizens, safe.

With Regards,

Jacqueline Lonsdale Cuerton

Jacqueline L

VIC 4019

When I need news, I rely on the ABC for reliable, truthful stories. In the state of disaster and emergency, I rely on the ABC for the most detailed information. For good, Australian television, I choose the ABC for quality. Save our ABC.

Jacqui E

VIC 3910

To the Australian Government of 2020 and to the future leaders.

With the expanse of the digital platform that allows anyone into your personal space, it is important they are a trusted voice of the community. ABC has been there always. Qualified reporting with a clear delivery of any issue.

During the fires and corona virus I have really needed to know what was going on. There are many leaders world wide corrupting the stories of now, while burying past mistakes. It is never more important to protect the honest voice that speaks to all Australians. ABC has always maintained quality humour that eases the heavy blows of reality. Please protect the balance and not allow the voice of the ABC to fade against the roaring lies of magnates who own the media. Kindest regards JACqui Henshaw

Jacqui H

NSW 3440

I emigrated to Australia in January 2020. We arrived just as the New Year turned and there were still bushfires locally. We looked to the ABC for news coverage as we settled in to being Australian and found reliable national and local news. We also look at other sources to give us a rounded view. Defunding the ABC is a big mistake if Australia wants to maintain it's strong democracy. We see this being eroded in many parts of the world and support the diverse news outlets in this wonderful country.

Jacqui T

VIC 2444

I rely on our ABC for my news and current affairs, it's one of the few sources that I trust to filter out the spin that you see in Newscorp and other ultra right-wing "sources" like Sky. I also love the ABC's entertainment programming, especially the comedy and drama programs. They have helped keep me sane during lockdown.

Jacqui T

QLD 3427

Hi,

Living in north Queensland I have always been aware of the importance of the ABC to our community. During and after cyclones Ului and Debbie the ABC was critical for us, as they had broadcasters on the staff who were locals, who know the area and the community. The information they provided made it possible for people to stay safe and cope during the event and they provided critical information on services, access and supplies that helped us to recover afterward.

But this year it has really outdone itself. The ABC has supported southern Australia through the horrific bushfire season, then just when things seemed to be getting back to normal, Covid-19 rose its head. The ABC has been a lifeline during the pandemic, providing reliable information on the disease, in a sea of misinformation, propaganda and lies. They also provided special educational programming for children unable to go to school: in households without internet, the ABC TV education programs may have been the only educational resources available. Why more wasn't made of this by the Government I cannot understand.

Personally, the ABC has been a lifeline of sanity in these insane times. When you can't go out, can't do anything that looks like normal living, when you are cut off from family and friends, being able to listen to these people on the radio/podcasts is a wonderful thing. I am sure that without access to this programming my mental health would have suffered and I would be far more confused and frightened about what is happening. Australia without the ABC is unimaginable. We will only get through this pandemic by working together. The government needs to reconsider its ideological war on the ABC; the public broadcaster is an asset to Australia and can help us get through this by bringing us together to work positively towards understanding and controlling this disease. It can't do that effectively if they keep starving it of funds and resources. A strong ABC is a powerful voice of reason in the sea of misinformation and propaganda that is undermining efforts to get this virus under control.

Jacquie S
VIC 4802

During the fires in the summer of 2019/2020 - a time where I was forced to evacuate from my home twice - the ABC provided me with accurate and timely news. The ABC is a VITAL part of Australia - it is totally unAustralian to cut anymore money out of its budget. All of Australia needs the ABC, all of the time.

Jacquie W
WA 3735

The ABC has always been the primary source of news ever since I migrated to this country 28 years ago. I was eager to assimilate into Australian culture as soon as possible and the ABC was invaluable in this regard. The films and shows that were produced in Australia helped me understand the country I was becoming part of. And the ABC has been there ever since.

The ABC news has always been there to keep me up to date with things both global and local. I find they meet and excel at the standards of 'independent, fair and trustworthy' in ways that mainstream privately held news organisations cannot match.

In reality, I have never relied more on the ABC news than this year. It has been the source I go to for everything I have needed to know to safely navigate my life through this horrible pandemic. I get news from online, radio and television. The ABC has helped to make sense of the often confusing messages about how to act and live through the pandemic from federal, state and local messaging. It has been the gold standard for negotiating this very difficult time.

But it is not just the ABC news that has been so to me. The local programming offering cheeky comedy, excellent drama and wonderful selections of Australian and international films has helped keep me sane during the lockdown. As a retired person, the shows have helped keep me connected and up to date. I've particularly relied on the Coronavirus Updates, The Drum, the 7.30 Report, among others.

I urge the governmental powers that be to not only not reduce ABC funding, but to increase funding. I know, along with so many of my friends, how important the ABC is to the Australian way of life.

And yes, I just want to deliver my heartfelt thanks to the ABC for all the years of great service they have given. And also, I'd like to thank in advance those in positions to make such choices for protecting our national treasure, the ABC.

Sincerely, James Bell

James B
QLD 6160

It is impossible to overemphasise the importance of the ABC to me and to my family. We rely on the ABC to provide the soundtrack of our busy happy family lives. In our family there are two grandparents, five parents, and nine grandchildren; every one of us derives some significant benefits from our ABC. This cannot be said for any other media organisation in Australia, they are NOT there for us in a meaningful way, they are not an alternative. The ABC is unique in the manner it cares for us and the way it keeps our society safe from cheating politicians, greedy cotton farmers, greyhound racing cruelty, neglect of bushfire victims, We depend on the ABC. Be the best you can be! We gave you a task to promote the well-being of ALL Australians, this means enhancing the strength of the ABC.

James B
NSW 4069

the ABC is about telling the truth and is fair to all parties it gets the news out to every one

james c
QLD 2315

We as a nation should have a non-bias news source and I have and will continue to source my news from the ABC as an independent and reliable source of news. Why would we conform to the other channels for a unreliable source when the ABC offers a broad wide range of worldly news stories instead of the rubbish the other channels (not the SBS) peddle. I'm glad we have the ABC otherwise I would be watching the BBC or Reuters continuously. The ABC provides researched and factual news, keep up the good work ABC and the quality viewing you have always provided.

James C
WA 4055

Jefferson and Oz

When Thomas Jefferson said "Our liberty depends on the freedom of the press, and that cannot be limited without being lost", he established himself as one of the great champions of democracy and a free press. Yet he himself was, at the time, under severe attack from papers controlled by corrupt and unscrupulous people. A great president defending a great principle, Jefferson believed that where there was free, open discussion across a wide range of issues truth would, eventually, out. There were about 400 newspapers of varying types in the USA in his time, so it probably never occurred to him that ownership of the entire press by a few powerful individuals would ever be a reality.

What would Jefferson say about the situation in Australia where the ABC stands between accurate, courageous reporting and Rupert Murdoch's unscrupulous ambition?

There must be no more cuts to the ABC's budget. Rather, INCREASE IT!

James H
NSW 6076

The LNP has been reducing funding cuts to ABC & SBS commencing with the LNP leader's lie about funding cuts which he called efficiency dividends. beginning with, arguably the Australia's worst Treasurer Joe (the Leaner) Hockey, the LNP has attacked the ABC budget and given some of its money to non citizen and LNP controller Murdoch.

The LNP policy to always have tax give -a-ways and then privatize the public service is coming to an end, because the voters are sick of these destructive policies. Meaning we are not voting LNP at the next election, so bad writtens

james k
NSW 2110

We were overseas when the pandemic broke out. Throughout March we regularly tuned in to ABC news to get an accurate picture of what was going on.

Since we were well informed we changed our flights to come back ahead of the majority.

Without this reliable source of information we may have made poor decisions.

We are grateful to the ABC

James S
NSW 2488

We live in rural NSW and I am member of local RFS brigade. The ABC were critical to keeping the community informed of the Bushfire situation through the summer.

The ABC are the essential information source for the Australian Community and are trusted to bring the news and conversations to the community that inform our Civic discussions.

We need this trusted source of information especially in emergencies and times of unexpected events, they keep us all safer.

James T
NSW 2582

Thank you ABC - for your timely and reliable journalism that keeps me sane and up to date. I would not have survived the year so far without it. The news alerts mean I keep on top of vital information as it happens, without having to go into the app all the time to check for the latest news items. We also rely on ABC Kids and ABC Kids Listen - such amazing services that mean we have access to high quality educational programs and the best entertainment for little minds.

Please, invest in the ABC and don't make funding cuts. These services keep us informed, calm and entertained.

Thank ABC - keep up the amazing work!!

Jamie H
QLD 2034

The ABC is a vital part of running a rural enterprise. Weekly Landline keep farmers up to date with farming trends and market information. ABC radio country hour give daily information of stock and wool prices yarding sizes which is invaluable information

I really enjoy Grandstand and listening to the cricket on the radio in summer which has become a way of live living in an isolated environment. In the bush we need the ABC as it provides services that are not available on commercial stations.

Jamis C King

Jamie K
TAS 4370

The ABC is the closest thing we have to fair and accurate reporting on local and international issues. It provides invaluable local information in times of crisis (fire, flood, storm). To destroy this wonderful Australian Institution will be a detriment to Australian society.

Jamie N
NSW 7030

The ABC is valuable beyond measure to Australia. It informs us in a way I trust. It entertains us - greatly needed today. It gives Australians jobs and a voice. No more cuts to the ABC.

Jan A
NSW 2448

The ABC is the main media source I rely on. This year it has been more valuable than ever to me.

1. It remains an unbiased news source and uses quality journalists to research and present news. In an age of tumbling news standards, commercial angle news stories, and media stories sometimes beholden to media owners

I find the ABC has given me expert information through the many disasters faced over the last few years. Covid information has been extremely helpful.

Having a designated news channel has always been of great value to me as well.

2. My grandson uses the ABC show. BTN to learn to understand and interpret world events both at school, and also when home schooling. The ABC provides high quality programs for all age children and has been foundational for my grandchildren.

3. During lockdown I have appreciated the many quality programs on ABC, especially the range of Australian dramas and comedies. ABC has been a leader in this country. How many actors have found fulfilling and quality roles on their programs.

4. I visit several elderly people who live alone or in nursing homes. One watches ABC all day as many of the programs are interesting and expand her world view. She finds the news balanced and accessible.

I watch other channels to a degree. And I read newspapers online and on paper. But the reporting I value the most is in depth reporting...The Drum, Insiders, Foreign Correspondent. The quality of shows like this are not matched on other TV channels and I think, in these turbulent times, having an educated and informed population is a PARAMOUNT need for Australia.

Jan D

NSW 2285

Without the ABC, Australia would be a very different place, and have a very different culture, and frankly, one I would not like at all.

As a 72 year old activist for climate action, I have treasured the ABC all my life - from radio and TV to online.

I have told my friends constantly that if the ABC is cut and we do not receive the programmes that we enjoy, Australia would not hold the same attraction to live here.

From the radio serials I listened to as a child, as a member of the Argonauts as a young person, to Triple J as I got older, to the live broadcast of Parliament the day Whitlam was sacked, and now to the programming on TV, on Classic FM radio - the ABC has everything.

I feel I know the commentators, from Fran Kelly and Hamish McDonald to Norman Swan and Ellen Fanning, and everyone of those bright intelligent presenters that I set my day by every day - I feel plugged in to society as a whole, without the ABC, my life would be very poor, I would not have the enthusiasm for life and action that I have now, I would not have the fabulous music that keeps me going, that keeps us struggling for a better world, against all the odds!

All of my progressive friends and family feel we are informed by the ABC and that we will keep fighting for a better deal for disadvantaged people, for our precious planet and for justice for our long suffering Indigenous people - who have risen above the mire of racism and offer to teach us all how to value and look after our fragile country.

Keep doing the good job you are doing, don't let conservative governments cut your funding, bring us the good news on how we can save our planet and our society, we need the positivity that your fabulous presenters bring to our programmes.

Thanks and keep it up!

Jan Davis

East Maitland 2323

Jan D

NSW 2323

This year the ABC (both radio and television) was the only one that I listened to regarding the bush fires that were all around us, and now where the pandemic is ... they are the only people that I trust ... they have no underlying agenda , they tell it as it is .

And when I need to chill out , they have interesting films, Australian stories and series .

They also have a lot of exceptional people working all over Australia and the world .

It would be great if politicians did the same ... without bias and thinking only for the good of the people that they work for.

Instead of giving themselves a pay rise , how about giving it all to the ABC ... who will put it to better use.

Jan F

NSW 2576

I trust the ABC more than any other news source, so have tuned in regularly since we first heard of Covid 19, just as I did through the bushfire crisis which begun in my area in November 2019. I praise the ABC's excellent up to date information during the bushfires. I also very much appreciated the many stories on Foreign correspondent, which kept me informed of the covid crisis overseas. After absorbing all the troubling information in the past year, it's always a joy to relax and laugh at the many comedy shows like Mad As Hell, Charlie Pickering, Hard Quiz, Australian Story, Back Roads, Rosehaven, Home Delivery and now the wonderful music program THE SOUND. My life is enriched every day by ABC radio and TV.

Jan F
NT 2444

I have been watching the ABC since TV was invented. I have seen tv broadcasters come and go. I have watched Big business take hold of our news to the point where news hour on the majority of channels are no more than a big advertising segment. I trust the updates from the ABC Journos. Here in Darwin, our only local station was bought out and if not for ABC & SBS, we would be limited to Murdoch press in all it's forms. Don't muck with the ABC or SBS for that matter. They both deserve decent funding, not more cuts. Very sincerely, Jan Gifford.

Jan G
NSW 828

The ABC has been, for seven decades, for myself, husband, family and friends, the vital and daily trusted, go to, information source, for local and world news, music, entertainment, stories of Australians and our history both black and white. Without the ABC and SBS our lives would not be as informed as they are. The ABC Children's Hour started us off - wonderful radio for young people in the 1950's and we haven't looked back. ABC reportage on the bushfires was exceptional and will continue to be so next 'season' which it has been mooted will sadly return. Now coronavirus - vital!! THANK YOU for all you do, give, share, research, entertain. Priceless!! All bad hands off our ABC please.

Jan J
WA 2577

I am a retired professional whose children and grand children are all living overseas, so I depend on the ABC to keep abreast with local and overseas news and comment. So please do not introduce any cut to funding for the ABC.

I do not have a television but do download some programmes including iView and SBS for current affairs such as that provided by 7.30 Report, Foreign Correspondent and Four Corners, plus over the past months many good films.

I listen to the radio a lot, mainly RN but also ABC Classic FM. I particularly appreciate Dr Norman Swan's programmes, plus Breakfast, The World Today, and A.M and P.M., plus Drive.

As I live alone and have had to self isolate so much, the ABC has been my best 'friend' and companion over the past months.

Jan K
WA 6160

I would like to make it known how much the ABC means to me. I watch the television and the ABC is my go to station. I know that the journalist are going to give the true story from both sides. Sometimes it is raw and I feel uncomfortable but I know that story needed to be told.

I listen to the ABC radio in my home in the city and when I am travelling within the city but most importantly outside the city boundaries. I know that when I tune in ABC radio I am going to have access to Australia and outside Australia to. Driving in the outback and listening to a credible radio service is critical.

I am deeply disappointed that our Australian politicians appear to be controlled by outside profit driven forces. I mean to say it is our tax payer funds that are being played around with and that is not what the taxpayer is expecting from elected politicians also being payed from the taxpayer funds.

Please do not reduced funding to the ABC instead re-instate the funding that has been taken away. Every organisation can do better that is the way it is but to do better this organisation ABC needs fair and just funding.

Jan

Jan M
SA 6105

I am an older person who has not enjoyed the best of health in the last couple of years. I dont know how I would have got through the long periods on my own trying to recuperate without ABC Programs. Radio National has been a godsend and lifesaver as well as many TV programs. The ABC provides a valuable service to many especially those who are shut in or not well. I trust the news coverage more than any other source. Well done ABC you deserve to be well funded.

Jan m
VIC 5031

I have been kept up-to-date on matters of local, state, national & international interest all my life via radio & now television. We watch & listen to the ABC because of the accuracy of the coverage, the comprehensiveness of the news stories, the coverage of Australian stories both news and fictional programs like Rosehaven. I enjoy seeing new artists emerge, both comedians, creatives & performers.

It is incumbent upon government to sustain appropriate funding to the ABC so that the community can be sustained by public interest broadcasting that is not provided by commercial outlets. This year we have watched with horror the biggest fire season of all time affecting our rural communities & have been able to contribute to their recovery. We are currently keeping up-to-date with information on COVID -19 spread & actions to take to keep ourselves safe - the advice from daily briefings has been most valuable.

Kind regards,
Jan Shield

Jan S
WA 3039

I am a 79 year old woman and an avid radio listener. Both in 2019 and 2020 I have had medical situations which have required some weeks of recuperation.

I have been so pleased that I have been able to play ABC classic radio nearly all day, which has kept me company , and provided an interest in a diverse range of music. I'm sure I have been more relaxed and it has helped me to recover.

I was able also to keep up with news of the day, with the knowledge that there was straight reporting and sensible interviews of a range of people.

Particularly, the programmes reflecting rural news and activities are so important to we city dwellers, in order to broaden our understanding of other ways of life than ours.

Jan T
WA 6019

Please fund the ABC so that we continue to get news, warnings and local information. I just don't know what I would do without ABC radio and tv stations. It's my primary source of current news and entertainment. Please reinstate funding.

Regards J Turner

Jan T
QLD 6148

I know I can rely on the ABC to be reliable. There is so much rubbish being shared on social media and the internet generally that an impartial, well-informed news service is vital for injecting some common sense into such things as conspiracy theories. If I hear a story that I'm not sure about, I know that I can go to the ABC to check it.

Jan W
QLD 4878

The ABC is an absolute lifeline for us. Accurate Information about national disasters. Political info and debate from many different perspectives.

Both radio RN & Classic FM are always on in our home, keeping us informed/entertained and beautiful music to nourish and calm our minds. Evening TV rounds off the day. Hats off to the presenters and producers, who each have their own expertise to keep us informed and are almost part of the family.

Especially, in these stressful times we are so thankful for the quality programs the ABC continues to deliver - makes us feel reassured in a sometimes topsy-turvy world.

Please don't make budget cuts to something so nationally essential and worthwhile for so many people.

Jan & Marie v
VIC 4068

We all need a decent education. Our ABC is one of the best-informed news broadcasters in Australia. But not everyone has an education that allows them to understand that since 1972 our CO2 pollutions has been endangering our children. This independent peoples property is needed. Religion has been the weapon to stop reality. Like when one of their own was excommunicated because he did prove that our earth went around their God, Ell our sun, which gives our star the ability to overheat our planet due to the gasses we produce won't allow enough heat can escape. The reason why our first day of the week is given their deities name. And the intelligence of our ABC keeps us informed.

Jan W v
SA 3675

The ABC has been my one trusted source of information about the corona virus. The news has given me the latest update on what has been happening and the corona cast podcast has been explaining the virus and giving the latest medical advice. Bad information kills and there are people in the media pushing it right now. I don't believe this country could have been as successful as it has in controlling the virus without the abc.

Jane B
WA 5039

I am 72, with six grown children, and sisters and extended family living in different Australian States. Having access to the ABC news is important to me, during this pandemic, to know what it happening around Australia and the World.

The reporting is honest, reliable, and is delivered free from over inflated drama.

My main source of entertainment is ABC television, the various dramas, lifestyle programmes and Australian series are a part of my life that if lost, would be devastating for me.

The Australian Government must continue to support the ABC in a way that values its importance to so many people, through adequate funding. It has certainly helped my sense of well being, through this devastating time, and helps myself and so many others feel connected.

Kind regards,
Jane Cook

Jane C
VIC 6152

I have lived in a fire risk area for about 35 years and the ABC emergency broadcasts have been vital. This year with all my concerts, theatre and cinemas closed, and living alone, radio national is crucial with its programs on books, the arts and science, and classic FM is really important in helping me maintain my mental stability.

jane h
VIC 3442

ABC radio , television, online news, drama , comedy, current affairs are part of my daily routine. Quiz on Friday to consolidate the week! Diversity, educated Intelligence, guests and journalists, honesty, humour, trustworthy. that's Our ABC.

Many I know from my four adult children and their partners, my friends in Melbourne and Adelaide and acquaintances all rely on the integrity of the ABC news and current affairs reporting.

The Drum I recommend to everyone for its current affairs integrity and increasing diversity....

I would and will get out on the streets to protest if this current increasingly right wing Government influenced by Murdoch and the male dominated conservatives in parliament and media continue to undermine and divide deliberately what Australia once represented - An opportunity for working class to aspire to middle class living and enjoy the social and economic benefits of working with employment security to a better life.. small 'l'

Liberals like Menzies, Hewson and Turnbull spoke a broader Australia population. Where else but the ABC can we hear truth about climate change ?

Cuts to the tax payer funded ABC and our access to a current and longer term perspective , is not the will of the broader community.

The ABC is a constant in my life. it is my daily dose of quality journalism , humour, balance and thorough research on important issues . My baby grandchildren will also benefit from Play School . the ABC increasingly meets the needs of all ages , abilities, ethnicities , religions . It represents our future connecting us not dividing us. Love the ABC !

Jane L
NSW 3204

Listening and watching the ABC has been, is now, and will always be a cornerstone of my life. Right now I rely on it every day to keep my family and community safe. My mother is in residential care and I must ensure that I am not a vector of the virus. It's life and death. I checked it straightaway when I heard my shopping centre had been visited by an affected person and was relieved by the facts. I know I can trust it. I direct my friends to it when they fall for dangerous conspiracy theories. It's a beacon of truth and science. It tells me how to wear a mask, and to properly judge risks such as should I send my children to school.

On my south coast holidays I tuned in to the ABC to stay safe while fires raged this year and previous years. As my mobile told me the fire conditions were catastrophic I kept ABC radio on constantly so I could keep my family from catastrophe. I based my decisions on the ABC's information. I trust it.

I grew up on Play School nourishing my developing, trusting brain with loving, intelligent, high quality drama. It was a programme I confidently let my own children enjoy.

The ABC gives joy to me everyday through unbiased in depth news and wonderful entertainment.

The ABC makes sure that we're all in this together. It's our backbone and lifeblood, our oxygen. Without them we wouldn't be all in this together. God bless and save the ABC. It's the soundtrack to our lives. Please increase its real funding.

Jane M
NSW 2193

During the bushfires I relied completely on ABC TV and radio for news and warnings. With COVID I once again sifted fact from rumour by watching the ABC. The ABC provides at least 80% of my TV time and 100% of radio time.

jane m
NSW 2541

At the beginning of 2020 I was diagnosed with stage 3 cancer.
As the country burned my land in Colo was surrounded with fire
The ABC and the RFS kept me connected to the facts of the fires and the devastation that raged through country
Since the fires the covid pandemic has struck and lock down has isolated me from community
The ABC has kept me informed, entertained and reassured
The ABC is the only broadcaster I trust and like a good friend I find it makes for interesting and intelligent company day and night

Jane P
QLD 2044

The ABC is an essential part of my life. As my husband and I travel across Australia for work and pleasure listening to the ABC radio is a must. The radio keeps us informed about what is happening locally, nationally and internationally. When there were bushfires the information provided by the local ABC was essential. Earlier this year we were travelling from Queensland to southern NSW When the bushfires were at their peak and were kept informed by the radio broadcasts.
That is just one example of needing to be kept informed. In every state and region the ABC radio informs and entertains.

Jane P
VIC 4556

To the Morrison Government

My name is Jane, and I live in Coburg in Victoria. I write this submission to the upcoming budget with very sincere distress that the ABC may be subjected to further cuts. I am a person who lives with a severe disability and am almost completely house-bound. The ABC is my lifeline to the outside world, without its full service as a broadcaster, I would not be able to access essential and reliable news updates as they develop. The ABC provides me with all my needs in regard to the latest information when there are emergencies and disasters happening in my community and within my state and the rest of Australia.
I am in touch and connected to my community via the ABC radio and television broadcasts everyday and all day. In this way I am very reliant on its services. I have been totally dependent on ABC coverage of the COVID-19 pandemic, during these last months. The information provided by the ABC at this time has kept us informed on the safest protections for individuals and the community. The coverage goes beyond those essential basics and informs listeners/viewers with more scientific analysis of the virus and its virulent spread, not only the health aspects, but the social implications of job losses, effects upon the economy and the global impacts that will be there for some time to come.
Importantly the ABC is invaluable to me in times of emergency and disaster. When one lives with disability, it is crucial to know what is going on from a trusted source. In this way I can plan how I will need to cope with restrictions, or changes to my daily life which is already a challenge due to my severe loss of mobility. If I know how the land lies by listening to local and national broadcasts on ABC radio, I will be able to arrange for support to do what's needed.
The ABC has played a significant role in supporting families with children during the COVID lock downs by providing entertainment and education programs for kids undertaking home schooling. I have worked in community development and the arts and the ABC has always been a primary source of social debate, culture and arts programs to provide us all with critical thinking, political analysis, and creativity. This has an innate and unmeasurable value for a rich and diverse culture. Again, as a person with a disability who cannot get around, this brings culture right into my home and I cherish it.
In the last decade I have been so distressed to see cuts to the ABC, and I plead with the Morrison government to maintain current funding and to restore previously cut funding to sustain our national broadcaster. As an Australian voter I demand no cuts be made to the ABC in the October 2020-21 budget, I encourage the government to preserve this invaluable, essential service.

Yours sincerely
Jane Trengove

Jane T
ACT 3058

Good morning,

During the recent bushfires and the ongoing COVID 19 pandemic I have relied on the ABC's emergency broadcasts to advise.

The ABC has always helped me stay connected through its drama, music, comedy and commitment to Australian stories and their reliability to hold those in power accountable?

The ABC is our essential front line media, I therefore plead that no cuts be made to the ABC in the October 2020-21 budget and also ask that cut funding be restored.

Kind regards,
Janeen Temple.

Janeen T
VIC 2622

Dear Scott,

The ABC is the backbone of our democracy. You have relied on the ABC during the coronavirus crisis to get accurate unbiased information to the public. How would we get such information out to everyone if we were to further undermine it as your party seems bent on doing?

We have you relied on the ABC during bushfires in which we have been close to under immediate threat and when there has been local power outages.

My grandchildren and my daughter have trusted the ABC to keep their kids engaged and informed when schools were closed during the first lockdown, and will do so again during this one.?

We are all indebted to the ABC for the information which has lead to the Banking Royal Commission and to hold those in power accountable when they won't disclose donations, branch stacking and bringing to light external government deceptive actions such as on the internet.

The ABC offers quality drama, music, comedy and commitment to Australian stories, and would do more if it was better funded.

In a time when we need information to help us with emergency responses and to employ local actors, artists and media, it is definitely not time to reduce the effectiveness of the ABC. It needs strengthening.

Regards,
Janene Swalwell

Janene S
NSW 3782

I am an avid ABC fan and flick from station to ABC station every day.

I find the range of topic always interesting and varied.

My ABC fund it properly.

Janene T
VIC 2035

The ABC is the most important contact for me with the outer world and the most trustworthy reporting on world news and close to home. I rely on ABC for up to date information regarding bushfires and the current pandemic and important news issues. It is my only contact. Culturally it is so very nourishing with the excellent variety of subjects. music/ literature/ arts/ science/ history /religion/movies/ documentaries/ indigenous affairs/ philosophy/ Interviews / weather etc. I have enormous respect for our marvellous presenters every hour of my day. And gain so much pleasure listening. I don't read newspapers as I am partially blind This is my only resource. I have been glued to the ABC since the age of 9. I am elderly and live alone in a bushfire prone area. The ABC helps me feel safe. and informed. Thankyou ! I would be devastated by any FURTHER cuts.

Janet r. Boddy

Janet B
NSW 3095

We have relied heavily on the ABC radio and television throughout 2020, more than ever before. It started before Xmas 2019 but continued into the new year, as we were trapped down the South Coast of NSW at Kioloa, surrounded by massive bushfires! We listened to the ABC radio nearly all day, trying to make sense of the situation- how close was the fire, were we in immediate danger, was it safe to evacuate? The fire reports kept us up to date - they were extensive and comprehensive. We were afraid but we kept listening so we knew what options we had for evacuating. Fortunately we were able to follow the reports and drive home safely, avoiding traffic jams and new outbreaks of fire.

After the fires, we had COVID come on the scene. We trusted the ABC TV to give us the facts. For nearly 6 months, we have relied on the morning and evening news reports to help us understand what was happening around the world and in our own country, without sensationalism. With the best advice and expert opinions, the ABC helped my husband and I decide how to act in the pandemic to stay safe.

Between all this, the ABC radio and TV provide entertainment that helps keep us sane- morning talkback, science shows, in-depth interviews eg Conversation; Hard Quiz, Gardening Australia, modern Australian drama series, Landline plus the children's shows that are watched by my grandchildren.

The ABC must have its funding increased to expand the opportunities it provides for the employment of our own actors, presenters and writers , technical and support staff plus the development of even more Australian drama, comedy and news.

Janet C

VIC 2508

In the 70's I had a "Farnarkel for 7cents a day" sticker on my car. The ABC is my go to. It programs new Australian talent, comedy, arts, television series reflecting my life. Through Covid I have watched iview and education television with children. On a daily basis I watch "The Drum" and "7.30" for political analysis, discussion and commentary. "The News" for up to date information on my own State, Country and the World. I just can't understand an Australian Government who doesn't understand the role of independent media belonging to the people of Australia. I listen to Radio National constantly to hear about my own culture, arts, politics and lifestyle issues. The Government is cutting funding to a media service which caters to all Australians, country and city. I need and use my trustworthy ABC on a daily basis. Radio, online and television.

PS Why would the Government give Fox taxpayer money while cutting the ABC?

janet d

VIC 3929

I need and rely on the services our ABC which enables us to operate in this ever changing fast paced world. I need its accurate information, intelligent discussion, comedy, drama, special topical interest programs and child friendly TV. I need such honest reporting that I am able to rely on its information to bring a balanced outlook to a wide variety of Australian and worldwide issues and therefore bring healthy, safe, balanced, accurate decision making into my and other Australians' lives.

Over the years I have valued babysitting qualities of Bananas in Pyjamas (and other children's programming) they bring sanity to protect from the baby blues and safe and reliably child friendly education and entertainment while Mother recovers and stays sane and smiling.

I also have relied on comprehensive and current emergency news during bushfires when I lived in a rural area and could see flames apparently close at midnight, when we accessed ABC News information we knew the flames were not so close but only seemed so and were able to stay at home (with precautions). Now I have moved to a country town and live opposite a patch of bushland I still keep aware of bushfires and flooding with ABC News.

Gardening Australia's interesting practical and environmentally reliable gardening tips help me now I have a different style garden and need to learn new gardening methods than I've known previously. Insight's fascinating interviews with ordinary Australians on controversial and thought provoking subjects help me keep up to date and informed on current social issues and who can forget the comedy programs, often very witty, intelligent wry and hilarious (employing Australian actors and commenting on Australian issues) with the brave ability to make social comment that makes sure I don't ever take myself or this crazy world too seriously. These are some of my favourites.

By paying close attention to ABC's pandemic news and commentary as it first started to develop in China I was also able to stock up on staple household needs and face masks at my leisure very early - long before some others were panic buying - (January and February 2020).

Now I am particularly following the changing rules on Covid 19 crisis and news reports that I trust on varied aspects of this pandemic which mean that I feel in control of and aware of rules and regulations as alterations occur. I find that I can bring a balanced understanding of news and fake news on such 'cures' as hydroxychloroquine touted by some with advantages to gain by spreading word of something which is unapproved and possibly dangerous, but very advantageous commercially to interested commercial and supportive political parties which do not take into account the truth and honesty of the ABC or best interests of Australians' safety or survival.

ABC has brought sanity, information and an ability to view issues in a balanced and knowledgeable manner. Our Auntie ABC is incomparable to other commercial programmers. The end result of this is that many people in Australia have been better able to negotiate an ever evolving modern world armed with correct, accurate, calm and relevant information. What else is safety for the Australian population but this?

Our ABC is OF THE PEOPLE created with our will, votes and our tax payer's funding so that a reduction in funding of our ABC is a form of stealing from Australians by causing what has been built over years for their benefit to become less functional.

BY THE PEOPLE employing Australian journalists, news readers and reporters, social commentators, local actors, Australian artists, technical people and management and other experts in their particular fields thus reducing the number of Australians reliant on welfare in these demanding times particularly in the arts and entertainment areas. These highly trained people have the responsibility to report and comment on Australian issues or subjects of interest to their Australian audience.

FOR THE PEOPLE, the ABC is able to operate free of commercial interests but acting on our behalf to provide information in Australia and ordinary Australians' interests.

In fact the ABC even saves lives, not just in the obvious ways of emergency bushfire information and in up to date pandemic information, but in setting a standard for intelligent investigative reporting, educational and positive children's programming = saner children and teenagers, and great comedy shows and beautiful music, arts, entertainment = balance, sanity and witty information = keeping our population positive and happy in a modern challenging world.

Recently I saw on an ABC news program that in Australia .08 persons per 100,00 have died from Covid 19 whilst in America 47 persons per 100,000 died. America does not have a national equivalent to the ABC therefore over many years has received less balanced and honest reporting so more political and commercial interest power groups are believed (fake news). Less reliable and accurate information over time has created an unequal and uninformed society which has led to uninformed voting for inappropriate persons into high office, thus influencing and diverting effectiveness with the decisions made over time in the areas of healthcare, social standards, divisive class and race systems creating an unequal and untrusting social environment and less health efficiency and safety, then ultimately more Covid deaths.

ABC Classical FM radio is switched on when I get up in the morning and brings beautiful music, informative information about composers and performers and updated news on the hour, into my home. I start the day with positivity and sanity, accurate updated on the world's vital information and ready to go forward into my day, this not only keeps me sane and safe but provides information and things to think about keeping my brain active and vital.

Our ABC is one of the reasons Australia is known as the lucky country, with Australians (if they wish to) able to understand, express and make considered judgements because the ABC keeps us well informed and expresses real information not just what commercial interests and others wish us to hear (thus keeping the bastards honest and more accountable due to the comparison with the ABC). We are envied worldwide for our 'Aussie' generally balanced, calm, safe, logical environment supportive of many interest groups, commercial, social and political which would not be so if it weren't for the standard of reality and truth our people receive provided by our ABC, because we're all in this together.

This government seems scared of investigative journalism. Why???

Janet F
VIC 2107

I rely on hearing the 7.45am Melbourne 774 ABC Radio news, followed by AM, every day to keep me informed. These are very difficult times and I am amongst many. Without this news I worry more. Both the dreadful bushfires and then the Covid 19 disasters have been reported in full. I have relied on ABC more than ever. Please do not cut funding to our public broadcaster. The services offered are imperative.

Janet G
VIC 3193

My husband is having chemotherapy and I am disabled with arthritis.
I declared a year of indulgence this 2020 to celebrate my eightieth year.
The ABC informed me my dreams were cast aside.
But they also told me changes i needed to make, what I needed to do and where I could get help.
We are lonely, bored and uncomfortable but we are well and know we will be safe in the long term.
We heard about the bush-fires, the floods and the Pandemic and tonight the news will keep us up to date with what is next. Thanks very much for the ABC.

Janet G
WA 3665

The ABC is where I go to first for news as I know it will be accurate and unbiased. ABC is the go to place in the Covid Virus, bushfire, recession and global pandemic reality. Television, radio and internet are the ABC platforms I use. Attacks on the ABC are attacks on Australia from my point of view.

Janet H
VIC 6330

The ABC has been indispensable to me in 2020. I was overseas in January - in a Spanish speaking country - while Australia was on fire. I spent evenings in my room glued to IView - keeping up to date and finding out about areas where friends and family lived. I was of course, listening to ABC-RN on podcasts - the best most considered new programs (Big Ideas, Health Report, Background Briefing, Science Show, Saturday Extra etc). During the COVID_19 outbreak, I have relied on Coronacast for a quick daily update on evidence and on Casey Briggs presentations on the news. Of course, where would we be without the laughs from The Weekly

janet h
NSW 3162

I love ABC. Radio in the mornings, TV in the evenings, ABC News when in the car, and POD casts.
Coronavirus, Bushfires, Background Briefing, Breakfast, LNL, The Drum, Conversations....
If I want to hear the truth, the ABC is where I go.
Please keep ABC fully funded.

Janet M
NSW 2340

The ABC provided access to the classical music I missed due to COVID-19.
ABC News both television and radio (especially my local radio station) updated me to the world events, bushfires and the Corona virus numbers reliably and accurately several times every day.
I am horrified at the thought of any further cuts to the ABC. There have been so many already.

Thank you ABC!!!
Janet

Janet M
NSW 2534

I really couldn't keep going without the ABC - mainly RN, but also TV News and the 7.30 Report. The Drum is very good too.

Yes I am a news junkie, but over and above that, as a person with serious health concerns as well as a very difficult situation with a family member, I find the only way I can divert anxious thoughts is by tuning in. Better to spend time fruitfully than to lie awake all night!

So I thank the ABC for providing the brain fodder I need, and keeping me going. Please do not put it on life support.

Janet M
NT 2045

2020 has been a challenging year. The bushfires didn't affect me personally, but I relied on the ABC for news and alerts. During covid, and in isolation, I listen to, and watch, the ABC daily for reliable information and intelligent comment. Also for some great entertainment. It is an essential service.

Janet P
NSW 3004

Yes...I watched the horrific fires in January 2020 on ABC. No other channel can provide better coverage that is trusted and is as accurate as possible. I was aware of the full extent of these fires through the ABC coverage. Sydney siders in the North like me were lucky that things didn't get a whole lot worse with the Gosper Fire.

Leigh Sales on ABC is great the way she challenges the Federal Government and other politicians on important issues like fossil fuel supporters who don't want to understand or support the power of clean 'green' renewable energy.

I also love the shows on the ABC ..'.Mad As Hell' springs to mind as does 'Hard Quiz' and there are many others ..these programs are very important as they show we have top talent who want to share their expertise but also support the values of the ABC. Once we lose the ABC we'll be in a dark placeSBS comes second best but MY ABC is the winner. Please don't take anymore money away from it...it's already working under duress through sharing facilities with SBS. Please let us be kept sane with the ABC through the Pandemic...it's my world!

Thank you for the opportunity to comment.

Janet R
NSW 2074

Please restore/retain full funding to A.B.C as they are an instrumental (pardon the pun) part of Australia's mental health initiative.

I would have not coped with this past year, if it had not been for the A.B.C, radio and television stations. When my husband died in 2019, I was alone in the home, except for the friendly and informative A.B.C presenters and their programmes. When the bush fires took hold, I could ensure that I received as accurate information as possible. Now with the pandemic, it is the A.B.C which fills my day with a wide range of music, informative programmes and cheerful people's voices. No gossip, tittle-tattle or vacuous music found on these channels!

Janet R
QLD 2500

This message is not so much how we have all depended at some time in our lives, but more about OUR ABC and what it stands for.

It stands as our best friend in times of need. It stands for honesty. It stands for truth. It gives us everything we need to feel we have a trusty friend we can turn to any time of the day and night.

With all these admiral qualities in a vital part of our lives, there is one thing OUR ABC cannot do.

It cannot appeal to our present gov to allow us, the people to have this one thing that means so much to so many.

Why wont you Mr.Morrison?

Why do you hate OUR ABC so much?

What has OUR ABC ever done to you?

Maybe you don't like to hear the truth.

Why don't you want us to feel safe in these bad times?.

Who else can we turn to?

NOT you. You are the cause of these terrible upheaval events.

If you had any feelings for us, the people at all, you wouldn't go to such horrible lengths to destroy and steal from us the most important safety valve we have.

You have taken everything else from us, leave OUR ABC alone.

We need it. It's a pity you are so narrow minded and blind to see the good in it.

Why don't you? You never give us a reason as to why you deny us, take down our trusted friend, when we so badly need it. Doesn't say much for your decency, your sense of truth nor your caring for us. Bring on the next election so we can embrace our true ABC once again.

Janet S

NSW 4680

Hello, I am a 68 year old woman living near Taree in NSW. I stopped work six months ago after 50 years of employment in Australia. The ABC has always been a part of my life providing information, entertainment and education.

I remember Four Corners with Caroline Jones, Countdown with Molly Meldrum, the opening of the ABC shops where my cousin worked. I remember watching the ABC when we switched to colour and seeing Gough Whitlam talk about the Governor General.

I remember Andrew Olle, Kerry O'Brien, Geraldine Doogue, Maxine McKew and I loved Mother and Son with Ruth Cracknell and Garry McDonald. Rushed home to catch Seachange with Laura and Diver Dan.

I trust in the ABC's emergency broadcasting services to report on disasters in rural and regional areas across the country.

I support all the ABC's Indigenous programs.

But right now, more than ever before, I rely on the ABC for the 24 hour news channel and News Breakfast. Right now Lisa Millar, Michael Rowland and Nate Byrne are in isolation along with everyone on this hard working and invaluable team.

I strongly suggest that no cuts be made to the ABC in the October 2020-21 budget.

Janet S

ACT 2445

I have always relied on the ABC for accurate and relevant reporting of news. However, their role during emergencies is more than this - it is vital and irreplaceable.

During the black summer fires, not only did I rely on the ABC when I was not on shift with my RFS brigade, but I knew it provided my partner and family in other states with comprehensive coverage and reassurance of where fires were in relation to my home location. As so many members of our south coast communities have said, the ABC's frequent and thorough coverage was essential.

Now as we battle the Covid19 pandemic, we rely on the ABC for up-to-date and accurate reporting on the pandemic's progression and our governments' responses. The regular "coronacast" broadcasts have been one of the most informative and informed sources of information and advice in a crowded and often sensationalised media space.

I must give special mention to the ABC website for providing clear instructions for making and USING fabric face masks. These are absolutely essential to ensuring masks provide the maximum possible protection. I have seen several TV news items showing people, including politicians, using and handling face masks incorrectly. I make masks for friends and family and provide them with a copy of the instructions on handling, washing and reuse from the ABC website.

We cannot afford to have this valuable broadcasting service continually slashed. Especially for those living in regional areas, the ABC is trusted and essential.

Yours sincerely,

Janet Wheeler

janet W

QLD 2617

We were all isolated during lockdown when we were prevented from seeing our friends and families. A necessary precaution to prevent the spread of Covid-19!!

The ABC kept me up to date with the development of the pandemic in Australia and abroad.

Even more, though, I was able to listen to my favourite regular broadcasts. It gave me something interesting and stimulating to look forward to each day. It was the stability in a world of chaos, a link to the outside world, the truth amongst some very confusing and even misleading information.

Thank you ABC!!

Janette J
NSW 4872

Hi,

My name is Janette. I live at Valla Beach NSW and my elderly mother lives in Bellingen just a 30 min drive from me. I am a self employed hairdresser and also run a registered BnB. The area I live in often has flooding. I have always relied heavily on the local ABC to keep me up to date with all going on as it is a totally reliable source that I can count on.

During flooding and more recent increasingly devastating storms, in emergency situations, it gives me an up to date peace of mind of what's happening in our local region. Road closures, Rivers and Bridges cut, power outages etc. It helps me make the right choices regarding my Mother and her wellbeing. It also gives her peace of mind. The elderly in the country regions have always relied on the ABC for absolutely everything. I have many memories as a child all crowded around the one radio during the big floods with my grandparents.

During this shocking summer of Bushfires 2019-2020 we have just endured with terrifying bushfires licking at our door, and as digital and telecommunications failed, living in constant fear of losing everything and our precious forests all on fire, animals being wiped out in the thousands so many of us only had the local ABC to guide us through these uncertain times with their up to date emergency broadcasts. Keeping us informed, our main source of information, advising us when to go, when to hunker down. The ABC did such an amazing job and it makes me wonder just how many more lives would have been lost without their care and support during this crucial time or running out to their cars so they could tune in.

Just about every person I knew went out to buy a transister radio with batteries as the fear of losing power and having that only one true source of information taken from us was unthinkable and terrifying.

I no longer rely on other stations as they rarely tell the whole story and tend to overlook important facts that hold those accountable in power at a time when deception is easily overlooked.

I absolutely beg you to consider your choice for cutting the funding to this precious resource and would ask you to restore any funding cut already.

I have always applauded them for their honesty and tireless efforts.

We need the ABC to keep us safe. To cut funding and to cripple our main source of reliable information would be a true crime and a massive loss to the Australian people.

Restore funds and NO more cuts.

Yours sincerely
Janette Lovell

Janette L
VIC 2448

I totally rely on the ABC for all in depth news, local, national and world wide.

Dedicated journalists go to great lengths to get to the nub of an issue - I trust the ABC for news. Disasters such as the bushfires, floods etc. are always accurately and sensibly reported on

I also love the many personal and inspiring stories told on radio and TV - Australian Story, Landline, Back Roads, stories about Australia and Australians. As well, conversations on radio, science show, Dr Norman Swan has kept me informed re Covid19 without sensationalism. All this and much much more is why the ABC is important to me and many of my friends. The ABC budget must not be cut, indeed it needs to be increased.

Janette T
VIC 3219

The ABC is so important to me for many many reasons. First and foremost is the fact that I can rely on the unbiased truth of the reporting. I can be sure that matters of vital importance and emergency - bushfire and health information etc. - will be conveyed in a truthful and timely manner. World affairs are also covered very well and there are programmes which entertain as well as inform. The Australian content is important to us all. We want and need to know what is going on in our own communities, in our own country.

I never listen to any other radio station and rarely watch any other television channel. Without the ABC I would feel quite bereft and worried about the quality of information available. My life would be so much poorer.

Please ensure our taxes are properly funding this wonderful service.

Janice Dale

Janice D
NSW 3194

Budgetary cuts to the ABC could possibly endanger lives in Australia, especially if there are cuts to information about bush fires, and coronavirus.

Apart from that, I have Radio National on most of the day. Then I like to watch The Drum, 7.30, and other programs such as The Insiders.

Janice H
ACT 2011

In January 2020, my husband and I housed our daughter and family whilst they packed their house for a DFAT overseas posting. For 12 days in a row we had two young grandchildren inside 24 hours a day because smoke compromised the outside air. Meanwhile we were alert for the parents who worked through the day on finishing jobs and packing their home.

The ABC radio and TV were our only reliable source of information. Having lived through Canberra's 2003 bushfires, we knew that being reliably informed was an imperative.

Currently COVID19 decrees a similar need for reliable information and informed points of view.

In the interests of a population which is reliably treated with respect and scientific information, please enhance the work of the ABC. Diversity of languages for access to information would appear to be an essential, given the current difficulty in getting messages through in Victoria.

Spending on the ABC should be increased to facilitate safety measures for all Australians.

Janice S
WA 2607

The ABC is needed more than ever in these times of pandemic and bushfire season just about to start. Eight months ago we became grandcarers for our 10 year old granddaughter, at times we felt overwhelmed. Watching ABC Breakfast was very grounding for us, the reporting is direct and authentic and listening to the stories/interviews we were able to gain perspective on what is happening Australia-wide. We also felt supported by ABC education channel when we had to home school our granddaughter; she wouldn't always stick to the usual timetable but could often be persuaded to watch something educational on tv. People are staying home more now, either by choice or by curfew, this is definitely not the time to cut funding to the ABC!

Janice Y
VIC 6284

My partner and I both planned to travel this year. He teaching Biodynamic compost making, and I teacher training in sensory integration movements. Trip plans were being finalised when Corona virus Covid-19 arrived on our shores. Exactly on the date originally planned for flying my partner was rushed by ambulance to hospital. Thus began a four month sojourn of pain, including three operations, which caused him to be unable to sit down at all. I became wound-care nurse and that's when we uttered the words we have said so many times "thank God for the ABC". That dial on our radio has truly been our 'life-line', to all the latest news about the virus and all of the top quality programmes that can be listened to, and so much appreciated, day in and day out. The ingenuity of 'locked-down' presenters has been absolutely inspirational, and every interview without exception has presented a balance of viewpoints. "thank God for our ABC"

Sincerely, Janina and Jakob

Janina P
QLD 3723

The ABC was my first go to during the bushfires. The fires in S.E. Qld were getting closer and closer to where I live. Coverage of the nearby fires on the Sunshine Coast by the ABC together with alerts were invaluable before, during and after we were evacuated.

I cannot imagine not having the ABC during those fires which so personally effected me.

Coverage since, intelligent coverage, based on well researched information has been my go to place, to stay informed about the effects of the fires on people and wildlife.

ABC coverage in general is the most grounded, most clearly written & researched, well presented and thoughtful on radio, television, podcasts, internet, not only for adults but also for children, for entertainment and education and fun.

There is compassion and sensitivity in the way the ABC communicates and this is very important to me.

Then there have been the same excellent information and coverage from the ABC re the virus, covid 19. Just wonderful to be able to see some reliable news, information and response to the pandemic.

I love listening to ABC podcasts.

I love knowing my friends enjoy the ABC.

I love the ABC.

This invaluable resource must be there, fully funded and supported in the future for all Australians to enjoy and rely on as they have for many decades.

Janine G
NSW 4565

I live on the south coast of NSW and during the bushfires we relied on the ABC to give us factual information. This was especially the case when fires hit the Clyde Mountain in December.. The bad days immediately after the impact on New Year's Eve and Day. We are located out of town just west of Moruya. When we had no power we listened to the ABC on our car radio. We lost our main communication tower located at Mt Wanderra. Our local council had to use large generators to maintain water supplies. Local businesses had to get generators up and running to be able to provide fuel for tourists and locals to be able to leave to safer places. Thank goodness we had a battery operated radio when fires came from all directions over the days following New Years....the ABC kept us informed....there was no other service providing the factual essential information needed...mobile reception was reduced to nearly nothing...we had to travel from our house to find out what was going on...the ABC has always provided reliable essential info without bombarding us with advertising. Please increase funding to the ABC so that our service is not reduced but increased..I cannot rely on Mr Murdoch to provide anything but sensationalist bullshit, we do not need him to make our choices for us....we need to be properly informed so that we can make the best choices in all situations...recent floods in our region went essentially without warning or follow up info....we heard that Newcastle flooded but no info for us locally....I know we are a small population but information should not be rated on how many people live there...now we have Covid...we need the ABC more than ever.....We need the ABC to be able to access an Australian owned satellite for the best communications....this should always be owned by the people for the people...not contracted out, and especially not to Mr Murdoch and others like him....bogus organisations with government sounding names should be banned....the common person doesn't realise they are being conned. Recent elections have been affected by propaganda style ads that are not for the benefit of providing information about how best to have your vote count for the choice of the voter...our whole system of living is changing for the worse with privately owned media....PLEASE SAVE OUR ABC, PLease provide the necessary funding for local journalists again.....what we have now is shit.....I could go on.

Janine K
NSW 2537

I live in Paul Fletcher, Minister for Communication's electorate of Bradfield. I am a teacher/educator and so have relied on the ABC all my life developing my knowledge of history, culture, current affairs and the environment. The ABC have provided so many superb shows that are vital to an informed and educated public.

I watch the ABC TV every day - and especially rely on the ABC for up to date information on the coronavirus crisis. It was when I heard ABC's Norman Swan commentary on the pandemic in March 2020 that I stopped all my activities and stayed home. It was his knowledge that I respected and listened to.

The ABC for me cuts through the misinformation that is rife in society. Monday night is one of my favourite nights of ABC TV- with Four Corners, Media Watch and Q&A - that shines a light on power. I rely on the ABC to hold those in power accountable particularly at a time when there is so much disinformation - particularly through social media and the shockingly poor journalist standards of the Murdoch media empire.

I lead a very busy life but I love listening to Radio National and the most wonderful informative talks on their shows.

My message to the Government is - Marise Payne travels to US concerned about the disinformation of the Chinese media interfering with democracy. Hypocrisy. Look after the independence of the ABC - so that Australia is not captured by the media misinformation of the Murdoch media empire - that has a shockingly poor history of misinformation, sensationalism and dog whistling.

It is time that the Government stopped its ideological attacks on the ABC and funded it properly. As a taxpayer, I demand that there be no cuts to the ABC in the October 2020-21 budget and that instead additional funds are provided to it.

Janine K
VIC 2072

ABC is one of only two TV channels committed to Australians by providing Australian stories. From programs such as Backroads and Australian Story, Australia and Australians are brought into focus for TV watchers. Q&A is vital in order for Govt to hear the voices of all Australians and monitor the mood of the people. Investigative programs such as Four Corners, shine light into dark places in order for corruption, etc. to be brought into the light and then hopefully dealt with. The ABC is the peoples' station and as such should be supported not destroyed.

Janine R
VIC 3065

Our household rarely watches commercial stations anymore and rely on the ABC (as well as SBS) for news and current affairs programs. Their journalists are brilliant!

The ABC has terrific Australian drama content such as 'Mystery Road' and 'Total Control'.

To be honest, I would be extremely disappointed if there were more cuts to this wonderful and informative station in this years budget.

Thank you for considering my comments.

Janine V
ACT 3915

The ABC is vital to my well-being and vital to the nation's well-being. The ABC should be further supported rather than forced to cut back on services. In the past 12 extraordinarily challenging months I have depended on ABC News (radio and TV) to keep me properly informed about weather events, bush fires in my area, and Covid-19. I've also depended on ABC Classic FM to keep me sane, hopeful and connected to the healing power of music. Without the ABC my life would have been put at risk, both physically and mentally. Without a strong ABC the whole nation is at risk.

Janis H
NSW 2614

I live in regional NSW in Armidale. We were one of the first affected areas by last summer's bushfires. My family relied heavily on the ABC reporting to understand what the correct advice was in terms of managing the fire risk and smoke levels. We relied on the ABC because we can trust it more than the commercial channels. There were days when every road out of town was blocked by fires. Commercial channels over dramatise the situation and cannot be relied on for balanced reporting, especially for regional Australians. When you are facing a prolonged fire season it's really important to look after your mental health and staying away from bad reporting is an important part of managing that. Then of course COVID hit and we have relied almost exclusively on the ABC, especially RN to educate ourselves about the risks and the actions we can take to protect ourselves and others.

Janna H
TAS 2026

The ABC has been a part of my life since childhood, with entertainment (The Goodies! Doctor Who!), education (Behind the News! Playschool!) and elocution (Question Time taught me so many new words!). Especially in the last few months of isolation and education at home, the ABC has been a pillar of support in providing a rich and varied supply of educational shows, entertainment for my own children. We should be giving one of Australia's best and most valued institutions more resources to support us into the future, not gutting it to give commercial stations more money.

Jarrold C
VIC 7000

During the Coronavirus crisis, whilst tabloid media like The Australian is creating sensationalistic and unreliable media reports based in self-interest, I rely on the ABC to provide factual and real time reporting of the events. Without the ABC I would have no trust in anything that is being reported, including announcements from the Government on the latest restrictions.

Jarrold P
QLD 3121

ABC is the only news source I go to when I want information I can trust. In an age where media is more and more commercialised I think it's incredibly important we keep an Australian independent news source that is for informing the public. COVID 19 has been a big reminder of this, without ABC I wouldn't know where to find information that seeks to educate and inform rather than 'grab headlines'. Keep the ABC funded please. Australian people deserve a news source they can trust.

Jasmine P
VIC 4209

My name is Jason, aged 30, a Masters University student living in Melbourne.

I've relied heavily on the ABC during the coronavirus crisis as a source of reliable, accurate and timely information. At a time when trusted and reliably accurate news/ information sources are waning and the news/ information landscape becomes increasingly difficult to navigate the ABC has been vital in ensuring I have been able to keep up to date and accurately informed on all things corona virus in Australia and my State of Victoria.

Additionally, when not utilising the ABC's news coverage, having access to the rest of the ABC's programming through ABCview has been a source of much needed entertainment and healthy distraction during this crisis.

A well funded public broadcaster like the ABC is integral to maintaining the integrity of our media environment in Australia. Funding to the ABC should absolutely NOT be cut in the October 2020-21 budget. I would also go further and demand that previously cut funding be restored.

Jason C
WA 3053

The ABC is important to me Because for years since I was a child I relied on the ABC for most of my news coverage entertainment and education it is vital that the ABC remains fully funded and a healthy institution for all Australians sincerely Jason Crespi

jason c
NSW 6225

ABC is Australia's most trusted news source. I rely on it everyday to inform me on what's happening around the world and in Australia, whether it's the bushfires or Covid. I won't watch 7, 9, 10 as news is sensationalised and they more interested in ratings than objective facts.

jav p
NT 2040

As a single, currently unemployed, mature-aged woman... at home and presently keeping my distance due to Covid19, I truly appreciate the ABC. I value the considerable diversity, objective information and quality educational programs. I'm always eager to learn more about the diverse world I live in, therefore I fully appreciated having the ABC to inform, educate, entertain, and continually expand my mind... and hence, my world. The ABC shines a light on people, families, cultures, music, philosophy, religion, the environment, history, economics, politics, travel, entertainment as well as unique scenarios and adventures happening around the globe in an informed, intriguing and intelligent way. Programs are very well researched and presented in an ethical, articulate and well rounded way. The presenters understand and empathise with those they engage with. They are patient, empathetic and often quite intuitive. This is a valuable craft... learnt over an extensive period of time... invaluable and irreplaceable. Thank you ABC for informing and enhanced my world when I'm physically unable to create my own adventure and entertainment in the times of 2020. To me there is no replacing the ABC!

Javara N
QLD 810

The ABC has always given us the best stories and news. The current budget cuts have been brutal....even Gardening Australia - the best show on television has had to shut down over winter - this is an award winning show that has been encouraging and inspiring Australians to get outdoors forever, and it has been the highlight of my week for years. GA has brought the love of botany into my life and I am incredibly grateful for this. Somehow though, the ABC still manages to put out great content despite the governments mean spirited cuts, which is driven by politics and not at all in line with what the people want. The ABC must thrive before our media becomes overrun by totalitarian objectives. This is not just a matter of budget cuts, the defunding of the ABC is a cruel blow to democracy and sanity in a commercially driven, Murdoch dominated world.

Jaz L
ACT 4000

#REF!

We cannot do without the ABC. When a bushfire was raging on the southern boundary of the ACT last summer, we had our evacuation kit ready and the local ABC radio on continuously to hear if or when we had to clear out. Mercifully we were spared, but We really needed the local ABC then.

Jean G
NSW 2614

The ABC has shaped important aspects aspects of my 92 years, but never more than in 2020. It enables all who wish to to view the underbelly of what has become our crudely unequal society, where the greedy and heartless thrive - but not quite. The ABC brings the voices and plight of all manner of people into our homes. In 2020 the ABC has made Indigenous Australians the core of the Australian story. Fund the ABC and we'll yet become the nation so many of us want to be. Who do we trust? Go figure.

Jean H
QLD 2060

Hi there. My name is Jean. I'm a clinical psychologist living and practicing in Queensland. The ABC has always been an important part of my life. I lived in a three bedroom housing commission house with my eight siblings. We had few books and my main source of education prior to school was through the ABC. My first memories are watching Play School and Mr Squiggle (both preferred over Romper Room or Humphrey Bear). I kept my own 'useful box' with bits of string/paper to copy the creations that Don, Benita and Patsy would make. In Grade 3 I made my little brother a "Humpty" in my sewing class. Then as we grew Bellbird was a big family deal at night (always preceded by GTK - ten minutes of introduction into Australian music - bands like Captain Matchbox and the Skyhooks). The ABC was always the station of choice for News. We got alerts about the Brisbane Floods and tropical cyclones as they came down the coast.

I left school when I was fifteen and married at 18. As a young mother I listened to 4QR each morning as I did the housework. Commercial radio stations did not have the content that I needed. Even though I was annoyed with the ABC at their unkind and biased representation of a favourite of mine at the time - Joh Bjelke Petersen - I did not switch stations. The ABC was where a lot of my continuing education about society, government and the world happened.

I continue to listen to a range of media content (including Fox News). Over the course of completing doctoral level education I've become a careful consumer of information trying to observe my own biases and take an objective view of content and sources of information. My judgment is that the ABC provides the least biased presentation of information and opinion of the sources available.

I'm alarmed at the role that media (and particularly social media) has recently taken in the spread of misinformation and disinformation, and how this has shaped the world's political landscape (even influencing the tragic spread of coronavirus in the US). Now more than ever before, Australia needs an independent, well-funded national broadcaster that citizens can trust to provide factual and fair coverage of events. Each morning when I get up I look at the ABC app to provide me with important information about the world (particularly at present about COVID-19 and directions from leaders PM and premier and leading experts - also science based info from Norman Swan).

Please, please, please - do not make any further cuts to the ABC at this critical time. Such cuts to the ABC create mistrust and stoke a sense of partisanship just at a time when Australians and their politicians need to be pulling together and seeking evidence-based (rather than ideologically-based) solutions to our problems.

Jean L
VIC 4228

The ABC is the only reliable media source in this country (apart from SBS), and I value it very highly. I am always secure in the knowledge that the ABC can be trusted every day, every broadcast.

Jean L
WA 3805

Like millions of other Australians, I have known and respected the ABC throughout my life. Over 70 years ago, as a small child, I used to join other members of my family in our "little sitting room", in front of a log fire, listening to the ABC on an old valve driven radio. We all grew up with it.

When I was at University in Adelaide in the early 1960s, some of the other students in my faculty were heavily involved in either the Labor Club or the Liberal Club - they wanted to know my political views, and asked me to do a "test", to find out what my "leanings" were. They were astounded by the result - my score was "0, 0" - meaning zero on both the X axis and the Y axis. In other words, I HAD no "political leanings". And for the whole of my adult life, I have been attacked the same way our political parties attack the ABC. It doesn't matter what the issue is, I am always wrong. If I am talking to someone who vote Labor and they hear my views, they decide I am a Liberal voter. If I am talking to a Liberal voter, saying exactly the same things as I said to the Labor voter, then this one accuses me of being a Labor voter.

Because I am independent. And therefore BOTH sides of politics ALWAYS tell me that I am wrong.

That is the predicament of the ABC. In trying to tell the truth, and be "right", they are automatically "wrong" - because they fail to agree with the Labor or the Liberal or the National or any other party. Because they're not THERE, for the purpose of agreeing with political parties. Because they are there to tell the people of Australia and the rest of the world, the truth.

And bit by bit, year after year, the party in power in Canberra has been tearing away at the ABC - reducing its funding and its ability to do the job Australians expect it to do, and want it to do.

I don't need to document this. It's all over the place, already.

And right now, after a year during which the ABC did a stellar job in conveying warnings and emergency information to people all over Australia who were affected by last year's bushfire pandemic, the ABC is under attack again. By the present Coalition government. Which did bugged all last year, to help fight those fires - the Prime Minister was away during some of the worst of it, and had planned to go on a holiday to Hawaii with his family on his return. Yes I know that was stopped - but it wasn't stopped until The Prime Minister was caught in the cross hairs after his return to Australia, and did NOT cancel those holiday plans on the basis of information he did or should have been receiving while he was already absent from the country and before he returned. And I find that appalling.

I also find it appalling that a man who did that can face the Australian public afterwards, and continue his party's relentless attack on ABC funding and staff numbers.

This is the stuff of Hitler's Germany - suppression of free speech - and all the more appalling because these attacks are launched regularly - if not continuously - on the broadcasting network owned by the people of Australia - the Australian Broadcasting Commission.

"Yesterday, upon the stair
I met a man who wasn't there
He wasn't there again today
Oh how I wish he'd go away!"

jean pierre g
NSW 6959

keep the reliable abc.. its a treasured reliable news and program source!!

jeanette n
NSW 2487

I am elderly and have recently moved from the city where I enjoyed live classical and popular concerts at various venues there and now live in a regional town.

I rely totally on the ABC and SBS for my accurate information regarding the Pandemic as well as news of both Australian and international current affairs.

As well, the ABC and SBS supply wonderful concerts and all kinds of entertainment which helps my mental well being. This sense of well being has been very much challenged by my relocation as I had only just started to build a small network of friends when the Pandemic was declared and so I am extremely dependent on these two channels for information, support and entertainment which I can trust for accuracy and quality.

It is imperative that the ABC and SBS receive increased funding to meet the burgeoning demand for their services.

At age 83, I consider that I have paid enough taxes to expect this return at least to support my quality of life and enable me to be less dependent on other government services, such as health and other aged care services'

Jeanette S
WA 2800

I use the ABC news as my main source of national and international news. I use it to keep me up to date on local affairs too. I have the ABC news app on my phone and use the alerts to notify me of important immediate news alerts. This has been imperative during CoVid times.

I also use the ABC news radio and 881am as my radio stations for current affairs in my car and I watch the Insiders on Sunday morning to wrap up my news for the week in Australia. I rely on the ABC to be current, reliable and timely in their news reporting.

Please reconsider more cuts to the ABC, the quality of the ABC News service has already taken a hit with the previous ABC cuts - please do not make more.

Kind regards

Jeanette

Jeanette W

QLD 6019

We have had the ABC as part of our lives for more than sixty years.

Apart from the unbiased news coverage both nationally and internationally we have enjoyed the productions that our children watched and were educated with. The quality and diversity of programs is astounding.

I have learnt more about Australia and Australians than I ever learnt at school.

Recently you will recall Australia experienced horrific bush fires. Our son and his family were in one of the areas that lost housing but fortunately no lives were lost.

However we were able to rely on the ABC to provide accurate and current information to help them and us face this crisis. We are in the midst of the COVID crisis at the moment and ABC is providing sterling information education and even comedy to lighten the load. If the role of the ABC was only to provide this information then adequate funding is essential and should not only be maintained but increased so that we can all benefit from this fantastic corporation that is so important to all Australians .

Sincerely

JC&wG Taplin

Jeanette and William T

NSW 4507

I am an 86 yr old woman. One of my fondest memories sitting with my Mother & sister Pat listening to BlueHills on the ABC radio. I was in Canberra when the bushfires came into our street & we relied on the ABC FOR CONSTANT UPDATES. THE MOST RECENT FIRES once again we listened to ABC for the update on everything. The ABC is a very important part of my life as I watch TV even if it is a

repeat of something from the day before..ABC needs a bigger budget so people can participate through dramas etc. I can't see a time when the ABC will not be a very important part of my life

Jeanne H

VIC 2295

Ever since childhood I have relied on the ABC to give accurate and unbiased news. It is important to have a news provider that is not funded by vested interests.

Jeff B

TAS 3631

ABC TV and Radio are invaluable sources of accurate information. This is especially the case in times of emergency. During the COVID pandemic my family has relied on the latest (often changing) information. Should our locality come under bushfire threat it is wonderful to know we have designated emergency radio operated by such highly trusted staff.

Jeff M

NSW 7249

I have always relied on the ABC especially in times of crisis. I have recently turned to the ABC's Coronacast to get information and check the facts about the Corona virus. I have also relied on it at many times of my life when affected by floods, bushfires and other events. The ABC has been a great educational resource in many areas of life especially those that underpin a functioning Democracy. We need it more than ever with the pressures and attacks that have and are occurring on Democracy.

I want you to seriously start restoring the funding to the ABC. As someone famous once said "Education is a country's best defence" especially against other ideologies.

Isn't about time you saw the ABC as an asset worth "fully funding" and not a threat to your tenure in Government or to conservatism.

Your strident criticism and "white anting" of the ABC through cuts or "efficiency dividends" ONLY makes me more suspicious and less trusting of the Government doing so.

Become more responsible and responsive to our institutions most especially the ABC.

your sincerely,

Jeff

Jeff T

NSW 2450

When I look around at other news organizations and their sensational and often half-truth, biased headlines, it's not hard to conclude that the ABC does the least biased journalism. They step up to the mark whenever there is an emergency which requires comprehensive communication with the public no matter where they live.

The ABC deserves to be fully funded by the taxpayer.

Jeffrey S

TAS 2000

Corona cast has been the best source of info!

Jen C

QLD 7004

The ABC has always been the cheerful radio voice in a cyclone for me. I listen to and watch the ABC everyday, but in a cyclone those voices on local radio are sound of safety and sanity and hope. I know their only agenda is the safety of my community because it is their community too.

Ever since March, I've relied on our ABC and especially on Dr Norman Swan for reliable information about Covid-19. There is so much information, miss-information, gossip and theories going around. I know I can rely on Coronacast for good research based information. Covid may not have been as terrifying here in the North as a cyclone can be, but that low dread of waiting is very familiar. Once again the ABC is the sound of safety and sanity and hope.

Our ABC is part of how we keep our country and our people safe. Please save our ABC

Jen

Jen F

QLD 4870

Every day, I listen for latest updates: health, international news and national issues as a part of our conversation as we go forward as a Western democracy. I trust the ABC to grill each party from an unbiased position. I like the ABC support for small entities as well as dogged coverage of the big issues. Contraversial environmental protection, energy generation and national security needs are courageously considered.

I love my ABC. We need you for our clear headed news feed. And I don't say this lightly. Our democracy depends upon it.

Jen M

NSW 4000

We evacuated from Quaama at 2am on New Year's Eve and eventually found dog-friendly accommodation in Millingandi. There we saw the TV news.

A number of ABC reporters had abandoned their summer holidays. Hamish MacDonald had been in Tathra and sprang into action at the Bega Evacuation Centre. Reporters we usually see against a backdrop of Middle Eastern or Eastern European carnage, now doing pieces-to-camera on our coastline. I saw veteran correspondent Philip Williams reporting from Bega, then, when Eden was suddenly under threat, he was there. In my mind's eye, a stream of traffic evacuating north out of Eden, and one lone ABC vehicle heading south.

Jen S
NSW 2550

I live in Moruya, during the Bush fires in 2020 we had the local radio on constantly to assist us with planning evacuations and keeping up to date. It was Critical!!!!

I rely on ABC news to have access to a news service that is not influenced by private ownership.

Thanks for all your efforts Get up. Your doing a great job, keep it up.

Jen W
NSW 2537

I heard on the news just yesterday the court subpoenaed an ABC show about the bush fires 2019-2020 where Shane Fitzsimmons was speaking about the upcoming fire season. This is why the ABC needs more funding, not less. Aged Care, Banking, great investigative journalism from trusted sources. We lived through the 31st December fires in Batemans Bay. Coverage by the ABC was very much needed before, during and after the fires. It helped us to prepare, get ready and come to grips with the aftermath of the horrific events that happened. The coronavirus updates on the ABC console and easily followed, a much needed daily news report.

Jennifer Mather

Jena M
VIC 2536

I only follow the ABC, I do believe the ABC gives us a fair and unbiased account of what is happening in our country, I rely on it, our country depends on it in times of crises and every other time.

Jenifer M
NSW 3131

To me ABC's importance to me is about two things. Firstly diverse and lively discussion that is a cut above all other media channels and gives my mind some useful food for thought as opposed to dumbing me down (e.g Occams Razor, Waleed Ali discussions, Geraldine Doug and Phillip Adams's detailed and incisive interviewing styles, Conversations, the rural hour and all the issues discussed in that segment which are important to me as a Primary Producer. Take this away from people like me and we will leap into the arms of Ali Jezeera and any social media channels that will provide us with good consistent information with diverse opinions on life and the world around us. I long ago gave up on commercial radio as so trite as to be insulting. Oh it was yes secondly - the crises issues: consistent, reliable, timely and dedicated updates and commentary and warnings that I listen to continually when threats are around me OR around the farmers and beekeepers who I do business with are under threat. When the fires were raging on the Eastern sea-board last summer, I tracked where they were spreading and knew hour by hour which of my friends had lost homes and apiary sites and whose hives were threatened or had been lost in the terrible devastation. I knew when the new nursery my business had worked so hard to build up in collaboration with the local First Nations people in that area had had fire through it. Lost income, lost manuka plants, lost honey and hives. My beekeeper colleagues and their families had ABC on 24/7 as they scrambled to save hives, bees, honey and livelihoods whilst also keeping tabs on whether the family, the children and animals or the homes were under in danger from that fire. No other radio network has ever accomplished what ABC has accomplished (past, present and it must also go into to future) in keeping us rural people safer, more informed and equipped to respond to danger better.

In past years ABC has warned me of fire danger many times and kept me abreast of safe exit routes when my NSW Central Coast property was in danger. I've tuned into ABC hourly when heavy rain and flooding has cut my way in and out of my Northern Rivers home. To me it is a delinquent act and a deep betrayal on the part of this government to be whittling away the ABC budget and thus threatening the service it provides for all Australians, be they urban or rural, be they in crisis or in calm. I cannot watch this happen meekly.

Jenna F
QLD 2484

I am a retired teacher living in Far North Queensland.

The ABC is the only media network I trust for my news. The ABC is here for us, with journalists who know us, reporting on local issues. These same journalists are here beside us in times of disaster, because they know and understand what matters to the local community. They aren't here to please advertisers, corporate bosses or shareholders, but are accountable to the Australian public.

The ABC is where I look for entertainment, via radio, tv and iview, because I love the quality and integrity of Australian and international content.

I want my tax dollars to support and encourage the continued Excellence of our Public Broadcaster. It is vital that we have a broadcaster that we can rely on to provide balanced information and support for our Creative community.

Jenni K
NSW 4883

We live in Northern NSW which was hit by bushfires in August/September 2019 - we relied on the ABC radio and television reporting to keep up with the spread of the bushfire to the west and south of us, and were on the alert should we need to get out quickly - but thankfully we were spared the worst.

And then when covid 19 hit - without the daily updates of Dr Norman Swan on ABC TV ,we would have had no detailed, reliable advice.

Jennie H
NSW 2478

The ABC is a unifying influence in a very big country. We can gather information from the ABC News and current affairs reports although we are far away from many parts of the continent.

The ABC is a good source of documentaries and science programs that are topical and well-researched. Keeping all Australians up to date.

The ABC provides sound analysis of political events such as elections and government budgets and policies.

The ABC brings us programs such as Back Roads which enable all Australians to gain insight into the places, the culture, and the character of Australia.

The ABC makes us laugh hysterically with comedy shows such as Micallef, knowing it is always good to laugh at the foibles of others, especially our politicians!

The ABC provides plenty of drama, new and old, to satisfy everyone who likes to have a good cry.

The ABC via it's regional offices brings home the stories of our environment, the achievements of our scientists, and the messages from all of the amazing people advocating for conservation and protection of our unique heritage.

We just love the big days of music from the ABC, whether it is rock, folk or classical, we cannot live without it!

The ABC has so many great presenters! Greta Bradman, Simon Marnie, Roy and HG, Robbie Buck, Chris Bath, Phillip Adams, and Leigh Sales, to mention just a few who enrich our days and evenings with their curiosity and their wit.

Yes thank you, Treasurer, I would like plenty of ABC in my budget, going forward, etc.

Jennie M
SA 2113

Like most Australians, I rely on the ABC for many things, among them: emergency updates and advice, news of economic trends, of scientific advances, technology breakthroughs, world affairs, -- and the list goes on.

My special dependency is very simple: I love democratic principles and practice, foremost among which is the need for informed debate, objective reporting, informed debate and the means of holding our politicians accountable.

The nub of it is this: no other mass media outlet can operate without being subservient to the interests of the immensely wealthy and powerful individuals and the business interests on which their power rests. Every cut to the ABC is an attempt to restrict the public's right to know, making it an attack on our democracy.

Jennifer A
VIC 5045

The ABC is my lifeline to the outside world. Without it I would be a far less informed Australian citizen, one connected to its diverse cultures and perspectives, and to its global network of relationships. My daily morning Radio National broadcast has kept me up to date with the progress of COVID-19 and the role I must play to keep the community safe. Regional ABC keeps me alert to the goings on around my home in Ballarat so I see how I'm part of an urban and rural network of events. My evening intake of the Drum on ABC TV Gives insight into issues from a wide range of perspectives; most importantly, indigenous Australian voices are given equal space and time, a first in Australian media that I celebrate wholeheartedly. How else can I grow into my 'Australian skin' unless I learn to understand the past From a First Nations perspective? The ABC educates me to Consider all without fear or favour. Surely this is a moral imperative of all citizens - how else can relationships build and unity of purpose prevail? Please support the independence of our ABC and ensure its continued role as educator and unifier in unstable and uncertain times.

Jennifer A
VIC 3015

The ABC is essential to be the voice of the small Australian. Us little people need shows like ABC 4 Corners and news to show how corrupt Insurers and Governments are in situations of being an injured worker. Many have suicides over the bullying, despicable, lying and fraudulent practices but the ABC stood up. Thank God for Adele Ferguson. It was a relief to have a major network finally show the terror we have been suffering. Read the Victorian Ombudsman's Worksafe Report or the Ballarat Couriers 2 page Article on me on Dec 6th 2019. It affects nearly every person on Worksafe, ComCare or I care. Every injured person is treated as badly by each insurer. Save their budget. We need them to save our lives!!!

Jennifer B
QLD 3175

There needs to be funding increases to the totally invaluable ABC media service, not LNP cuts. It's by far the most reliable of the few media services, to be unbiased in it's reporting news. It is a crucial party to disseminating news and warnings in these troubled times of climate-change-disasters and national health problems. In non crisis times, the ABC is the only one showing worthwhile documentaries and entertainment.

Jennifer B
NSW 4560

How can you cut the ABC? Where will I get the facts without the drama? Where will I get great Aussie TV? We cannot do without a strong ABC.

Jennifer B
NSW 2170

I rely on the ABC to supply me with accurate and relevant info about COVID without hyperbole or finger pointing.
I rely on the ABC for detailed investigative journalism and exposure of bias in other media reports.
I rely on the ABC for classical music and opera.
None of these things are supplied by commercial media.
The ABC budget should be substantially increased or we will end up ignorant, racist and materialist.

Jennifer B
VIC 2021

On a day to day basis we in Australia need to know that we can get clear unbiased information about current issues of importance in our lives. But during times of danger and disaster this becomes imperative. The ABC is the only totally reliable source of information we all have access to. During the Corona pandemic the clear factual information, available constantly has been invaluable. People like Leigh Sales and Dr Norman Swan are calm, clear and caring voices in a sea of hype, hysteria and misinformation peddled by so many other sources. It was the same in the bushfires. I live in Gippsland and our local ABC radio is invaluable in keeping us connected with each other at a local level as well as their ability to immediately cut to critical announcements made on a state or national level. These are lifelines to all Australians in remote areas.

Programs like Q and A, Media Watch, Foreign Correspondent, Four Corners keep us informed and also are there to call our politicians and other media to account. And how refreshing is the Wednesday night of Australian comedy. We are so good at this, I cannot bear to think of the ABC being further cut because I will not resort to watching the mindless American drivel on most other channels. Our artists, writers actors and journalists deserve to have this platform available to promote and support their talents and to inform Australians and the world of who we are. It's UNAUSTRALIAN to cut the ABC budget!!!!

Jennifer C
NSW 3860

Grew up with ABC always a kid's favourite from The Flintstones, Batman, F troupe etc through to the teenage years Countdown, JJJ & coverage of a Australia coming of age. It represents us in all our glory, when we spectacularly fail & when we soar. Our polities love it for getting their message across but rail against scrutiny of party shenanigans. Our ABC it is not political football, it should be independent of those blokes in Canberra. Jen

jennifer c
VIC 2034

My name is Jennifer and I work in Community Health Aged supports. In Lakes Entrance we experienced very frightening Bush fire scenarios in January and have the ongoing worrying issues of Covid 19 Pandemic. We rely heavily on the ABC for non sensationalised news programs and emergency information. Most of the news now originates in NSW which is not suitable for our region. Please fully fund and retain the ABC for unbiased reporting and in-depth news cover.

Jennifer C
NSW 3909

Our ABC has helped me even more than usual this year. My partner is Canadian and we are now living in different countries for the indefinite future due to Covid19.

The ABC has been the single most important part of my life this year. I have always relied on the ABC for news and informed debate, as I regard it as the only reliable news source in the country.

The ABC has always delivered great Aussie content, be it drama or humour, but that needs funds. Without proper funding we are left with incessant repeats of British shows. I am well aware that there are powerful influencers who desire this outcome and wish to destroy the ABC.

This year I have been even more reliant on ABC television and radio for news, commentary and entertainment. It has given me reliable and up-to-date information on the virus, and on the bushfires ravaging many areas where I had friends. It has also sustained my spirit with music, entertainment and Aussie humour and drama.

When I hear people argue that their taxes should not be used for a public broadcaster that competes with private media it makes me furious. I am 67 years old. I have never been unemployed and have worked and paid high taxes all my life. I have no children, yet my taxes go to subsidise education for the children of others, and for the many forms of family allowance paid to those with children. Those with families set up family trusts to gain tax advantages that I cannot claim.

Every one of us can claim that our taxes are being used for things that do not personally benefit us. But if we want to live in an advanced democracy that is how we maintain our country with all its benefits.

As I live in a city I have not even dealt with how rural Australia depends on the ABC, but it is pretty obvious.

I have travelled a lot, and our ABC is unique in the world. We should treasure it and fund it properly.

Yours faithfully,

Jennifer D

ACT 2026

I relied on the ABC news broadcasts to follow the path of the fires earlier this year for my safety where I live at Cooma and the safety of my families in direct line of the fires at Bibbenluke and Bemboka and Bombala.

With the ongoing corona virus threat, that changes with each day, the ABC keeps me informed.

All this life saving help plus a reliable news of the world and local news source.

Australian entertainment is a definite plus when staying at home by my myself each day and night. Australia needs the ABC. I need the ABC.

Jennifer G

NSW 2630

My name is Jennifer Hackney and I have lived in the Blue Mountains for 48 years. Ad we live in a bush fire prone area and have experienced the trauma of fire we rely on invaluable expert coverage of fires near us, which we have always obtained from ABC media.

As my husband and I are in our 70's we now are greatly dependent on the expert coverage of Covid-19 on the ABC.

For many years one of my most trusted sources of information has been the public broadcaster I know that they will not be subjected to pressure by others as they are completely independent.

The ABC requires adequate funding to continue to be the trusted source of information for the public.

Jennifer Hackney

Jennifer H

TAS 2774

I am writing from Far South Tasmania. Dover is designated, "rural, remote and disadvantaged". It and the surrounding area is all of these things.

The closest centre is Huonville which is a 90k round trip and the only town for some things is Hobart, which is a 200k round trip.

The ABC is invaluable here.

ABC TV and radio broadcasts keep us in touch with the rest of Australia. Programs like "Drive" keep us going as we travel distances to facilities and entertainment not available locally.

Local and country news is only available on the ABC in Tasmania. Other media does not broadcast to our area or cover farming news and information like the ABC does.

We rely heavily on the ABC for local alerts, specific weather warnings and agricultural information including environmental disasters and assessments as they occur. No other broadcaster provides such advice.

The ABC is always timely. It publishes accurate data with sound background research and is always able to prove its independence.

There is so much 'fake news' that this is an important reason for better funding the ABC to allow it to continue its role of providing truthful reporting.

During the summer bushfires of 2019 the ABC kept us safe. The phone service and internet went down on one of the worst days of the fires when Dover was on high alert for an expected fire front.

Had it not been for ABC radio my husband and I would have not known whether to stay and protect our property or to go.

Fortunately we stayed, put out burning embers and were safe.

We still remark on the constancy of ABC broadcasts, their accuracy and calm during this traumatic period.

The ABC has proved how important it is during the covid19 pandemic.

It has maintained a needed social service with warmth and sympathy and kept a sense of humour. We have felt very isolated during the covid period with all family on the north island and no way of seeing them.

We have been fortunate to share ABC podcasts, drama, literature and music, even the visual arts and will be always grateful to the ABC for making it possible for us to stay in touch as a family in this way.

Some ABC programs are iconic. We enjoy 'Landline' as often as possible and translate it to a blind farmer friend. There is no other program like this.

It is imperative that the ABC is funded to uphold a way of life we have been privileged to enjoy in Australia and to do so by keeping us informed about the rapidly changing world and our place in it.

It is also very important that changes to the lifestyle we enjoy are reported accurately, without fear or favour so we are able to understand and process alterations that may be unwanted and are deemed fearful.

There is no alternative to the ABC. This organisation should have funding returned to a level where journalists and all staff are adequately paid and provided with time to research the information they provide so honestly to us.

Political interests and politicians have no place in interfering with the national broadcaster. The ABC should be well funded and left to get on with its job of keeping Australia properly informed.

Reintroduce adequate funding and opt out of trying to control the ABC for political gain or to cover up political malpractice.

Australia needs a well funded ABC today more than ever.

Jen Hadaway
Dover TASMANIA

Jennifer H
NSW 7117

I depend on the ABC to keep me up to date with Australia & world issues. I appreciate the in depth discussion keeping our political representatives (Both sides)accountable for their actions. As a retiree I spend a lot of time Watching TV and Iview, therefore appreciate the quality of shows screened on the ABC

Please fund the ABC and give the next generation an opportunity to see fair and open discussion to help them make informed decisions.

Jennifer H
NSW 2036

Please increase funding to the ABC.

I live in a rural area, and rely on our wonderful public broadcaster so much for support and news. These last 12 months in particular, the ABC has kept me up to date and informed about drought, bushfires and now Covid 19.

I am in a vulnerable category, so am not going out much. The ABC's wonderful dramas, comedies and documentaries have helped keep me sane! Also, with all the fake news about, it is so good to know that there is a broadcaster that cannot be bought because it has no commercial agenda.

Thank you,

Jennifer H
NSW 2350

To whom it may concern,

The ABC is the most trusted news source we have here in Australia. From coverage of the bushfires, which affected people in my life, to the coronavirus, they are the ones that can be trusted with the news.

The Drum and many other programs discuss what's going on so you get a lot more than just news. You get the details other channels don't bother to include.

Teachers at my art school and many others I know were evacuated and it was the ABC that got accurate information out there. People in the firing line appreciate the truth coming out in an accurate but not sensationalised way.

Other ABC programs keep those in power accountable and are a voice for those who aren't in a position to make changes happen or expose things that need to come out to make this a fair and great country.

Jennifer H
NSW 2481

I am an older person and like to keep safe and up-to-date on Covid-19. Every morning while doing my exercises I watch ABC News 24 for its comprehensive updates on the coronavirus. Its coverage keeps me informed so I know what to watch out for if I go out. (And Joe O'Brien is a delight -informative and humane).

The 7.30 Report is equally important, as are programs such as Foreign Correspondent which keeps us in touch with the world.

However, ABC News would be even better if it included individual state news roundups; I understand that that was one of the things that was cut due to ABC funding cuts.

So please: no cuts to the ABC in the October 2020-21 Budget; and restore funding cuts.

Jennifer J
NSW 2024

The ABC is the only station Radio Classic FM that keeps me sane At night ABC TV which gives the only unbiased Australian and global reporting. I am very angry how the government ransacked it's head quarters and dramatically cut funding. Save our ABC

Jennifer K
TAS 2223

When I lived in England for 47 years I rarely watched the news as I felt no interest in it or need of it. However, I now understand how important it is for everyone to be connected, to feel a sense of belonging. Human Needs Psychology shows people cannot progress upwards to growth and contribution without feeling certainty and belonging.

I have been very uncertain, scared at times, not knowing whether I was safe from the bushfires, and now from Covid19. The ABC have therefore become a trusted news source upon which I base my decisions, and advise others. We have many international students and workers on temporary visas live with us, and we often discuss their plans and goals for education, jobs, housing and living in Hobart, Tasmania and Australia.

Using expert scientific and medical and other knowledge, the ABC provides a solid basis for our conversations to keep us all connected, especially in times of difficulty or crisis. ABCview also keeps me informed and entertained.

So I would like to see more money given to the ABC in order to support its many and varied excellent services.

Jennifer M
QLD 7009

People like me rely on the ABC to receive news and reliable information on which to form well-founded opinions on important topics. I need to have a reliable source of information to balance misinformation from many sources, including other media.

I want to know when powerful people are exerting influence on politicians. While the politicians were affirming that banks did not need to be investigated, the ABC persisted until a thorough enquiry revealed the extent of their misconduct.

Because I live alone, I also appreciate radio and TV that connects me with thoughtful, interesting people during the lonely times of Covid19. RN radio keeps me company through my mornings, and ABC TV in the evening. I would hate to be without them, and I would hate it if their quality was compromised by further budget cuts.

Jennifer M
NSW 4215

We live on the NSW South Coast. First came the summer bushfires that surrounded us. These were followed by flooding. Hot on the heels of fire and flood came Covid. Our world and our lives have changed, probably forever. Throughout all this it has been the ABC we've turned to for factual, reliable, sensible information, delivered with warmth and sensitivity. The ABC has never been more necessary than it has been in 2020.

jennifer M
QLD 2540

The ABC was the only credible and reliable source of information during the bushfires in NSW. I relied on the continual updates to find out if my family who live in the affected areas of the Southern Highlands and South Coast were safe or not. The coverage the ABC provided during the bushfires last summer were invaluable and I know that ABC radio was the sole source for many people in bushfire affected areas when they lost access to other communication. I have no doubt this coverage saved lives. Funding should be restored to the ABC in recognition of this unprecedented crisis and the additional exemplary work they did during that period and continue to do for the COVID -19 crisis.

Jennifer m
VIC 4068

I live in Mallacoota, Victoria and our town was heavily impacted by fire this past summer. Everyone here naturally tuned into ABC Radio and television to keep us safe as the fire approached, then moved through and beyond to the north. I cannot imagine how we would have managed without the ABC, no other news service is as trusted and well regarded.

I do not understand how government thinks giving funding to private businesses instead of generously funding our ABC can possibly work in the future. I am very sad to hear of further cuts to funding and worry about the future here in Australia without the ABC.

Jennifer N
QLD 3892

Please do not cut the ABC's funding. It is our only source of relatively unbiased press. It's also our only source of balanced media. RN has fantastic specialists, including older presenters. Free to air has a great mix of eclectic presenters and programs. And online has a much fresher, younger and broader angle than anywhere else.

The ABC is always there to keep us up to date in a crisis and we've had plenty of those. If anything, they should be given more money.

Jennifer N
VIC 4068

Living in a bushy outer suburb, we rely on the accurate reporting of the ABC, 24 hours a day, about the location of the fires. During the corona virus epidemic we also rely on it. We worry about our grandchildren living in inner suburbs in shut-down. We unwind with help from McAliff,s "Mad as Hell" and other comedy shows.. We engage with programmes like Q and A. Democracy depends on the ABC for it's impartial discussions and debates.

Jenny E
TAS 3095

Wellbeing is recognised as important to the quality and longevity of life. I am 70 years old, live alone in a rural area. I don't have mobile coverage and use a satellite for internet. I have the radio on pretty much all of the time, and always tuned to the ABC. Very often the only human voice I hear for the day or the week is the ABC, I see the ABC as my friend, I have tried commercial radio it is loud and crass and pretty much content free. It makes me sad that there are so many repeats on the ABC these days, I sometimes hear the same radio article 3 times over. If I watch television it is the ABC. If you are worried about the cost of the ABC, I don't have private health insurance and I can directly relate my wellbeing to the wellbeing of the ABC. Please expand the funding and allow quality news broadcasting to continue and ideally grow.

I don't want to hear any niceties about no decrease the figures speak for themselves, we are not stupid, don't treat us as though we will listen to the no decrease sping.

Please, please, please restore our mainstay.

Sincerely
Jenny Gee

jenny g
VIC 7259

Hello - I live in a small rural community in north east Victoria.

We have been severely impacted by bushfire in 2003, 2006/7, 2009 and were almost burnt out again last summer.

My husband works in the fire towers, spotting fires and my son is a forester and over sees fire fighting efforts within his international company.

I spent 2 years as a Bushfire Researcher for the Bushfire CRC in the mid 2000's.

What is constantly apparent is that the ABC is CRITICAL to the survival of us ALL during any fire emergency and that is rapidly becoming EVERY summer.

If further cuts are made to the national broadcaster we will suffer and badly - rural mental health, actual deaths due to fire and lack of communication and general despair will dominate in what is already a pretty despairing space.

PLEASE support this national institution.

Jenny I
VIC 3747

The ABC is the life blood of the information i receive. I only watch or listen to the ABC news and current affairs not commercial tv. We have just gone into stage 4 lockdown and it is scary and isolating so to be able to know that i can turn on the tv or the radio and have the familiarity of the ABC and presenters is a great comfort. Knowing for example that Sammy J and Virginia Trioli are in the same predicament is reassuring as they will understand and be relatable to what we are going through.

When the fires were on it was only the ABC that i trusted. My brother and friends live in rural areas in nsw and victoria and it was important i knew what was happening. Some friends had their properties burnt.

Monday night ABC is a big night for my mum and me. She lives alone is frail and elderly about 1.5 hours drive away so during the pandemic it has been extremely challenging . We speak every night on the phone. But on Mondays she always reminds me dont forget 7.30, then Australian story and Media Watch and so and so is on Q and A. She cuts our conversation short and says i better go we have to watch the ABC! She also reminds me about Backroads and other programs. She is like my TV guide. You cant imagine how much the common connection to some of these ABC programs keeps us together and able to connect and have meaningful discussions and conversations. It helps keep my mum's wits about her to stay engaged and thinking.

When i am driving - which isnt much these days because of our restrictions but my radio is tuned to RN or sometimes 774. There are times on long trips i think i will call someone (hands free and by voice) but the radio national programs and interviews have been so good, and interesting i cant switch off and end up getting to my destination and haven't made a call!

I love the ABC - well not all of it as i am not a sports fan but others are. The comedy, the music, the human stories . The kids programs are so amazing. Whole generations grow up with ABC kids programs. My 3 year old neighbour Ivy just lives for ABC kids. At the moment the wiggles are still tops and through the fence she has been showing me emma wiggles irish dancing moves which makes me laugh and clap. There isnt much to laugh about here in Melbourne right now so it is good to have these little distractions.

ABC is keeping us connected from place to place and is an intergenerational tool and resource for Learning together. The ABC Feeds into the lifeblood of our society with relevant news, information and communication. At times like these when many are socially isolated, the regular connection to and familiarity with ABC is good for mental health and maintaining stability.

While i still have a job, i am happy to pay more taxes to maintain and further develop the ABC - just like medicare - it is essential to the foundation of ensuring there is a safety net for all of us and imporytant for our democracy. I cant stand the shockjocks - they are such a waste of time and most commercial news and TV- only the ABC for me (and sometimes sbs and nitv)

Please look after our ABC - it is such a precious lifeline for many. It is an essential service. No cuts and more resources are needed.

Thank you.

Jenny M
VIC 3040

The most important thing about the ABC is that I trust it. This has been absolutely important to me during 2020 bushfire and coronavirus times. In January, I was travelling from Canberra to Melbourne and, through the ABC, was able to stay in touch with up-to-date bushfire information as I travelled. But most important to me as an elderly woman is the way the ABC has kept me informed of the various restrictions during coronavirus. I listen to and have implicit faith in Norman Swan's coronacast each day and the interpretation of the staged Victorian restrictions on the ABC news and current affairs programs. I cannot imagine being without the reassurance of the ABC, both TV and radio, and am horrified to hear there have been and may be more funding cuts. Please resource the ABC to be best level possible.

Jenny M
NSW 3015

The ABC news is my go to source of up to the minute information both local and elsewhere. In pre COVID lockdown days, it was easy to get consistent programming because of the geographical far reach of the ABC. I cannot imagine a world where the ABC has been strangulated and hobbled to the point where it has no use. This is the biggest media treasure in Australia. It helps tell our story's, keeps us informed, gives us music, makes us laugh, cry, engage. It's too important for words.

Jenny M
VIC 2048

During the past year the ABC has been invaluable to me living in East Gippsland, from preparing for the fire front and to joining support projects connected to helping people in dire straights after the fire. The ABC Was the only media outlet who supplied up to date information hourly and daily they are accountable to us and independent from profit and politics. Jenny Noyes

Jenny T
TAS 3875

The ABC is a vital part of Australian life - it informed us about bushfires, the pandemic, it entertains us and confirms our national identity and is the only reasonable and balanced political commentary available in Australia. People in the bush rely on it and this would be a sad place without it.

Jeremy B
NSW 7116

Every morning, as I stretch my body into readiness for the day ahead, I tune to ABC News Radio for the latest news on COVID, often hearing it first hand from Premiers or the Prime Minister. While preparing breakfast, I move on to ABC Radio National for analysis. A perfect start for imperfect days,

jeremy e
QLD 2088

My children grew up on the ABC, I listen every day in the car to Triple J, and I look to their news reporting for the answers. Every cultural output of the ABC is important, especially for the regions, but as a nation as well. Triple J 'saved my life' when I was a teenager growing up in a country town.

BTN is a staple for my teaching in Primary School and middle school, to explore and understand current affairs and the historical significance of events like ANZAC Day. Don't take our Aunty away, she makes us so much of who we are ... more diverse, more creative, more clever, and more informative than commercial stations will ever be, on TV, on the radio, and online.

Jess J
QLD 4878

As an Australian living overseas, I rely on the ABC in so many ways! To receive updates on emergencies (eg the bushfires, coronavirus and how it is progressing in Aus), to deep dive in investigative journalism articles and to feel connected to my home country generally. I absolutely love ABC Radio and its vast library of podcasts and news. ABC Life is also particularly good with topics to keep the homesickness at bay. ABC is a beloved resource. It offers so much to urban, regional and rural Aussie communities and is a lifeline for Aussies all over the world.

Jessica D
WA 4152

To whom it may concern,

I was a resident of Yanchep at the time of the December 2019 bushfire and spent 3 nights awake during the close proximity of the fire to watch the ABC News Channel.

My nocturnal habits during those three nights was due to both the internet and my radio did not working properly. I had my radio channel tuned to the ABC radio station for updates but my radio signal was weak and faded in and out during important bulletins. The internet didn't work once the fire was visible from my backyard. So the only option left was to watch for the yellow strip at the bottom of my ABC News Channel screen for updates.

The yellow alert strip at the bottom of my TV screen was invaluable in alleviating my fear and anxiety at a time of chaos for I did not know which way to evacuate - North or South. There was only one way out and one way in at the time. Knowing the direction of the fire was paramount.

Therefore, any reduction of the ABC service in any form, be it radio or television, is a disservice every household in good times and bad. But especially the bad. Communication is key and may it never be undervalued!

Yours sincerely

Jessie Kirkman
18 Cowaramup Loop
TWO ROCKS WA 6037

Jessie K
QLD 6035

My family and I rely on our local and state ABC for information about the issues that affect our daily lives. This includes critical issues such as cyclones floods and droughts. We trust the ABC to bring us accurate formation and this has been particularly important during the COVID19 crisis. Dr Swan has made the research and scientific findings about COVID19 accessible to ABC listeners. This is extremely important due to the amount of incorrect formation, false news, and conspiracy theories that surround COCID19.

ABC Radio was an important part of my life while growing up in Western Qld in the 1950s and 60s and the only TV station available to my family in FNQ on the 1980s and 90s. The ABC is a reliable source of news, scientific developments, health and investigative journalism. It is my go to source for accurate information. I can't imagine life without the ABC.

Jewel D
QLD 4870

I have lived in rural Australia for the last 35 years and I owe a huge debt of thanks to the ABC. Apart from keeping me calm and coping in any number of cyclones where the voices of familiar presenters gave me accurate information and comfort Radio National also helped me cope with the isolation and separation I would have felt otherwise. Geraldine Doogue (as presenter of Life Matters) helped me bring up my son as a single mother; The Science Show, the Law Report, Offtrack, Phillip Adams and countless others have kept me informed and SANE. I cannot understand the reasoning behind any attempt to defund this wonderful asset. I cannot think where else I might go for useful, reliable and accurate information - where else is there?

Jill D
VIC 4887

We were driving to Sydney for a holiday with our grandchildren in January. As we neared the NSW border, the smoke from the bushfires began to thicken and we could see a stream of cars heading away from the fires and in to Albury. We kept the car radio on ABC National all the way, as I'm sure everyone was doing, and depended on the ABC broadcasts to judge the degree of danger. The ABC is vital in times of emergency and is trusted by all Australians as a source of emergency broadcasting. To reduce its budget is to limit the programs it can run. The ABC budget should be restored.

Jill F
NSW 3002

We are 2 older retired people in their late 60s who live in the inner city.

We love the ABC! We rely on it for all news - 7.00 news, 7.30, Foreign Correspondent, 4 Corners, Media Watch, Q and A, Insiders; I (wife) listen to a lot of ABC radio - 702, Conversations, PM, The World Today. I listen daily to ABC podcasts - Coronacast, the Signal. And whenever there is a new episode I listen to The Party Room, The Minefield, Ladies We Need to Talk. My husband listens to a lot of music on ABC FM.

We both love ABC drama such as Operation Buffalo and Killing Eve and comedy such as Mad As Hell, The Weekly, Rosehaven. We also love shows such as Australian Story. Backroads. We watch iview for episodes of shows we've missed on free to air TV. In fact 99% of our viewing/listening would be the ABC. We love that there are no ads.

We would be devastated if the ABC were to be privatised. In fact we are more dependent on the ABC in a pandemic because we know they will have the latest news. The ABC was great in the bushfires telling people the latest Watch and Act alerts. We (my husband and I) are truly dependent!!!

Jill H
NSW 2037

I love the ABC. The presenters are almost like friends. They keep me on top of everything from what people are thinking, the latest in science, what is happening in the world, the arts, the latest novels, classic novels, wonderful conversations with interesting people from all around the world.

I don't find them biased, I find them balanced & trustworthy, in search of the truth not afraid of rocking the boat to expose corruption.

Another thing I love about the ABC is they offer an opportunity for young journalists to gain experience in all aspects of the media.

Greed & power is not their goal.

The ABC is the best & free of adverts.

They need more money not less.

It is an icon.

Jill J
WA 2110

I have been a devoted listener to the ABC for my entire life in WA, even making small contributions over some years. I remember the thrill of having a poem read out on the Argonauts, reviewing children's books for the Women's Session and writing for School's Broadcasts. My mother was a presenter of the Women's Session and my husband contributed to the Country Hour for many years. We are an ABC family. In December 2019 my husband of 62 years died and I had to learn to live alone for the first time in my 83 years. Then came Covid 19 and I was even more alone. A significant loss, among others, was live artistic performances which had been an important part of our family's lives. I don't know how I would be surviving in relatively good spirits without the ABC. Radio National provides much mental stimulus and enjoyment, especially the morning programs, Philip Adams in the afternoon and Andrew Ford in the weekend. Perth Radio is great for local information and discussion. TV news, current affairs, drama and documentaries get me through long evenings alone. However, Classic FM is my main support and delight. I listen several hours every day and the wonderful presenters are like friends. I have now formed the habit of getting into bed at 10.00pm for the wonderful treat of a Bach Cantata! The ABC gives so much over such a wide range. Previous funding cuts were disgraceful and no further cuts should be considered. Australia would be a far worse place to live without the ABC.

Jill L
SA 6007

I have had a lifelong attachment to the ABC, having grown up in Central West NSW. Family on farms dropped everything for 7pm news. During Ash Wed bushfires when I lived in Adelaide Hills, I relied on ABC for updates. I only watch ABC and sometimes SBS. News and current affairs reporters are of the highest standard and interview politicians without fear or favour. How many Royal Commissions have resulted from 4 corners? I LOVE my ABC, it is an Australian icon!
Jill McKinnon
jill.mck@bigpond

Jill M
TAS 5174

I live in an incredibly remote area of Australia. With most people in our community, we rely totally on ABC (both tv and radio) for all our news, fire updates, weather warnings, etc., in fact all things which keep us safe. Never once has the ABC let us down with wrong information.

We also rely on ABC for our entertainment.

Please give more funding to the ABC, so that we can continue living where we do and know that the information and news we are hearing is unbiased, honest and truthful.

ABC is our lifeline to the outside world.

jill m
NSW 7256

I am 81, live alone, except that I don't, thanks to the ABC. From the Breakfast show to the mid-day news, The Drum to 4 Corners, ABC TV keeps me informed and entertained. And as for Classic FM and RN, I cannot imagine life without them. On Sundays I walk with my son, before we watch Insiders together. The ritual is sacrosanct. Always stimulating, sometimes infuriating, just like my nightly fix of The Drum. And as my choir is no longer happening, I can sing along whenever there is a choral work on Classic FM. I am sure that the ABC keeps me out of the health system, except as a patient advocate, when the ABC provides me with the information I need to be effective. And it's all free! Unbelievable. Thank you ABC. Incidentally I walk at least 5 kms a day in between my ABC commitments!

Jill N
NSW 2452

Two cousins were impacted by fire. The first was late last year in Birdwood NSW (near Port Macquarie). Fire raged through their rainforest property destroying fences, a large shed housing valuable antique and working vehicles and valuable tools. My two cousins saved the house and a small art studio. The animal population was decimated. I watched the ABC as these fires spread through the district. My second cousin lives in Cobargo. Their dairy farm property was destroyed but they saved their house and milking sheds. Their son, publican, saved the Cobargo pub and an interconnecting bridge nearby. Tony Allen was seen accompanying the Prime Minister when he made his infamous visit to the area. Thanks to visual input from these horrific fires, I regularly phone my cousins to ensure that they feel supported. Thanks ABC!

Jill S
QLD 2140

As an eighty year old, in semi-lockdown who lives alone, I spend most of my days without human interaction. ABC radio and TV are my constant companions and help me stay connected to the world. I never listen to commercial radio and only occasionally watch SBS. I have already noticed many changes in the ABC's delivery of programs due to the severe cuts to their budgets. please restore their funding.

Jill U
VIC 4000

I'm in my 60's, a retired teacher, living in Melbourne's inner north, and am very actively involved in the folk music scene. My husband is a singer-songwriter and we have a son who is a dancer/designer, so we have a strong interest in the performing arts.

I never listen to commercial radio and rarely watch commercial TV. I value the ABC's responsible, fact-checked non-sensational reporting of news and current events, especially in times of crisis.

Living in the city, I was not directly affected by this summer of fires, but many of my friends were, and the ABC's coverage kept me updated with the situation.

During the COVID crisis, the radio is on almost constantly so we don't miss a word of the latest press conference and explanation of the situation. I've listened to every episode of Dr Norman Swan's Coronacast.

Aside from it's go-to status in handling crises, and it's high quality news & current affairs coverage, ABC radio and TV provide plenty of escape with excellent comedy, drama and documentaries, as well as Arts content that no one else provides.

If cuts to ABC funding were to compromise the quality of its content - or worse still, if the ABC ceased to exist, I would stop listening to radio altogether, and I don't know what source I'd be able to trust for news. (Certainly not social media, or anything touched by Murdoch!) It would be a tragic loss, and Australia would be greatly diminished by it.

Jill W
NSW 3072

Dear Sirs/Madams,

The ABC is the most important news reporting that we receive in our day to day lives.

I listen to the ABC first thing in the morning to know what's going on locally and internationally. I know what I hear is well resourced and not sensational so I don't have to doubt its credibility.

Then I listen to the morning show on Radio 702 so that I feel light-hearted and joyful to set my day up - plus they are keen on all environmental issues which is my top priority atm.

If I am not working at 11am I just love the "Conversations" with Richard Fidler to hear the inspirational stories that are quite often mesmerising.

Then I have my radio on in the car set on 702 for the afternoon shows with James Valentine and Richard Glover.

In the evenings I switch to the TV and watch the Drum - ABC news or SBS news - Australian Story - Backroads - the silly shows like Father Brown, Shakespeare and Hathaway - Murder in Paradise etc. Also, I try not to miss Four Corners and Q & A..

I could go on and on but my life would be much less rich if they have to keep cutting their staff and cutting back on just about everything.

I really don't understand how you haven't woken up to the fact that you should be "DUMPING" money on them instead of thinking they are the ENEMY for some reason or other.

STOP your bias against them once and for all.

Jillian Alsford
0411 740 269

jillian a
VIC 2070

I love the integrity and courage of the ABC team. The enemies brand our ABC as a pack of lefties. So untrue. They are a pack of people who care about honesty justice and support for the most vulnerable. They care about our planet. They challenge dishonesty and corruption. ABC Classic has made me feel supported (loved) . The messages and music are so uplifting. Stay strong.

Jim B
NSW 3664

I'm a retired GO involved in my community here in Tasmania. Last year we had huge fires (3% of Tas burned) and we had to prep to fight, listening to the abc updates was most reassuring. My life now needs the stimulation I can only get from programmes like the minefield, the health report and many more radio programmes plus accurate news and shows like Q and A on the TV. Our ABC is a vital lifeline and will become even more important as global heating progresses.
Your Dr James Duff MbChB BSc

Jim D
QLD 2450

I was born in 1944 when there was only radio. My parents listened to the ABC News, Guest of Honour and the ABC concerts. I listened to the hit parades and popular recordings, also the early news reports on commercial radio, which was much better than today's talk shows.

In my twenties I became devoted to classical music and the ABC was the only place to be. My political views developed and the ABC was the natural place to listen. I had always been interested in science and medicine and discovered the riches available on the ABC. Television was there at last and again the ABC excelled.

Commercial TV while initially inviting became very formulaic and totally engrossed in selling. The ABC became, for me, the only worthwhile source of music, science, drama, information and general entertainment.

In recent years, something happened that for a long time I simply couldn't comprehend. The ABC was progressively defunded and weakened by politicians of various persuasions who saw it as critical of their activities.

From all political sides, funding was reduced in spite of the ABC's outstanding contribution to the Australian community.

Now it becomes obvious that the weakened ABC is the planned victim of the worst media organisation that this country has ever produced under the worst management imaginable. Now, at the last moment, we recognise the torrent of rapacity for what it is, and we must resist it utterly.

To Hell with the Murdochs!

Long live the ABC!!

Jim Love

Jim L
NSW 4051

The ABC is the most watched station on TV for me. Key programs are The Drum, Insiders, Media Watch, Q&A at times, Four Corners. There are some darn good dramas on there too!

And the radio is more important - all those religion and ethics reports, law Reports, philosophers zone and the like - all highly respected and loved by us here in Emu Plains, NSW.

I turn to the ABC at every point for reliable information, including at election time. Any Government wanting to cut funding to this public broadcaster has only there own political interest at heart and is not interested in good quality accurate information getting out to the public

Regards

Jim

Jim P
TAS 2750

I am a regular with a high number of ABC programmes, both TV and radio.

In particular, I listen every day to the Coronacast podcast as a reliable update of information. This extends to the 7.30 Report relatively often as well, when the (tireless?) Dr Norman Swan is called upon to provide further perspectives.

Australian drama is frequently of high calibre (e.g., "Mystery Road"), and extended investigative reporting in features such as "4 Corners", but it is to thoughtful and challenging radio I turn to very often as well - programs such as "The Minefield", "Big Ideas", and "Soul Search". The list is very long - and then there is Roy & HG "Bludging on the Blindside"

In summer, being in Tasmania, the updates on fire conditions, and sometimes warnings - are absolutely essential, as is keeping a portable radio with batteries in case of power outages.

These are just a few examples of why I feel I could not do without a well-funded ABC.

Jim R
QLD 7052

We are in our mid 70's and live in the bush relying on tank water. The ABC is the ONLY reliable source of information for Bushfires, Weather, Relevant Information, and Local News. Commercial TV and Radio stations don't hold a candle to the ABC for critical information.

Jim T
NSW 4520

I rely on Dr. Norman Swam for reliable and timely information on SARS-CoV-2 and covid-19. In particular coronacast and other media presentations. Information he provides has proven to be reliable and forward looking.

Jim T
VIC 2223

I find the ABC is the most reliable and accurate outlet for news stories, documentaries and general entertainment. I know how important it is for information on bushfires, floods and other natural disasters. It was important for me during the Black Saturday bushfires as it was the only contact we had for where the fires were developing and we were able to take survival action when the fires were only 500 metres from our home.

Vital programs for me to watch on the ABC are: News Breakfast, 7pm news and 7.30 report, documentaries and sports report. I know that the information presented is accurate, well-researched and unbiased.

jim U
VIC 3761

Dear Government,

I am very concerned as you are putting together this very difficult budget that you will again overlook the need for the ABC to receive an increase in funding to ensure it enables us to stay connected to the important information and news it shares. The ABC has been our families go to place to be kept up to date on important developments through this very difficult year particularly in respect of the bushfires and coronavirus. The drama and comedy programs it provides has also let us get away from our worries in these times of crisis (and other times as well). I urge the government to increase funding for the ABC in your coming budget. Although we would be eligible for the home improvement grant, we will not be applying as I think that money is better spent on the ABC. Thank you

Jinny M
TAS 3172

What a challenging (and horrid for many) year 2020 has been. I have been using the ABC radio, facebook and TV firstly for the fire updates. My father's death was broadcast in April and of course the latest on covid-19 have listened to, watched and read.

I have absolute faith in the unbiased way information is presented. I believe and trust the Australian Broadcasting Commission. It's a marvelous Australian Institution. I think money should be given and definitely not taken away from our icon.

Jo C
NSW 7249

Resonating my caption. The Government is totally out of touch with the Nation.

I am a disabled elder with compromised lung/leg function. I live alone. To aid my mental health function I daily listen to the ABC for updates on social, personal, climate, mental, health, art, weather, cultural issues. There is also a deep love of personal narratives that I enjoy. As I write I get a lot of inspiration from human stories.

I come from Adelaide and left in the 1950's. My best friend was a secretary for Mr. Murdoch. We were 17 years old but figured that Mr. Murdoch was a mercenary aspirant in the newspaper game. We were proved correct. His empire kick started with his page 3 pictures of women with very ample breasts.

His justification was "that the working man required relaxation after a hard days work." Not only was this man prepared to exploit women but also working men. My family males discussed the tough working conditions and how to help the family and community. Mr. Murdoch revealed how totally out of touch he was AND IS.

His Empire grew by usage of unethical politics and journalism. Taping private conversations citizens, manipulating politicians and politics, climate destruction and climate denial, wedge politics, prejudice and racism, misogyny and blatant abuse of the psyche of citizens by utilizing the lowest form of consciousness. In so doing, I would argue eliciting a lot of social violence towards women.

We witness the death of my generation in private Aged Care Homes. A total disgrace that the elders should be the sacrificial lamb for \$\$\$\$ to such private owners.

The ABC has saved me from much depression. It has let me know when to leave the city when the smoke overtook the city. It has aided travel during fires, floods, the current virus and much more. THE ABC CARES FOR THE NATION AND SAVES THE GOVT MUCH MONEY THAT WOULD BE SPENT ON MENTAL HEALTH ISSUES.

PUBLIC AUTHORITY IS MORAL AUTHORITY...THERE IS NO MORAL AUTHORITY IN MURDOCH'S EMPIRE..JUST GREED.

jo f
VIC 2042

I have listened to the ABC radio & TV since a child. My Grandparents always relied on it to hear the latest news & discussions, watch top quality dramas, comedies & documentaries & of course the cricket commentaries! My late mother & stepfather turned to the ABC for the same reasons including listening to classical music, and informative stories of the land, farmers & agriculture. The ABC programs on Politics are dealt with in comprehensive detail, using layman terms with explanations from opposing sides of the equation.

I have listened to the ABC for all these reasons & more, as it provides interesting talking points to later discuss with friends and family. We know we can rely on the ABC to deliver us a truthful and intelligent account in all aspects of their reporting to the public.

I believe and admire their conviction & tenacity to bring quality reliable information. They prove over & over again they are a reputable and credible organization that the public always put their trust in.

I want my children to grow up having the same sense of comfort and confidence as previous generations, knowing they will be reliably informed of world events, political stories etc by the excellent ABC.

Jo F
VIC 3194

I rely totally on the ABC for news, current affairs and drama. I trust what I see and hear and think they do a fantastic job of shining a light in dark corners. The drama is first class and is a quality experience because it is not interrupted by endless ads, constantly yelling at me. In this time of Covid-19 I would be lost without the ABC.

Jo G
VIC 3182

My 30 year old son, medicated for anxiety and depression since he was 15, has been studying online since March. The abc news website's statistics have been able to provide reliable visual data everyday that I use to show him trends and reassure him that this disease will pass. It is a counterbalance to the fake news he gets from alarmist fake news on social media. Because the abc provides me with the best information, I have the tools to help him. Decreasing staffing will reduce the truth and untainted by a need to profit through advertising revenue, enable unbiased evidence-based discussion.

Jo H
NSW 3088

Funding for the ABC needs to be increased, I was dependent on ABC during the fires, the small battery operated radio was the only thing working and the ABC kept us all informed. Now, during the pandemic, it is again turning up trumps and keeping us informed about changes to how we need to operate to control the virus and also giving us all access to information from experts in health fields. Even better, it provides intelligent and interesting programs without those ghastly ad-breaks and boring product placement!

Jo L
NSW 2546

There were nights this year when we were too scared to sleep due to the bushfires that raged out of control across the river from us. The ABC's coverage was an absolute godsend to us. But it's not just in times of crisis that I appreciate the ABC. For the last forty years I have tuned in for important stories about us and our place in the world, for comprehensive news coverage and for quality entertainment. We have lost our independent newspapers and now I'm concerned we are losing this last treasured independent voice - without it, can we still call ourselves a democracy?

Jo W
ACT 2039

I have come to trust the ABC as a source of accurate and up-to-date information, uninfected by commercial pressures which are a distortion on facts and news. Not having advertising makes it so welcome in our home

Leading into 2020, I turned to the ABC gave me up-to-date information around the bushfires as well as trustworthy background information which helps understand the relationship between global warming and these events. This gives me a sense that the chaos is not something that's outside of our power -we create and therefore can mitigate or reduce this threat. It is an empowering source of information.

It also helped me to know the threats that those I know personally are facing and I was able to track those I knew who were struggling and may need help.

Similarly, with Covid-19. We are so well-informed about this virus and I think that, as a nation, the politicians and people have been able to work together effectively, empowered with knowledge that has been so well-broadcast via the national broadcaster. It seems Australia trusts its national broadcaster which has done so much to dispel the mischievous myths that have undermined democracies -particularly notable in the USA -which has suffered from a lack of unifying messages.

I am so grateful and proud of our national broadcaster. I think we all can get behind this successful national creation that has held us in such good stead for decades. It truly is a national treasure.

Best Wishes,

Jo Lancaster

Jo-Ann L
NSW 2640

In December, fires raged around my home in Katoomba NSW. I was overseas and my newly purchased home was being minded by a 17 year old friend for a week. The ABC was the only news source I trusted to advise us when we should tell her to leave. We all would have been frantic without it. To even think of further defunding such an essential public service is grossly negligent at best, and criminal at worst.

Jo-anne M
VIC 2780

The ABC informs and educates us without the constraints of commercial sponsorship.

Emergency broadcasting can only be effective through an adequately funded ABC, such effectiveness was convincingly conveyed during the disastrous bush fires

I am 89 years old and my day starts with the 7.45 news, (apparently under threat), followed by Radio Melbourne, World today, Radio National, and ABC television. Gone are the days when the ABC was funded to cover selected performances of ballet, opera, and symphony concerts during the year and shown as part of the summer arts season.

With most of our media owned and controlled by Murdoch, our independent, factual, and unbiased ABC must be adequately funded.

Joan B
QLD 3182

The ABC has been part of my life since I joined the Argonauts Club as a child. As I grew up, our family listened to the news and my sister and I located many countries which were the subject of a news item on our world globe. The ABC opened my eyes to a diverse world beyond Australia and immeasurably improved my general knowledge. The accurate reporting was so valuable.

ABC radio was and still is very important to me. Where else can we learn about scientific discoveries across many disciplines and now of course what is happening with the development of a vaccine for Covid19, how it is spread, the nature of the virus itself and critically how we should all behave in order to slow and hopefully stop its spread. What would we do without Robin Williams and Norman Swan?

ABC TV of course adds a further dimension with excellent investigative reporting. We learn some uncomfortable truths. That is part of the democratic process.

The ABC must be able to continue to inform all of us about science, the state of the environment, important social issues and in-depth coverage of many topics. Straight forward, non-judgemental and not sensationalised reporting is critical in difficult and uncertain times.

Obviously this takes money. Budget cutting inevitably results in staff losses, reduced Australian quality content at home and reduced ability to broadcast to our Asian and Pacific neighbours.

I do not listen to or watch commercial channels having no wish to be loudly exhorted to buy stuff I neither want nor need. As a nation we need our independent ABC to provide accurate information during times of crisis, be they fires, floods or a pandemic.

The ABC budget has been cut too much already. It should be restored not cut further. At times like this, and there will be more, my ABC is a lifeline. It is part of my family.

Joan D
QLD 4555

The standard of reporting and presentation in The Drum is beyond compare. Ellen and Julia are brilliant, they all are. The ABC is essential for the sanity of appreciative viewers, the striving for truth in a world of lies and secrecy in politics, gives us hope.

Joan E
NSW 4560

The ABC is one of the only trustworthy and comprehensive news services watchable. During the bushfire crisis, where our area had 2 evacuation warnings and luckily escaped the carnage, nearly everyone who does not normally watch the ABC and relies on the sensationalist media channels, were glued to their coverage alone. Now coronavirus has turned the planet upside down, the ABC is reliable, truthful, and again, the one to get the right message across. Without it, Australia will go the way of the U.S. trash news, resulting in an uninformed population, relying on lies churned out by right wing media.

joan e
NSW 2540

i do rely on the ABC news for all information on bush fires, floods and now the coronavirus, I myself was lucky to not be in the bush fires but I had friends very close to them which was very scary also floods do happen where I live. I also love and watch a lot of shows on the ABC which is great when you are stuck at home because of the virus. I would be devastated if they did anything to change to do with ABC

Joan J
NSW 2484

I have been a listener, viewer of the ABC since school days when I was a member of radio ABC's famous Argonaut Club. Our ABC is important, best news coverage, programmes, such as Australian Story, Four Corners, Foreign Correspondent etc., and for country and city people Landline, always beautiful filmed too. OUR national broadcaster and TV should be protected and fully funded. So many would be lost without their services. Joan Lawrence.

Joan L
QLD 2089

I do not have a problem with fake news as my media of choice is the ABC and I have total faith in them. Fran, Geraldine, Laura, Dr Norman Swan and others have been extremely important in keeping me informed. I do not think I could cope without the ABC in my life. May I also say I miss Emma on an almost daily basis. The other person who stood out for me during this time has been the Federal Chief Medical Officer. He was outstanding and it was the ABC who brought him into my living room. I will never forgive the Federal politicians if they kneecap the National Broadcaster ANYMORE. If I sound angry, it is because I am.

Joan Nissen

Joan N
NSW 4556

The ABC, newspapers and Regional Areas: The poor financial support of the ABC by our present government is a major problem for regional people, who do not have access to much entertainment such as plays, concerts, large cultural and musical events compared to those that occur in cities. ABC brings a variety of quality programs to the bush and covers a wide range of multiculturalism in programs and presenters and speakers. Our population is ageing in regional areas and the hard copy of newspapers is disappearing (a major problem for the elderly where transient digital news on iphones comes and goes before the elderly brain gets to pick it up properly). So it is a good substitute to see ABC TV Regional News take up some of that disappearing news, a huge task to undertake, but a start.

Rupert Murdoch's News Corp has closed 112 suburban and regional newspapers, a common discussion point. Rupert Murdoch's News Corporation owning 65 per cent owned Foxtel, Australia's largest pay television operator and has other media assets.

At the same time, Foxtel, a TV channel that has to be paid to get access, has been given massive funding to play women's sport. Many people in Australia will not have the access to it because of costs and quality internet access and their children will not have the access to the female roles models that they need to expand into the higher levels of women's sport.

Is there any reason why an American citizen who has given up his Australian citizenship, has so much influence through the media and newspapers in Australia?

For a specific examples of the importance of the ABC in a regional area.

On the 8th November 2019, the town of Port Macquarie sat like stunned rabbits as the sky turned red and phone calls and texts were passed between friends as smoke and flames threatened our homes. It was the ABC that we watched constantly for many weeks to get accurate information into our lounge rooms.

Joan W
NSW 2444

On New years eve 2019 we were at Dolphin Point near Ulladulla NSW watching a bushfire approaching our house with other residents. The messages on ABC radio were vital in keeping touch with the bigger picture. This must continue.

Joan Leach L
VIC 2210

Every single day I read the news from the ABC online. It gives me in depth coverage of Australian issues and does a fair and comprehensive job of covering the international news. I trust what I read there and do not begrudge a single dollar of my taxes that are spent on it. The ABC is a national treasure and worth working to preserve.

Joanna A
SA 3199

This year the ABC kept us safe during the fires raging through NSW. It regularly updated news on the different impacted communities, the state and directions of the fires. This helped calm us down as well, we knew we could rely on getting timely and accurate information. No other news source achieved this. The ABC keeps us regularly informed of the important news happening in Australia in an objective and unbiased way that is not loaded with the negative commentaries that other news sources have, which I find incredibly important.

Joanna G
QLD 5072

Since the pandemic has started I have watched the ABC news channel every morning for at least 3 hours. It is the only news channel that has up to date and valid information. It isn't filled with fluff pieces and covers all the major things I want to hear.

Joanna M
NSW 4210

ABC tv and radio is my go to for real information and news. While commercial channels sink into an abyss of dumbing down tv and reality shows I know that I will be informed here. I turn to ABC for entertaining tv as well I can not imagine a life without my abc either in my home or in my car. Please increase the abc budget as in these uncertain times it's a comfort to know that the truth is still available.

Joanne S
NSW 2261

In November last year, I was threatened with the very real outcome of losing my house and property. Since mobile coverage in my area is atrocious I relied very heavily on local ABC for up to date information. It is the only tv channel I watch and the only radio channel I listen to. The gov't should not be slashing funding, in fact it should be pouring more \$\$\$ into the organisation. It a great aussie institution and one I trust and rely on

Jodie N
NSW 2450

The ABC has no axe to grind. This is because it favours the truth and dispels spin.
Joe Nagy

Joe N
QLD 2076

ABC is all we have, it is straight and accountable. Such is for the people and owned by the people. Not individuals. Communication is required, how can we stop the best communication body we have in the country and be better?

Joel W
VIC 4127

The ABC keeps getting its funding cut but they are the only news source I trust in times of crisis and in the normal everyday that is unbiased, factual and necessary. during the black summer I was glued to the ABC to find out what was happening. During Coronavirus I have relied heavily on the ABCs coverage to stay informed, find out what I need to know and keep myself and my family safe. Podcasts like newstime help my kids understand the news better than I ever could and in these difficult times I need that support as a parent.

thanks

Joel Z
QLD 3031

The ABC has been an ongoing valuable resource for myself and my family not just during 2020 but also for decades past. I recall one night during the bushfires I slept on the couch with the two dogs ... in one ear was the telly with ABCNews24 giving me continuous updates and in the other ear was ABC local radio doing the same - we stayed awake all night long, listening in case we had to evacuate, all the while hoping all would be well. The ABC must, must be protected, now and forever.

Joelle C
QLD 4567

To me, the ABC is paramount in my gathering of knowledge. I do not trust any other news broadcast as they come from bias, misleading and ill-informed journalists with an agenda of the corporate world. ABC has given me a reason to watch TV, otherwise I just dont turn it on with all the crap that is on the other "popular" stations. I rely on the ABC to give me thorough, fact-checked news and I love the ABC news, MediaWatch, Insight, Q&A, Foreign correspondent and Australian story - which, I believe, are the only shows worth watching these days if you want to know what is REALLY going on. Newscorp, SkyNews and all of the other CRAP just makes the corporate criminals have more power, and as an Australian citizen, I believe in the freedom to choose who/what we want to watch, and not have these horrible stations pushed down our throats. Journalism used to be a serious, non-biased career. I only find this in the ABC.

johanna I
QLD 4812

I am a lifelong fan of the ABC, not just for a reliable source of information, but also for its invaluable contribution to the Australian cultural landscape. I cannot fathom how it has come to this fork in the road, but it is plain to see that it is not about money, but about corrupt politics, murdoch and the obscene, unchecked wealth of resource billionaires. The country has no leadership and we need an anti corruption commission to restore trust in politics

Johannes T
NSW 4006

To whom it may concern,

The funding of the public broadcaster should be maintained to ensure that citizens such as me are able to access well researched news and high quality Australian and foreign shows. This year more than ever, I had to rely on the ABC to keep up to date with news about the bush fires, COVID-19 and other pressing national and international issues. Whilst I do not always agree with the ABC editorial or subject matter, I find it more reliable, family friendly, ethical, fairer and trustworthy broadcaster. My daughters grew-up watching Pepper Pig, Telly Tubby, Octonaut etc.. I eagerly await 4 Corners and Insiders. Please maintain the ABC integrity and funding to ensure that it informs us in the city, regional and rural parts of Australia.

John A
VIC 2001

I rely heavily upon the ABC for my news, entertainment and information on a wide range of topics.

It is my broadcaster of choice because;—

1. it is impartial, as countless independent reviews have proved it to be
2. it is highly professional and its sources are reliable
3. It is free from the sensationalism of the commercial media.
4. It is free from advertisements.

Most recently, I have particularly valued

the factual coverage of the summer bushfires (in which we held personal concern for potentially-affected friends),
the thoroughly creditable performance of Dr Norman Swan in relation to the Corona-19 Virus pandemic and
the highly informative “Insiders” in relation to current affairs/political issues
regular exposè of matters of public importance by 4-Corners of such as the mis-management of Murray-Darling water and the Sports Rorts and
E) the stimulating discussion engendered each week by QandA.

John A
ACT 3182

I have the confidence,when needed,of receiving accurate news information on current local issues from the ABC.This was obvious when bushfires threats were evident in the Upper Murray Valley ,and elsewhere,earlier this year.

This level of confidence has to be maintained to know that at least one organisation will be able to provide accurate current information when needed,and not some profit driven second rate entity who is not up to the job, especially in regional areas.

John A

VIC 2640

Dear Mr Morrison,

The ABC is a national treasure, the only broadcaster that has nation wide coverage providing unbiased information where the facts can be trusted. My family relies on it almost entirely for information and entertainment as the quality is far above any other media outlet and the lack of advertising is of the greatest relief. The ABC needs more funding rather than cut backs.

Regards

John Anderson

John A

QLD 3939

I love my ABC. Why?

For starters, it has a "fact checker".

Allows me to get rid of political spin and see what is really driving an issue.

Is much more impartial than almost all other media I subscribe to.

No advertising revenue to protect. No other conflicting interests.

Am I paying my fair share of tax?

Do I have a significant interest in aged care?

...etc

The ABC has had funding cut by \$700m+ over the last decade.

It can't collect news royalties from Google/Facebook.

The 20-21 Budget needs to be more supportive to the ABC.

John A

QLD 4020

My father is in his nineties and thinks the virus is a china take over the world plan. He looks back to Japan in the 2nd ww We need a independent news place as all the rest is controlled by money so are controlled by the unseen, note ABC can also be affected by this thing just a bit harder , but Canberra will have to answer . note Dan Andrews is doing a great Job in theses time of trouble

john B

VIC 4101

During the 5 months I have been more or less in lockdown the ABC has been the only media I have trusted for science-based reporting.

It has also provided the intellectual stimulation during the long hours being unable to contact others face to face. I could not survive without it.

john b

NSW 3227

The ABC forever... down with ragbag complainers....

John B

NSW 2061

During the recent unprecedented climate induced wildfires, the ABC played a heroic role in keeping local communities and their wider audiences fully informed about the movement and spread of the fires and the dreadful resulting loss and destruction of human lives, property and flora and fauna.

Thank you ABC!

John B
VIC 2114

Bushfire time this year, and the fires were approaching us fast. We prepared to leave, and were relieved to hear the wind had changed and reduced at the last minute. We heard it all throughout the day, on the ABC. Thank you ABC, for being there for us. John Campbell, Poowong, Gippsland.

John C
ACT 3988

We were constantly listening to the ABC radio and news during the bushfires

John C
NSW 2640

I have grown up with the ABC from my days of watching play school, BTN to now relying on the ABC for the only news I trust. It is my belief that the ABC provides balanced and well researched reporting on current affairs and provides the Australian public with the most interesting exposure of Australian talent and entertainment. I understand that the ABC caters for a broader variety of Australians than commercial corporations in terms of their programming. I have been disturbed by the steady dumbing down of Australian TV since the 1980s. A weaker ABC will not be good for Australia if we want to be a smart nation with intelligent and free thinking people. I do not trust governments or politicians that want to reduce the ABC's funding.

John C
NSW 2125

Many will write about the wonderful role the ABC plays in keeping us safe, something that is not touched on by any other media. What is not given its due weight is the selection of music that the ABC provides. ABC FM Fine Music is good but Classic 2 is excellent in providing a voice for Australian classical composers and musicians. Similarly with ABC Jazz. We get to hear a very wide spectrum of jazz 24 hours a day. It is so special to be able to tune into quality music of any taste at any time. This feature of the ABC contributes just so much to the quality of life of those of us who do not live in the metropolitan centres of Melbourne and Sydney. We pay taxes for protection, education and health but quality of life is just as important.

John Davies

John D
VIC 2473

The Bushfire emergency warnings and notifications were ever informative. With relatives living away and friends in harms way, one had a constant flow of information. Makes you feel safe!
With the Murdoch bias out of Fox Sky news and all related Media news, the rubbish that was put forward is more suited to TRUMP tweets.
THE ABC FOR ME. ABC still has many staff members who support the LIBERAL SOCIALIST PARTY OF AUSTRALIA.

John D
QLD 3020

My wife and I travel around Queensland a lot and have found that the only reliable news source is the ABC. There are few if any Commercial Stations and if one is lucky enough to pick one up it is usually on relay from Sydney which broadcasts Sydney local news and the announcers are, what I believe are called Shock Jocks, delivering questionable news and seem to be critics of the ABC but use The ABC - Our ABC - My ABC as a major source of information for their program. They seem to have links to News Limited or 9 News and give a one sided view with little or no balance which The ABC - Our ABC - My ABC gives both by AIR and TV the people of Queensland and Australia WHO you REPRESENT expect and deserve that Our ABC to be fully funded.

John D
VIC 4121

I Have 3 Radio Sets in my house that are permanently Tuned to 3LO. Yes I prefer to call it by it's true call sign. I have been listening to it for most of my life. It stays on all night so that I can listen to "the quiz" (The mighty challenge.) I wake up to it in the morning and look forward to the 0745 News followed by AM. Once in the car, I continue to listen to the Morning session with Virginia Trioli. Not only do we hear the good news but when there is bad news, I know I can rely on my station to cover that news accurately and take responsibility keeping Australians covered during Bush Fires, Floods and now, the Pandemic. ABC Television has excellent News Services and marvellous programmes, both BBC and ABC. No matter which political party is in power, they have a duty to the people of Australia to make sure that the ABC is always well financed. John Douglas

John D
NSW 3191

The ABC generally gives me the news which I put full trust in, not comment and/or opinion. It is the only TV broadcaster that holds government and opposition to account, it must be true as our Prime Minister seems to spend less time being interviewed by the ABC than 2GB and SKY rubbish

John G
NSW 2774

Ever since the ABC was defunded because of John Howard being upset at the TV programme "The Glass House", successive governments have kept chipping away at ABC funding. Australians have always relied on the ABC for truth, rather than spin and rely on the ABC during the coronavirus crisis, and on the ABC's emergency broadcasts in times of bushfire, flood or other disasters. Australians trust the ABC to keep their kids engaged and informed when schools were closed and especially rely on the ABC to hold those in power accountable at a time when deception is rife. We demand no cuts be made to the ABC in the October 2020-21 budget and also demand all the prior funding cuts be restored. It is UNaustralian to kill off the ABC, and it reflects poorly on your government to be Murdock's lap dog.

John H
VIC 2525

When it matters, I turn to the ABC whether emergencies, news, quality discussion or quality entertainment. I view and read from a wide range of sources, however I continually revert to the ABC because of its integrity and quality. If I want some light hearted absurd entertainment I turn to SKY, but really, it is such biased, created crap. Such fake/bias news requires accountability. Thank God Australia has a publicly funded quality media service in the ABC. Please increase the spend in real terms of my tax payer money to further embellish this vital component of our democracy and cultural preservation.

John H
VIC 3280

During the bushfires of 2019, I was glad to hear specific details of fires, in news reports on ABC TV and radio. Much of the reporting was directly from the areas impacted, including interviews with relevant locals like Fireies and Mayors. Although I live in a safe Melbourne suburb, I especially took comfort from hearing known voices, like that of Jon Faine, relating specific localised warnings and critical information for towns and localities (many of which I had never heard of!), including level of threat, road closures, etc. No other media organisation in Australia has the level of trust that the ABC has, and few have the comprehensive reach of the 'national broadcaster'. For these reasons, the ABC should retain inflation-adjusted funding for news and emergency broadcasting.

John H
NSW 3174

I support the ABC and have the 'News' set as my home Page on my desktop and laptop computers. I value an unbiased view of the news (although a recent Political Appointment has resulted in a glitzy 'what you NEED TO KNOW' banner to a lot of headlines).

I rely on the ABC to keep me informed about the coronavirus crisis.

I rely on the ABC's emergency broadcasts in times of bushfire, flood and other disasters.

I trusted the ABC to keep their kids engaged and informed when schools were closed.

I rely on the ABC to hold those in power accountable at a time when deception is easily overlooked.

I rely on the ABC help you stay connected through its drama, music, comedy and commitment to Australian stories.

I demand no cuts be made to the ABC in the October 2020-21 budget and that funding already cut SHOULD BE REINSTATED.

John I
WA 2541

I am 71 years old and grew up in the country with ABC Radio as a daily backdrop . It was THE source of reliable information , as well as providing interesting and stimulating programs in the Arts and of course Sport . The ABC remains THE source of reliable information in this age of 'alternative facts' , misinformation and outright lies being peddled by various interest groups and individuals . It is also one of the few media organisations with the resources and the will to carry out detailed , sustained and rigorous public interest investigations which shed light into dark corners and can hold moneyed and powerful interest groups (including governments) to account . Such investigations are ESSENTIAL to the maintenance of good government in Australia . Recent years have seen real funding cuts to the ABC and concerted efforts by mainly right wing groups to damage the ABC . The 2020-21 Budget is an opportunity to STOP these freezes and cuts , and recognise the important and central roles that the ABC plays in Australian life .

John I
VIC 6027

To whom it may concern

My name is John Kemp, I am a Registered Nurse living in Melbourne with my wife and two children.

As a family, we were 100% reliant on the ABC broadcast during the 2020 bushfires, we were in Gippsland at the time. Quite simply, it saved lives.

Apart from the news services, we get much joy and edification from many of it's enlightening shows, Late Night Live, Religion and Ethics, Life Matters, The Philosophers Zone, just to name a few.

This is an essential service for all the people of Australia, regardless of their political beliefs or affiliations.

Political point scoring and 'leftist' labelling needs to stop, it's puerile.

Funding should be significantly increased, immediately, and ongoing, in line with inflation.

The ABC reflects the people of Australia as a whole, it does not, and should not, represent the political leanings of the party in power.

I respectfully request there be no further funding cuts to the ABC, and further, that additional and significant funding be reinstated.

Kind Regards
John Kemp

John K
WA 3031

Had it not been for the ABC, would wouldn't really have any real source of news for some time now.

ABC radio and Radio National in particular is the only World class broadcaster with interesting continuous programs 24hr a day. There just isn't anything of that nature in the commercial sphere.

John K
NSW 6065

The ABC. I believe it's responsibility is to project Australia's interest into the Pacific and beyond. In PNG we listened to it; I remember driving across the Nullarbor and listening to a yachtsman in the Indian Ocean who was participating in a 'talk back'.

Small things but it brought people together. And as many people will say, at times of crisis, there was no substitute for what they saw as reliable information.

Compare that with the content produced by commercial radio!

John M
NT 2479

empty institution..full of useless..people..

only one program left.. four conners..

the commercial channels ..7,,9..and the rest.. make programs ..only for mentally ..retarded.....thank you and good luck australia...

john m
VIC 830

Budget Submission,

Please restore funding to the ABC as it is the only trusted media in Australia which we have witnessed during last summers bushfires and the current COVID-19 virus. Recently the ABC announced how they would manage with the cuts which will cut jobs and axe long standing programs. A country as wealthy as ours should be able to save the proposed cuts by better management of its income. Many items budgeted last year included an large amount to fund a captain cook anniversary of which most educated Australians had no interest.

John M
ACT 3551

While the bushfires faded down the coast around Christmas we were in our house in Narooma and totally dependent on ABC local news. Qute apart from the life sustaining music of ABC fm, local news was crucial. Undermining the economic viability has been a stupid and spiteful act of Government. We will all live to regret their policy.

John P
QLD 2614

The ABC is the best for good information all the time

John P
NSW 4655

Shows like Q&A, and Norman Swan have given me the information on how to avoid the Covid virus and to stay healthy.

john p
NSW 2034

For over fifty years the ABC has produced accurate and unbiased stories that have held governments and corporations accountable to the Australian public, uncovering corruption and criminal activities that have effected our democracy, without this vital and ultra important service this country would become a shell of itself and open the door to dictatorial policies and see corrupt governments. I and millions of others demand the reinstatement of the ABC budget and unbiased reporting as we all know the creeping demands from conservatives with an agenda to destroy our rights

John R
VIC 2474

As one with COPD, I rely on accurate and reliable news about air quality, such as was reported during the bushfire disasters, and on current and reliable information with regard to the Covid 19 crisis. Not only is the news reporting important so too is the insightful and reliable analytical overview of politics, religion, equity issues and economics.

John S
NSW 3215

During the extended horror bush-fire season of 2019-20, ABC local radio was my primary source of information for both my own immediate situation (in the immensely vulnerable Blue Mountains) and the situation for any road (and even rail!) travel plans. I trusted the ABC coverage much more than any bush-fire app. Slashing the ABC's budget is pure vandalism of the most base and even criminal sort. I despise those who commit this crime.

John S
NSW 2780

The ABC has always been there for me. It has supported me and my family in all manner of disasters, including cyclones, floods, earthquakes and bushfires. It is trusted to deliver the truth-not political spin. It reports fearlessly and honestly and can be relied upon to be there when I turn on the radio. This year it has provided timely, accurate advice on the bushfire fronts and accompanying disasters and has allowed me to listen to expert medical advice from Dr Norman Swan. The ABC has entertained my grandchildren and allowed my wife and me to enjoy some stimulating and/or entertaining shows to distract from the present bleakness that exists outside the door. Funding should be increased to ensure the high standard of staff and broadcast is maintained.

John S
NSW 2264

My wife and I rely on the ABC News for the latest information on the Covid-19 virus. The 7/30pm programme is a valuable tool in keeping bang up-to date with this situation. We also relied on ABC 24 News channel when the terrible fires occurred earlier this year. In addition ABC Classic is a real bonus with its wonderful array of beautiful music supported by well informed presenters who care about what they are doing.

Life without the ABC would not be the same.

Finally who else would hold "dodgy people" and certain bias politicians to account.

Long live the ABC

John Slater
Bellingen
jandaslater@gmail.com

John,Stephenson,2293,johnstephenson52@gmail.com,My pre budget submission in support of the ABC,The ABC is my family's main source of news

John S
WA 2454

The ABC is the news service I rely on for factual news in Australia. I don't read other Australian news services because they're either too shallow or totally biased in their coverage. When things need to be brought to public attention it is the ABC that does this clearly and effectively. Do not refund the ABC; anyone doing this will never get my vote.

John W
WA 6208

Dear Prime Minister and colleagues.

I respectfully request that you maintain appropriate, full funding for the ABC. This service belongs to all the people of Australia - especially important to those of us who live in rural and regional areas. Crucially, the ABC is the primary media service providing non-partisan news content. In the interests of democracy and national security, this essential public service must be effectively funded into the future. The ABC belongs to ALL Australians, and must not be subject to political machinations of any party.

Sincerely,
John White
Toodyay WA

John W
WA 6566

I have health issues and need to stay at home quite a lot. I am sick of the commercial stations repeating movies etc and rely on the ABC for interesting programmes. It would be fantastic if the ABC could be further funded to do documentaries, Aussie movies, soaps and other content with episodes such as crime, comedy etc etc. All, of course with a lot of Australian content. Also make sure that Aunty is funded (Radio and TV online) so that other cultures can see and hear our programmes.

John W
TAS 6030

The ABC is a life line for all Australians
Fund it. Scott.because if they are cut
So are is our life line!!

John w
QLD 7010

During the COVID 19 situation it has been really important to get unbiased reliable news on time and consistent. Things change so quickly and not knowing can be dangerous.

One way thta i have felt I can be responsible to access news through ABC as it does not have a commercial interest attached and is presented in a way that plays down drama and reports what is known.

Radio national, ABC TV channels, iview, local ABC channels such as 90.3 Coast FM (ABC radio) are the places I trust to afford me something that i can more easily believe in and allows for healthy debate leading to more responsible decisions on my part and < i'd like to think on the part of community.

Thank you for providing the most important news service in my life. please continue to allow it to do so and thrive.

John W
QLD 4552

I am retired and live in Caboolture and my husband is now in care. I always rely on the ABC for news, updates and commentaries as well as for entertainment and music.
I am 82 years old and have relied on the ABC all my life, it is Australian for Australians and I trust it. Honestly I cannot imagine a life without the ABC I would be lost.
I demand that no cuts are made in the October budget to the ABC and that previous cuts in funding be restored.

John and Christa D
QLD 4019

ABC Radio provides essential community connectivity with Emergency Services announcements, and response coordination efforts when we're threatened by any Natural Disaster (especially when our power supply fails!!) They effectively save lives as well as otherwise unnecessary trauma arising from being disconnected from essential service provision awareness and preferred responses expected of us to keep everyone safe. Special mention of ABC Radio keeping us alert, aware, safe, during the Covid-19 pandemic shifting/changing community safety strategies and requirements sought by our public health experts, and politicians seeking to encourage support our efforts!! We're all in this together!! - remember?? Lest we forget - it takes each and every-one of US!!

John C T
QLD 4075

This past year we have had a complete reliance on the ABC to receive accurate, concise and up to date information free from any bias, about the Fires, the floods, the drought and the dreaded Coved 19 virus pandemic.

They have given us the complete truth without sugar coating it and timely information which has been instrumental in keeping us in touch with local and national news. The Print media merely folded up their tents and crept away in the darkness leaving us exposed to social media rubbish and twitter nonesense.

By defunding this magnificent organisation we will be very poorly served by vested media interests who do not care for the regular Australian. This action is unforgivable in these times of crisis and disasters. It makes jobs disappear and journalists redundant at the very time the demand has grown out of sight.

Restore the real level of funding which enables all Australians to get accurate and incisive reporting.

Jolyon C

QLD 4070

The COVID crisis has really shown us the value of the ABC. As the crisis unfolded I found myself anxious and overwhelmed by the possibilities and uncertainties of the pandemic. Normally I'm an avid consumer of news and current affairs but with this one story dominating the news I found I just had to tune out and limit my consumption. What I found was that the commercial stations made things worse - they sensationalised the story, focused in on hardship and misbehaviour by a few, and gave airspace to all sorts of cranks and conspiracy theorists.

The ABC, by contrast, was measured and factual. They provided just enough data for me to get a sense of what was going on without being overwhelmed, they presented views by highly credentialed experts in the field and they neither sugar coated the pill nor sensationalised it. It really reminded me of the value of a well-funded, independent public broadcaster.

Because the pandemic is both global and local, it was really important to have a local service which could talk about what was happening in my community. I live in a capital city but I know this is even more important in rural Australia, where the local ABC radio broadcasts are able to give listeners solid local information about events, supports and issues in their community.

This service will never be replicated in commercial media, especially not with the disruption caused by the internet and social media. They are caught in a perpetual scramble for the advertising dollar and in the current environment this means they are constantly cutting budgets and upping the level of sensation to try and attract eyes and ears. This can be entertaining but it doesn't do the job when we are facing serious issues - and serious issues are indeed what we are facing now with the pandemic and the increasing effects of climate change.

Please don't put the same squeeze on the ABC that our commercial channels are forced to live with. In times like now, accurate information is as important as good health services. Without the ABC we would have no way of getting it.

Jon Eastgate

Fairfield, Queensland

Jon E

NSW 4103

The ABC is one of very few (extraordinarily few) sources of independent news and information about Australian politics, society, community, religion and much, much more. It delivers high quality programming and services across the country, using a multiplicity of delivery channels, at a consistent level of quality that commercial media organisations can only dream of.

And they do this on a budget that is a fraction of commercial media budgets.

In an era of increasing domination of "news" by social networks and conservative mainstream media, the ABC's reliable, faithful, fact-checked information is essential.

Politicians around the world - particularly in the USA, Russia and China (but also in Australia) - now tell lies as a matter of routine and expect to get away with it. Social networks are used to promulgate these deceits, usually without intervention by the network owners.

Without the ABC (and SBS, the Guardian, Schwarz Media, etc.), these lies would go unchallenged.

ABC funding must be maintained - and recent cuts reversed.

Jon H
SA 2060

Please restore the ABC's \$780 million in cuts over the forward estimates ending 2024. The ABC is Australia's greatest, most independent, professional, impartial, reliable and most trusted news source. Treat the national iconic institution and its people with respect they deserve and stop trying to run it into the ground. Include the ABC and SBS in the legislative revenue sharing agreement between Facebook, Google and the Australian news and media outlets please. It's the right thing to do. If you include New Daily, News Corporation and Nine Media then you should include ABC & SBS and not discriminate.

Jon O
VIC 5034

I am extremely concerned at the budget cuts and reporting restrictions to the ABC, this money and freedom of the press should be immediately reinstated and increased.

I rely on the ABC for unbiased factual news. Its daily news is objective and informative so I can rely on it to better understand Australian and global events.

I am glued to the ABC in emergency situations such as the bush fires over the new year period. The ABC provided me with the information I needed to know about the safety of my family, neighbours and property. Immediately following the fires I needed to know about the heavy rain with the potential for floods and erosion. The ABC provides this information. The ABC is a vital source of current emergency information for all Australians.

In the COVID-19 pandemic, the ABC is the only source of information that is not tainted by personal perceptions, assumptions and puerile drivel. The private sector cannot come close to the value that the ABC provides.

Restore its finances now and do not restrict its operations or the ability of its reporters to investigate and report on topics that may embarrass others including the government. Freedom of speech is critical to our democracy, the ABC must be enabled to continue to do that for all of us.

Jon T
QLD 3031

I prefer to watch the ABC channels before any others. They broadcast govt news before any other channels.

Jonas K
VIC 4869

2020 brought some insane things to East Gippsland, my home. Through pandemic, bushfires, drought and more, the ABC has been here for us. A source of bushfire and pandemic information, and of entertainment, I very much value the ABC.

Without the ABC, I would have less classical music, french gardens, historical documentaries, emergency news and many things I value. The thing I value most about the ABC is the accuracy of the news (likely Australia's least biased news source), and the lack of advertising. I don't watch commercial TV due to a hate of ads, and the ABC is above that.

Please don't underfund the ABC, federal government. Please invest in it's, and our future.

Jonathan d
VIC 3875

I come from three generations of working class ABC radio listeners and ABC TV watches. Even as a kid I noticed the difference between the commercial broadcasters and our Australian owned broadcaster - there was more of a down-to-earth tone to it and I sensed that the commercial interests of the other communication companies were beholden to the views of their owners in part, and their advertisers.

I always respected the fact that there was no cheque-book journalism where our ABC was concerned and this made it a fairer presenter in my view.

As a young mother, my family and I moved to PNG to work as volunteers providing relief aid after the 1998 Sandaun Province tsunami. We all, including other expatriate workers, relied on the ABC's Radio Australia on shortwave radio to keep us informed in an unbiased and well researched fashion. Sadly, Radio Australia was one of the first victims of a Coalition-led-Government funding cut to OUR NATIONAL BROADCASTER. Please do not cut any more from our much needed ABC.

Yours sincerely,
Jordana Langridge

Jordana L
NSW 3249

I have always adored the ABC. It has provided so much wonderful programming that I have enjoyed especially in the COVID era. I feel it is a vital entity to fund and ensure independence for.

Jos H
VIC 2783

I have been an avid watcher of the ABC and 7:30 report particularly while I have been spending more time at work.

My mum was sent home from her work at Brunswick Private Hospital a fortnight ago due to an outbreak of Coronavirus and it wasn't until I watched a story on the 7:30 report on Tuesday 28th July where we learned the true extent of the outbreak. A total of 22 staff and patients who contracted Covid-19 at my mum's workplace - Brunswick Private Hospital. Luckily for us, my mum has had 3 negative tests and is still with us in her home. No other commercial tv station had reported about the outbreaks which occurred here and I am very thankful that the ABC reported this story for me and my family.

Yours sincerely,
Joseph Apap

Joseph A
VIC 3038

My name is Joseph Scott and as someone who lives and works in the ACT, it has been critical over the last 12 months to know I will get unbiased, local and regular news - all of which is supplied by the ABC.

They kept me up to date on the fires which was imperative as I worked right at the edge and would know if we were going to work that day or needed to leave suddenly the ABC had the information. Throughout Corona Virus they have led with accurate information and allowed scientists and other experts the time and room to provide us with accurate information.

Other news outlets sensationalize and monetize their "news". The ABC is the only trustworthy source in this country and its a shame that people see a need to reduce/de-fund it for political and personal reasons.

It needs to stay, and stay strong and independent of interference to give Australians the best and most trustworthy news service!

Joseph S
NSW 3810

I am adding my voice in support of the ABC in these difficult times. The ABC was my go to place during the early days of information gathering and isolation as we learned of the parameters of life with corona. They became my "family" in time of crisis when I was in isolation. I value the discussion shows like the drum and insiders ,rely on them for news, am entertained by them and value the comedy and drama presented by them. Thanks for doing this. Jo beams

Josephine B
QLD 2481

We rely every day on ABC TV for believable, balanced news and current affairs.

During the bushfire crisis of late 2019, we relied heavily on updates from ABC TV and radio because we planned to drive from Brisbane to Sydney. Thanks to the ABC, we postponed our trip.

My ABC is already punching above its weight. Please help it to survive and thrive.

Josephine B
WA 4152

As an 80 year old, with site and hearing fading a little, the ABC is a familiar name, simple to access without computer skills or complicated Facebook. The news cover is honest and straightforward, and feels like a longtime friend. They need more funding to keep up their high standards and I would dearly love to see some of my tax going towards this good cause. Please fund the ABC

Josephine D
VIC 6160

Listening to JP in the afternoon brightens my day, Friday arvo with JP and Brian is a joy.

The ABC keeps me informed and makes me feel part of a community.

Can't imagine my life without it, and all the programs that it offers.

It's vitally important to all of us.

PM, CONTINUE TO FULLY FUND THE ABC.

It's ours!

Regards, Josie Zwiers

Josie Z
VIC 3782

The ABC is vital to my access to news Free from interference from politics and big business. All commercial media outlets are beholden to the need to make profit and the ABC alone can act in the interests of our society.

Joy L
NSW 3163

The ABC TV and radio reports are the only ones relied on by myself and my family to provide a trusted and balanced view of the news.

This trust has been particularly valuable during the stressful events of the past 12 months especially the bushfires and now the coronavirus pandemic. It has enabled our household to maintain good emotional health through our trust in its reporting without unnecessary, damaging sensationalism. While I don't have young children or grandchildren it was clear that the ABC programs were and will be very useful for home schooling and entertainment for young ones while activity is restricted.

Please increase funding to enable unbiased and truthful reporting by the ABC.

Joy M
VIC 2045

I totally rely on the ABC for reliable news. I always have. But now, the need has grown exponentially. I do worry about cuts to the ABC and the consequent effect on their ability to source and acquire same.

I turn on the ABC each morning to catch the the latest information on covid numbers and dialogue from experts on the subject.

Please don't cut the ABC's funds. We need them; not only for news but for the contribution they make to Australian artistic film and TV products.

Joy M
VIC 3782

I have relied on the ABC even more in 2020. One new show I'm watching because I'm home at that time now is The Drum, which has a great spread of people with experience and expertise having proper conversation. It helps me understand better WHY we do things not just what we have to all do now.

Daniel Andrews announcements are also pretty mandatory and I rely on the ABC for those.

My staples like the Book Show and The Mindfield have helped keep me sane and stimulated, when the strangeness and precariousness of the times, and depression and isolation, robs me of energising conversation.

Joy Whitton

Joy W

NSW 3056

I am really unhappy about the fact, that ABC has not had enough news about A very important issue,,,, this persecution of Julian Assange. No respect for ABC and Getup..... They keep silent while USA and UK slowly kill my fellow Australian... He did not do the crimes..... He reported them.

Joyce C

VIC 2017

It will appear obsessive, but during the coronavirus I've wanted to listen to both the early and the late evening ABC news. Changes have happened so quickly, I felt I didn't always absorb everything in the 7 pm news, so I followed the 7:30 report and the Drum for analysis of it all, and then turned on the late news as well! That doesn't even count listening to ABC Local radio to keep me sane during daytime isolation. Hearing other people's isolation stories was really comforting. Trying to link in with the rest of the world, I've relied heavily on the ABC program "Planet America" so that I can relate our experience to what is happening in America.

Joyce S

NSW 3450

I grew up in America with a strong democratic position of Freedom of the Press. I believe all forms of media whether the press, internet or radio broadcasting should be an independent from profit and politics. The media should produce both fact and truth. I understand the internet also has freedom but untruths are posted frequently.

In 2020, I relied on ABC broadcasting to keep me up to date with news on the bushfires, Corona Virus, and both international and national events.

Whilst in locktown, I watched many programmes produced by the ABC to keep my mind stimulated.

The journalists are renown for their awards in the Walkley Journalism and Photography competitions. The ABC should be adequately funded independently nomatter which political party is in office. It is the voice of the Australian people.

DONOT CUT THE ABC'S BUDGET

Joyce S

TAS 2112

Do not need a lot of words to say that without the ABC, our family would never know what is going on around us, be it fires, floods, icy roads, in other words just about everything that affects us every day. ABC radio is rarely off in our household.

Live on the East coast of Tassie, would not know what to do without the ABC with all its information.

Please, no budget cuts ever!!

Joylene S

VIC 7215

I'm a Victorian midwife working on the frontline with the threat of Covid-19 all around us. I rely on the ABC news daily for updates on how the situation around Covid-19 is unfolding in my state, but also around the country. I value their journalistic integrity in this matter, they're here for all Australians and should be funded accordingly. Throughout this year, even with the bushfires, I've relied on the ABC news to keep me informed, to understand where the problems are and how we are responding to them as a state. The ABC is not for profit, it's for Australians. I don't trust any other news media the way I trust the ABC. Fund them. Fund them properly and stop the cuts.

Ju L

VIC 3051

If I need balanced informative news then it's simple as ABC....our channel needs financial support...period.

Juan R

NSW 3175

ABC along with CBS,MSNBC &CNN also GMA & The Today show are All LIARS! You are Infact FAKE News . I Pray you all get Shut down and some of you Prison for TREASON against Americans.

Juanita P
NSW 2871

The ABC has been an important part of my life for 84 years. More than ever with the news about the terrible pandemic, which is ravaging out of control worldwide. The ABC reports on national disasters are a truthful and reliable way of the people getting accurate news about bushfires, floods, and other happenings in Australia. There should not be any cutbacks to this essential Australian news service. We need our ABC.

Juanita S
NSW 2264

The importance of the ABC during the 2019-20 bushfires is widely acknowledged. My direct experience of this as a city dweller was limited to news rather than the lifesaving information service provided by the ABC to country and regional listeners. The urban experience with COVID19 however has provided an invaluable source of current and informed commentary in a confusing and rapidly changing information environment. WE CANNOT AFFORD TO CUT FUNDING TO THE PUBLIC BROADCASTER - IN FACT FUNDING SHOULD BE INCREASED OR AT THE VERY LEAST RESTORED AS REAL LEVELS OF FUNDING HAVE DROPPED OVER RECENT YEARS.

Jude R
VIC 2011

Even though I was not directly affected by the bushfires geographically, I had friends and family that I was concerned about. Everyday I relied on the ABC to keep informed. At the moment, during this terrible pandemic, I honestly don't know what I would do without the ABC, both radio and TV. The coverage is vital. It is essential to getting important information out to the entire country. It should be strengthened, not diminished.

Judi H
NSW 3124

We lost our house, contents and farm in the recent bush fire. The ABC through The 7.30 Report, and Four Corners, has helped us to fully understand how we were caught up in the Bush Fire. In turn it has helped to allay our anger of "why us". It was not a bush fireit was an Inferno. And there was nothing we could do to help ourselves. We can now move forward rebuilding our life. Because our mind set was locked into survival, Coronavarus did not feature in day to day coping. But, when Foreign Correspondant, Four Corners and The 7.30 Report tackled the subject, we suddenly woke up to the threat. Now we social distance. Whenever we wantto understand an political, environmental, crisis or health issue, we turn to the ABC because they cut out all the hipe and report fairly and accurately.

judith c
VIC 2571

I particularly love the documentaries which show ourselves to ourselves. Landline,Backroads, Micallef's On the Sauce. Without the ABCs constant reminders of what the rest ofAustralia is like we would not be a unified nation. Then The Drum,Insiders ,etc etc keep me aware of the politics. I can't do without the ABC AS IT IS. Not commercialised.

judith g
QLD 3057

I depend and trust the ABC to bring me the news, current affairs, information and stories. I listen to local ABC all day every day and turn the TV on for the news, current affairs and entertainment. It is my main source of information.

Judith H
NSW 4152

I relied on the ABC during the bushfires this year, I relied on the ABC for updates on the coronavirus and I rely on the ABC for my daily new because they tell the truth

Judith K
NSW 2428

I am now retired and depend on ABC Radio for information, conversation, connection and impartial advice. I can pass on timely information to my children, grandchildren and friends, secure in the knowledge that it is interesting and relevant.

It keeps me up to date, amused, appalled, and often ahead of the family which makes me more interesting and connected! It's vital to my mental health and sense of community.

Judith K
VIC 2023

During this pandemic, I have followed ABC News app., for updates on the crisis. I have found Dan Andrews' daily briefing reassuring in that they have clearly spelled out what is required of us all to get through. Norman Swan's explanations have been particularly helpful. The ABC has been reliable in providing level headed coverage as opposed to the hysteria of some reporting by other networks.

Judith N
QLD 3041

I trust the ABC to provide balanced, accurate reporting on all the major issues of the day, whether that's coronavirus figures or political shenanigans. They hire the best journalists and they deliver the best news and views and their lifestyle and music programs have aimed at keeping our mental health stable during the periods of forced restrictions. Please maintain and augment the ABC's budget -- it is essential for Australian democracy.

Judith P
QLD 4069

Tuning in to The Drum each evening provides me with the most honest political comment across media. We need this voice more than ever, free from manipulation by the rich and power hungry.

Judith P
VIC 4556

I urge the federal government to stop further cuts to the ABC budget and restore funding to the level prior to the most recent cuts. The ABC is my lifeline. I listen to ABC radio during the day and from 6pm onwards I watch ABC television for news, current affairs and other important programs. I believe the ABC is essential to listeners and viewers to counteract the bias of other commercial media and fake news on social media. The ABC's coverage of the 2019/2020 bushfires was essential listening to those involved in the affected regions as well as general listeners who are concerned about serious news reporting. During the pandemic I find it essential to listen to the Victorian Premier's daily reports as well as the Prime Minister's media reports. During lockdown the ABC is there to keep me company and ensure that I do not succumb to depression due isolation.

Judith R
QLD 3204

The ABC is part of our daily information routine to keep us informed about local, national and international news. During this pandemic we have counted on the ABC not only for how to care for our own family but to understand the experience of friends, vulnerable family and others in the wider community. My husband is vulnerable to the virus so having accurate, trusted and timely updates help keep me sane knowing what are the key actions to take.

Judith S
VIC 4165

PLEASE leave 7.45 a.m. news bulletin on 774 radio Melbourne
PLEASE leave Channel 24 tv news completely intact

Judith T
VIC 3799

During the Height of the nationwide lockdown the top stories on the ABC were those about real Australians. And this is what the Australian Broadcasting Commission does best - Australian story, Backroads, You can't Ask That, Ahn's Brush with Fame, Home Delivery, Kitchen Cabinet.

And then there's Australian humour and comedy - original ideas like The Heights, Rosehaven, Bluey, Play School.

Current affairs with diversity in panels on The Drum and Q&A, Foreign Correspondent, or with tongue in cheek on The Weekly, Shaun Mcauliffe and Planet America.

And then there's ABC Education, with over 40 years of history morphing into to programs for homeschooling ready for term 2 within weeks of lockdown announcements.

And then there's 4corners. Where else can we see quality investigative journalism keeping Australia's moral compass on track - just recently revealing Worker's compensation travesties and the reality of those on the Covid19 Frontline and the dire straits of those still suffering from devastating bushfires.

And that's just TV.

On radio - youth radio triple J that provides airtime for new and unique Australian music, Radio national that provides emergency health and safety information for people in remote areas now during the pandemic and in January during the fires, Classical radio for yet another demographic.

The ABC is truly a service that is trusted, timely and relevant for and of every demographic in our society.

Our country will be poorer without it.

Judith W
NSW 3106

I live in Emerald Beach NSW and rely on the ABC. Our local newspaper has just collapsed as a paper, and the ABC is now the only news I watch. It has been essential to me to gain intelligent news and analysis during the Covid-19 crisis. In fact I didn't watch the news on TV until the pandemic, and now I watch the Drum, the 7:00 news, and the 7:30 report.

As a result I have also found great series and documentaries to watch and have been enjoying revisiting the classic Australian movies, and also series like Maralinga, and the Gardening Show. Please, when our sense of community is being destroyed through loss of local newspapers, do not underfund the ABC. It is incredibly important to provide correct and accurate coverage, and also local programs, documentaries, and stories that reflect who we are as a nation. We need a sense of national identity and also a strong countervoice to the flood of misinformation on the net and social media. Think of the ABC as another tool in the defence of our nation, its values and beliefs. It is just as important to our safety and wellbeing as defence spending. You can spend all the money you want on defence, but if there is not an intelligent, coherent national discourse (as supported by the ABC) the country will fall apart, in the same way as America is today. Give us a common future, a shared vision, intelligent debate. We deserve a strong national broadcaster.

Judith W
QLD 2456

Where would I be without the ABC? The one spot of sanity in what seems to be an endless bout of 'Reality' shows, in my opinion "Gardening Australia" is a Reality show. No 'tasks', no "challenges", a spot of blessed sanity instead of backstabbing and vicious competition. When I want to relax, it's usually with 'Aunty', that's what we call her. A bit old fashioned, but Reliable, and can be definitely relied to dig up those stories that Big business don't want published, and the commercial stations want the advertising dollar. Strangely enough I look forward to the weather reports and the rainfall events across the lesser regions, and ABC always has a few kind words for the remote areas. They take time to catch up on National disasters, going back and showing how things are progressing. I found a program on consumer Affairs very informative, and it certainly helped me deal with some less than enthusiastic service providers. I love the supply of quality drama, even the re-runs! And as a Doctor Who tragic, the ABC is the only place that would put Science fiction on at a decent hour for a first run.

Love Back Roads, and the Documentaries. And on a personal note the ABC Broadcast supports Queensland Spinners, Weavers and Fibre Artists. We need an independent Broadcaster that is not reliant on begging like the American PBS', otherwise when governments push policies that are unpopular with ordinary Australians, but beneficial to Big Business no one will speak out.

Judith W
NSW 4124

I depend on the ABC for all my viewing, where else would we have had the same quality news about the bushfires? Where else would I be able to view stories like Australian story, Back roads, The recording studio and many other great shows?

Judith W
VIC 2020

The ABC provides amazing investigative journalism like the one into the big banks. I had always suspected these banks were ripping us off. I remember when AMP used hard sell and an Amway type setup encouraging their customers to rope in their family and friends to worthless life insurance. The ABC coverage of COVID-19 has kept me informed of the facts and dispelled all the lies and misinformation making me feel safer.

Judy B
VIC 3265

In the heat of summer, with the smell of smoke thick in the air, I checked regularly with the ABC News for information about the fires. Then it was the first news of Covid 19, and now, in lock-down, to hear our medical and political leaders report to us on the News Channel. Holding us together during this tragic time is the amazing sound of ABC Classic FM and our friends Russell, Martin and co. Thank you ABC!!

Judy C
TAS 3149

The ABC is central to Australian Way of life. Nowhere else reflects the Australian culture in the way the ABC does. Commercial television and radio networks are only interested in money and have no investment in telling the stories of real Australians.

Real Australia is not Married at First Sight or Big Brother. It is Australian Story, Q and A, 4 corners, On the Road and other such programs.

During the Christmas bushfires the ABC saved lives. They were crucial to the safety of so many Australians. There was no compensation from the government for this vital role they played. Their reward was less funding.

Without the ABC being able to effectively broadcast content all we will get is Murdoch dominated media whose sole interest is profit and pushing a particular agenda.

I implore you please don't continue cutting funds to the ABC which is quintessentially part of Australian life

Judy G
QLD 7248

During the Peregian fires at the end of 2019, twice, my husband and I felt very vulnerable. We were 91 and 80 at the time and we live on acreage, but our health status is such we have no choice but to leave early. But how early is early??

If it wasn't for the ABC online and on radio constantly updating the situation with reliable information, supported I must admit, by the Fire Brigade, we would have been in a very worrisome position.

And currently, with corona virus, I follow the ABC fact check and have all their posts in a file on my computer. Without the same, even-handed reporting from around the country, we would again feel very vulnerable because of false information, bias information, over-blown information...all of which is too easy to find on the net, the newspapers, and radio/tv.

Without the ABC we would feel much more anxious and ill informed. The ABC is the one institution in Australia we know we can trust. But for how much longer if the current Government thinks that it is not worth supporting.

I could do without our current ideological governance but I can't do without the ABC.

Judy H
VIC 4562

ABC radio, TV and podcasts have been absolutely vital to me and my family through the bushfire season, with a holiday house down on the Mornington Peninsula. As the emergency broadcaster, ABC has been critical in keeping us up to date with the bushfire situation. And now in the COVID period, again ABC has been the only trusted news source, with expert advice from Dr Norman Swann, as well as all the regular reporting and the best news coverage on the ABC New channel. And as for regular programming, only the ABC has quality drama, news and current affairs, with outstanding Fours Corners, Foreign Correspondent, Landline and other programs that the other media simply do not deliver.

Please do not continue to reduce funding in real terms and cause high quality journalists to be let go, but increase real funding for the forthcoming years. Peter and Judy Johnson, Ashwood, VIC.

Judy J
WA 3147

I love the ABC and would be very disappointed if the government didn't protect it for the next generations.

Judy K
QLD 6011

I listen to the ABC radio news every morning, as an older citizen I rely on and trust only the news broadcast by the ABC.

Judy K
ACT 4655

I particularly rely on the ABC during these times. I watch the 7.00pm news on TV every night, read the 'Just In' updates on COVID-19 on my ipad and listen to the news on my radio each morning. Speaking as someone of very advanced years, the ABC is an essential part of my life as I'm sure it is for many, many others.

Judy L
NSW 2617

As a cross border high school teacher Dr Norman Swan, on both radio and television, had been my font of information in a world of disinformation. I use what he says as a credible guide for my three Yr 12 classes. They are all anxious about their preparation for their HSC. Each time they express their fears about another shutdown I have been able to draw on his comments and help them see clarity.

Judy M
NSW 2486

I do not support government funding cuts or privatisation of OUR ABC in any form. Our Australian Broadcasting Commission is our reliable source of fair and unbiased reporting of information, news, politics and entertainment. Our ABC provides opportunity for the development and promotion in the Arts.

I rely completely on our ABC for news of the world, and current and social affairs, through both ABC iView and ABC Listen.

Government funding needs to be INCREASED to sustain a healthy industry and to support our news and arts which provide communities with quality factual reporting.

Please acknowledge and consider the importance of this independent service for our country.

Judy M
NSW 2431

The ABC is my lifeline to the truth of what is happening locally and abroad. I trust the ABC because of its integrity, compassion and realism. Without the ABC we would be left to the chaotic newscasting of the independent channels who are there just to make money out of their sensationalistic and often dubious reporting.

Judy P
SA 2316

The ABC is a valuable, essential source of news presented in a professional way, with varied content & a much broader coverage of topics than commercial channels ... the presenters are really great; so professional, entertaining & well informed .. Absolutely essential that this service remains funded adequately to continue this service. Thank you Judy Potter

Judy P
NSW 5214

julesmacarts@gmail.com

The most important role of ABC TV is investigative journalism we receive daily through the 7.30 Report and weekly through 4 Corners. They are almost the only trusted sources of truthful news.

Thankfully, Radio National also presents brilliant background stories, debates and discussions with experts and professionals in all fields from, Science, Economics, Philosophy and the Arts. This is the only rigorous source of information that I as a single and isolated person can trust and use to stay informed.

Jules M
WA 2506

I have listened to the ABC and started at 9 years old, listening to Radio Australia in Hong Kong in 1958

It is a wonderful reliable institution, and is only now in the last years, being corrupted by our Govt that should care about our national news, current events and entertainment carrier MORE not less.

It is invaluable in the Country towns and Rural Australia also, where I live now.

It has shown to also be essential in our very frightening FIRE seasons all over the country..

We must maintain this reliable outlet and contact for our updates.

Thanks
Julia

Julia B
QLD 6255

I am an elderly "ten pound Pom". I grew up with the BBC through war and peace, triumph and disaster. In Australia I listen to the ABC, I watch the ABC to the exclusion of all other channels. Why? Because I get news and entertainment without the interruptions from advertising, because the ABC has competent reporters giving me an up to date eye witness account of what is happening wherever it is happening, be it bush fires, floods, draughts or the current situation with Covid19. When I watch the ABC I am informed of any situation by people who are leaders in their field, whether it is epidemiology, fire stick farming or the US electoral system. The ABC keeps me informed and up to date with the latest developments in Agriculture through Landline. I am taken around the country with "Back Roads". I cannot do without my ABC.

Julia C
VIC 4077

I am a farmer and a beekeeper so spend much time away from my house. I rely totally on ABC 621 & 774 for weather forecasts, fire information, daily news and general entertainment. I carry a small radio out to the Apiaries and listen during hive inspections and listen whilst on the tractor feeding stock. I'm loving the variety of podcasts available and the stimulating talkback shows. During the current Corona lockdown the ABC is a vital comfort for someone who spends much of their time alone. In fact, I tune in to the ABC around 6 AM and listen continuously throughout the day until Phillip Adams tunes out at 11.00. I can only hope that the ABC is able to continue providing its invaluable service.

Julia H
NSW 3664

The ABC provides a well-researched and objective view of national and world events. Programs like Foreign Correspondent are essential watching and broaden the viewers' knowledge of real situations and events that they would otherwise not be aware of.

Last night I watched Foreign Correspondent - this episode exploring the issue of North Korean fishing vessels over-fishing in Russian and Japanese waters. This highlighted yet another detrimental impact of the North Korean regime - on the marine environment.

Factual content is so vitally important to the creation of perceptive and well-informed citizens. It is essential the the ABC is given the funding to maintain the high quality factual programs it produces.

Julia M
NSW 2207

We must protect our ABC. So many of us rely on it for vital information. The bush fires are one example of this. Although not directly affected by the fires, the ABC informed my decision about not taking my annual holiday on the South Coast this year. It also kept us city dwellers connected to our fellow Australians experiencing these horrific fires.

We now have COVID-19 to deal with and I for one am constantly checking in with the ABC to get the most up to date trustworthy information.

Julia T
NSW 2024

The ABC has been a vital part of my life since I was a very young child in the 1950s when, in the absence of pre-school education I listened to Kindergarten of the Air every single day. I grew up with the ABC and now I depend on the ABC to bring me accurate and comprehensive information about COVID-19 (thank you, Dr, Norman Swan and Tegan Taylor - you are both angels) and many, many other serious issues. During the bushfires my radio was on and tuned to the local ABC in case I needed to put my bushfire plan into action - and where did I obtain the information I needed to formulate my bushfire plan? - the ABC.

I watch only ABC television for up-to-date news and commentary from a range of commentators. In this way I can formulate a balanced understanding pf the issues facing us and also the means by which to gain a non-judgmental attitude towards those whose beliefs do not coincide with my own.

Australia cannot afford to be without the ABC.

Julia T
NSW 2500

2020 - what a start to the year - first the bushfires, but they started for us in December on the South Coast - for days we were glued to the radio, tuned in to local ABC. We could follow the paths of the fires, the predicted winds, whether to pack up and flee, or just pack up and wait. We even had a box ready for our hens. Then to the floods, we could compare the readings of our rain gauge to other local areas, via ABC radio of course. And now these months of sitting out coronavirus. Help with making our masks, advice on whether to wear them, what materials. And the stories about our heroes - the health workers, the teachers, the cleaners, the shop keepers on Channel 2, ABC. And those wonderful multi-framed pictures of recognisable, and unrecognisable, people singing "we are Australian". ABC - you cheer us up.

The ABC is and has been part of our lives for almost 80 years, with trustworthy and unbiased news, good comedy and great drama (mostly but that seems to be going downhill with the reduced funding).

Scott Morrison, NO FURTHER CUTS TO OUR ABC...and please restore funding cuts already made.....

Julia W
VIC 2535

ABC is the most reliable and balanced source of information. It's shameful to see their funds cut further. Please don't let this happen. Thank you

Julian M
NSW 3802

I need the ABC for my sanity:

I need a media I can trust – to take science seriously, to take scientists, economists and other specialists seriously. It is generally understood that the Murdoch media is driven by ideology and profit, and not fact, and unfortunately in many parts of Australia there is no balance to this other than the ABC.

The ABC and SBS often win logies for their high quality documentaries. Four Corners is Australia's foremost program for unearthing corruption and bad behavior, helping keep governments and big business to account.

The ABC finds outstanding female journalists – Leigh Sales, Ellen Fanning, Laura Tingle. And finds a place for excellent non-white, non-Christian contributors – Waleed Ali, Stan Grant, Jeremy Fernandez.

And ABC radio's wonderful flagship, Radio National, is the only radio station for intelligent grownups. Where else would you find such a plethora of challenging, interesting programs – The Minefield, The History Listen, Future Tense, Rear Vision, Big Ideas, the Philosophers Zone, The Law Report, God Forbid, The Science Show, The Health Report, The Religion and Ethics Report How sad are the RN followers as programs are cancelled and repeats increase, thanks to the cash squeeze that the ABC endures.

And a thousand thanks to Norman Swan for his clear, sensible information and advice during the Covid-19 crisis (listened to by contacts in the US as well as here at home).

Julie B
NSW 2095

Thank the goddess for the ABC. My go to news and entertainment channel.

What is it about the ABC that incites such vehemence in our Liberal politicians. On the same trajectory as Arts degrees and the Arts in general.

Why isn't high quality journalism valued? Why do you not value the ABC as a training ground for so many media skills as well as management and business? Why are you punishing voters?

Julie

Julie B
NSW 2783

During the corona virus emergency the ABC was the only broadcaster who reported the facts as they were. Other stations interviewed a lot of people all who had a different spin on the actual facts. Some reporters aggressively challenging the facts which was very hard to watch. Having friends in the bushfire area it was a comfort to know the ABC was aware of the catastrophe and reported factually. Other stations sensationalised the events making it very difficult to find out exactly what was happening. My children are now grown up but were avid viewers of the children's programmes, as their children are. The education is presented to the children in a fun and entertaining manner. A big plus too is the lack of adds. No adds for McDonald's, Domino's etc. This is really important for our children. Don't mess with the ABC it's too important to so many people.

Julie B
VIC 2190

To Whom It May Concern,

The ABC is vitally important to me on a daily basis.

The ABC's coverage of last summer's bushfires was the only media I trusted for real news of those events.

DO NOT cut the ABC's funding further.

In fact, I want its funding to be vastly enhanced.

If only we trusted Australia's politicians and much as we all trust the ABC, Australia would be a totally different place!

Sincerely

Julie B
QLD 3223

My home is in a rural area west from Cairns, Far North Queensland. The ABC radio and ABC/SBS television is a large part of my daily life for sources of news, debate and emergency updates during cyclones or fires. And quality education and entertainment.

I find ABC journalism is of the highest calibre particularly regarding issues requiring deeper analysis. Regardless of the political party, they ask the tough questions. They dig deeply into issues of accountability, ethics, social concerns - everything a good public broadcaster should present.

The ABC and SBS are also a source of education, information and thought provoking discussion of the deeper issues that concern all aspects of life.

Where else can one easily access intelligent reliable and such varied information in one place that supports the building of an intelligent well informed public? Certainly, very rarely from commercial stations that pump out trash crime fiction and inane reality shows or the same action movies repeated as infinitum.

The quality of what goes into our minds is equal to what comes out.

The diversity of film, drama and comedy also provides a window, not only into the world at large, but representation of life in Australia in all its diversity. This is essential to maintain our national character, values and cohesion. The Americanisation of our culture does us NO favours - it's not a good example of a successful society or nation but rather a cautionary tale of inequality, ignorance and social division, and violence. We need windows into all the diversity the works has to offer.

The erosion of the capacity for ABC/SBS to fulfil its charter is deeply disturbing. Our democracy is precious. Without a healthy fully funded independent media such as ABC we are in the hands of vested commercial interests and the very fabric of our democracy is imperilled. Full funding must be restored.

If government feels under scrutiny or threat by a free independent media it needs to look within its own ranks because integrity does not fear scrutiny.

I humbly request you protect our democracy and the future well being of our nation by preserving and supporting a fully funded, independent ABC.

Yours sincerely

Julie Ann Brunt

Julie B

VIC 4881

I rely on the ABC to provide non commercial news and entertainment. During 2020 (and prior) it has been a consistently reliable and informative news outlet. It is one that I can trust that is generally just news and not opinion. It also provides quality children's programs that my own children enjoyed and now my grandchildren enjoy.

Julie B

ACT 3055

I drive long distances on weekends and rely on the ABC news radio for reliable information and factual reporting. I would not have same level of trust and would not tune in to any Murdoch funded media given its well known strong climate denial stance and its more recent muddying of the important government messages on covid. Please strengthen the ABC and enhance its budget to continue its important legacy of much loved and respected non-partisan, balanced and reliable coverage. It is needed now more than ever esp. in these times of uncertainty and crisis. The ABC saves lives.

Julie D

WA 2600

I trust the ABC. I rely on their daily updates to keep me informed on local, national and overseas news. I trust their news. My grandchildren love listening and watching ABC kids. They love Emma from wiggles, Bluey and all other wiggles shows. And kids radio. I enjoy so many programs on the ABC. Their documentaries, nature shows and absolutely love Friday night to watch the garden show. I love listening to their podcast and conversations on Radio National and 720. In the car, I only listen to 720 or 810 radio national. I trust them. I am simply so disappointed the current government is hell bent to make it difficult for our ABC to keep operating.

Julie F

NSW 6006

I live in a regional part of NSW which, in the fires and the recent storms may as well have been remote Australia. We have been cut off for days with the fires - and cut off means no electricity, no running water (our tanks need pumps to make water flow to and through the house), no landline and no mobile. We had no way of knowing what was going on around us except for the local ABC and the local fire shed. The ABC was not only good for local necessary information (regarding road closures, if anyone in the outside world understood we were running out of food) but they were also essential to our psychological health. Just recently, we went through several days of cyclonic level wind, thrashing endless rain and the already fire and drought stressed gums and other large trees started falling...across important power lines. We were isolated again with no electricity, no land line and no mobile phone signal. Again the local ABC were our only form of working out what was going on and if we needed to do anything, and how long before we could expect the power back on. Again, a very practical support as well as a good psychological support.

The ABC is essential to all of Australia...the Australian Government needs to act like a government and not a privatised business looking to hack away at budgets for essential services like the ABC.

Julie H
TAS 2539

I rely on ABC on a daily basis for crucial information and analysis. I open the ABC app as one of the first thing in the morning (with coffee!) and once I am informed of the latest in Australia and the world I can get on with my day (I will check it a few times later during the day as well). It is crucial that everyone has free access to quality information and analysis to hopefully live in a better world

Julie J
NSW 7004

#REF!

We live in Gloucester NSW. The ABC have been vital in every aspect of our rural lives, especially ABC Regional Radio in their coverage of many issues - most critically the drought and bushfires in 2020. Then of course COVID - farmers and rural communities rely on the regional national news for so many critical reasons. Without the coverage and quality of journalism, the support through the devastation of the drought would have been minimal. Every day, all the older community members have their radio tuned in to ABC MidCoast - for the latest news and information. They set their clocks by it. Farmers rely on Landline and all the stock and rainfall info. It is reliable and pertinent to the district they farm in.

Destroy that reliability, the comfort of a trusted news source, the routine of rural life - you take the heart out of the community. Our rural firefighters, doctors and essential services rely on the broadcasts. The journalists are in touch with ordinary people and tell their stories.

As a former Mayor of the district, I always counted on the regional and sometimes national, radio and TV support so that our community and region were fully aware of what was happening. They are excellent, professional and impartial.

Bushfires raged around our region, my husband is in the RFS (retired GP) and was horrified with what he witnessed re the ferocity of the fires. Our rivers also ran dry, from the Barrington Tops watershed through to the Manning River, for the first time.

People were in total despair. The fires burnt for months. The exhaustion levels were dangerous.

Without the ABC coverage we would have been deeply affected by the inability to make sense of what was happening.

Gutting the ABC will badly affect rural and regional communities - seriously, lives could be lost by a lack of pertinent and timely information and also morally, people will be deeply affected by the loss of a trusted, known and deeply respected news source.

Our ABC needs more support now. More funding for rural and regional news outlets and their excellent reporters/journalists.

Julie L
VIC 2422

I live in a rural area where the power frequently goes off and mobile reception poor. The ABC, both radio and television, is critical to my sanity. I can stay informed, up to date, educated from a range of perspectives and entertained. It is absolutely essential during emergencies.

The funding cuts have already impacted adversely with so many top quality journalists and programs gone and repeats increased it is becoming depressing.

I want my taxes going to fund a reliable and top quality ABC.

Julie P
NSW 3825

I get 99% of my news from the ABC online. I trust the reporting and do not wish to see less investigative journalism that may result from funding cuts.

I live in a bush fire prone area and rely on the ABC at times of bushfire danger.

I have received most updates regarding COVID from the ABC and particularly find Coronacasts informative and believable.

I am not against free enterprise when it comes to innovation, technology and supply of goods, but with essential services such as news and analysis of current affairs, I distrust news outlets who have an agenda fueled by who owns them. I certainly do not trust social media as a form of reliable information.

Julie R
VIC 2264

Please do not reduce funding to the ABC we need them more than ever in these troubled times. The public broadcaster has shown its value time and time again in times of disasters...bushfires, floods and the current pandemic.

Over time as the emergency broadcaster the ABC has provided:

1. Life saving warnings and information during disasters.
2. In depth reporting of events as they unfold.
3. Ongoing coverage (often for months) of the effects of disasters.
4. opportunities for those affected to share their stories.
5. Information and support to communities as they respond and begin to recover

The importance of our commercial-free public broadcaster has been clear during the COVID19 pandemic. They have provided:

1. Complete, uninterrupted and ACCURATE coverage of Government press conferences.
2. Thorough analysis of the situation.
3. A wide range of opinion from experts.
4. Opportunities for listeners/viewers to ask questions and express opinions,
5. Emotional support and information for those experiencing trauma and emotional difficulties.

Some commercial media has spread misinformation, conspiracy theories and opinion which has encouraged sections of the community to question the very existence of the danger faced. Citizens who have flouted the regulations (resulting in the need for Stage 4 restrictions in Victoria) often repeat the words of these pundits, shock-jocks and commentators.

PLEASE DO NOT REDUCE FUNDING TO THE ABC...CONSIDER HOW AN INDEPENDENT ABC CAN BE BETTER SUPPORTED TO CONTINUE THEIR IMPORTANT ROLE IN OUR DEMOCRACY.

Julie R
VIC 3199

I am VERY concerned for the future of my ABC.

All my adult life I have listened to and watched ABC programmes.

I honestly feel that without it, or if it were so underfunded it had to stoop to inferior programming in order to survive, Australia would have a completely different character.

I rely on the ABC to provide me with the real facts, the truth about a topic, without the influence of interested parties, advertisers etc.

The ABC provides me with everything I need by way of information, entertainment, comedy, documentaries, education, arts news and a balanced, intelligent, insightful and unbiased view on all subjects. I don't feel as if I'm being preached to, or bullied into a certain way of thinking, or having an opinion forced on me. The ABC presents me with the facts. Its investigative journalism is absolutely world-class. More than a few 4 Corners programmes have presented the truth of a matter which makes ignoring the problem impossible.

The ABC is no light-weight entertainment entity.

The COVIC-19 pandemic is of great concern. The ABC keeps me informed of every step of the governments' (both federal and all state governments') activities and responses to the daily figures - new cases and deaths in each state. I see daily press conferences with each head of state and the prime minister.

ABC devotees are the most well-informed of all Australia's citizens.

I am a great AFL fan and Grandstand (radio) provides game-calling, discussion and analyses of games and payers.

I LOVE ABC FM Classic Radio. This has provided my entire classical music education. When the reality of the world becomes too much to cope with (as it has during this pandemic), I can turn to ABC FM Classic and lose myself in the beautiful music.

In short, I could not live satisfactorily without my ABC. Without it, this country would be without any cohesive, clarifying refuge. Its absence (or weakening) would severely undermine the "soul" of the Australian population. It is vital that our government value and support the maintenance of this absolutely INDISPENSABLE organisation.

Juli van den Driesen

Julie v

VIC 3135

The ABC both radio & TV provide critical & regular updates. They have accurate & scientifically based content to keep us in the picture eg Coronacast with Dr Norman Swan.

Explanations are delivered in such a way as to make the information readily accessible to the lay person

Julienne M

VIC 3122

I have relied on the ABC. For. Ever. When we were children it was radio. Since being back in Victoria for 15 years I have relied abc tv to bring me the truth.the news programmes 730 etc are just so good .also I love the entertainment too. Gruen, Wednesday night shows.

If the government cut any more funding I will no longer watch the big screen especially the distorted biased rubbish on Murdoch press

Juliet P

VIC 3677

The ABC is the only reliable source of news. When hearing news from other sources it is always sensationalised to the point of being misleading. ABC local radio and ABC classic get me through the day and night and are an integral part of my life. And the dramas and comedy on ABC TV are always of a very high standard,

We must protect the ABC so we can get reliable information especially through the trying times we have had with bushfires and Covid 19.

June D

WA 3207

The ABC means so much to me and my husband. We tune in to the radio station each morning and on Sunday have favourite programmes that we love to listen to as we do chores inside and outside the house. The programmes keep us so well informed on local and national levels and it is so welcoming not to have constant interruptions of painful advertisements. The same can be said of our favourite ABC TV programmes. We feel we have great coverage given to situations arising within our country and on the international front as well and it is good to receive well balanced information and stories. Movies and mini series have given us a wide selection of choices. The most important feature offered within this broadcasting network is that the programmes are well balanced and fair resulting in presenting listeners with broader perspective views and opinions which is so sadly lacking in today's society. It plays an important role in our daily life and feel it is absolutely crucial that funds are not cut and the high standards we now enjoy, are not jeopardised in any way. May the ABC retain its high standards and continue on in such a way, for many years to come!

June K

QLD 6023

Free to Air TV is so bad we don't watch it.

The ABC is our main source for news and current affairs.

We vacated our home twice last summer due to the possibility of fire. Neither time did it actually happen but it was the ABC we were tuned into to get reliable information.

I will take to the streets to voice my support for the ABC.

John Spehr

Doonan, Qld 4562.

June S

NSW 4562

I used to Rely on ABC for insightful information free from the propaganda. Now it just seems like it has the same spin as the rest of mainstream media.

Happy to broadcast the same old govt. and Health department spin without proper investigation.

Even though there have been back flips, contradictions and lies through out. As long as there is fear the ABC will go with it. Real journalism is lost. Stories of hundreds of Indonesian children dying of Covid but with no source, no names or hospitals or doctors or province names mentioned is just one example of the fear ABC is spreading with no evidence behind it

The **ABC** has shown no govt. data comparison of stats compared with influenza.

No talk of all the consequences and deaths contributed by m the lockdown and if these consequences were weighed into discussions before the lockdown.

No current death stats of other issues that this lockdown is causing.

No scientific evidence about masks even though we were told masks don't work, now they do ?

No reason why lockdown, even though originally it was to flatten curve so Hospitals could cope, what's the reason for it this time ? Why isn't ABC asking questions or explaining it ?

So, ABC, probably a waste of money funding you if you only want to sell the same propaganda.

Unless, all these stories were because ABC had lost its funding and they've just been regurgitating mainstream,

And now they want to go back to NORMAL and ask the hard questions, show real science, publish real data, Then funding the ABC properly will be worth it.

Thanks anyway

Justen A

NSW 2261

The most reliable news service is the ABC. It is quality journalism, fair and impartial. Its current affairs, science and nature programs are unequalled. Its drama is very fine indeed. The ABC should be fully funded. I will never vote for a party that cuts funding to the ABC.

Justin F

NSW 2060

As an Australian citizen I am concerned with the Conservatives' constant attacks on the integrity of the A.B.C. The A.B.C. belongs to us all and represents a strong independent voice. I have been an avid A.B.C. media user and the recent bushfire and COVID crises show why we need a well-funded, properly resourced A.B.C.

The A.B.C IS balanced in its reporting, the fact that it has the audacity to criticise whichever government is in power is one of its greatest strengths.

Justyn R

VIC 2327

I watch and listen to them daily without fail. I trust my ABC BROADCAST where our tax payers money support it. Cutting the funding of ABC for geo-politic reasons is like cutting the lifeline information for many Australians especially the rural Australians in time of crisis like the previous bushfires, floods and other natural disasters and currently the COVID pandemic. More funding saves more lives for ABC.

Ka Sing C

NSW 3132

When we were fleeing from the bushfires on 2 January 2020, I listened to the ABC for most of the seven-hour crawl up the Snowy Mountain Highway to Cooma and through the smoke to Qeanbeyan. The ABC kept me informed of the road conditions and that the fire near the Monaro Highway wasn't a threat. It was very reassuring. For the rest of that terrible month the ABC gave us reliable frontline coverage. You wouldn't get that from the Murdoch media. Shame on the Coalition for defunding our honest public broadcaster because of lobbying from a climate change denying media dynasty! Climate change caused those fires, and the ABC keeps reminding us of the science. Our leaders need to watch the ABC, not Fox News!

Kai J
VIC 2546

ABC is my go to for daily news. It is as objective as a news organisation as it can be, compared with commercial alternatives. COVID-19 reporting has been clear, and leaves out a lot of the emotive and harmful finger pointing in other publications.

Kai Y
NSW 3055

The ABC has been my constant news source through all this Corona craziness. It has also been my source of entertainment for everything non-corona related.

The ABC has employed me during this difficult period, without the ABC I wouldn't have a job!

There is no Australia without the ABC. I don't want an Australia without the ABC.

kaite m
QLD 2026

We live west of Roma and if it wasn't for the ABC we'd have no news of any value since the Murdock press is the only thing that is available to the less intellectual of the area.

If the ABC is further abused by these morons, I hope the first things to be killed on ABC radio and television will be the Country Hour, Landline and the market and livestock reports.

Defunding the ABC is an ideological push by the ultra right neo cons of the IPA and LNP. Removing all country focussed broadcasting will really only effect the voters of the right.

Kangaroo J
VIC 4467

We all need choice and I like variation and the abc is one station I turn to.

It would be a mistake for the abc to not be there.

Funding needs to continue to give the public choice and to give this media a great chance to survive.

Cheers karen:grin:

Karen B
NSW 3220

I cannot imagine what I would have done without the ABC in 2020. All my family both nuclear and extended relied heavily on the unbiased and truthful news reporting throughout the fires and the pandemic. My teenagers especially, have felt so supported and connected through Tripple J, through times that have been equal parts terrifying and lonely. The escapism of TV comedy and drama, the information, the music all are the basis of our Australian way of knowing ourselves, they sustain us and show us who we are. Don't touch our National prize - don't let this be your legacy, destroying something which we are all so incredibly proud of. There is no numerical value that can be placed on national identity and unity.

Karen F
NSW 2515

ABC has been a part of my life as a child growing up, and remains the only source of news I rely on as my children have grown. The New Year fires were A time of great uncertainty and as we were staying our property in rural Victoria- as we could see the glow of the fires north East of us we relied on the ABC to give us regular updates in a calm clear voice . More recently Dr Norman Swann helped me understand the Coronavirus and changes I might need to make at work for the safety of my team, while the journalistic excellence of Lee Sales and the 7.30 team, and 4 Corners have helped shed light on what has gone wrong and how we might prevent it in the future. ABC news is so much more than short sensationalist bites and serves to inform in a balanced way. My husband has differing political beliefs to myself, but we'd both never watch any other news .

Karen G
NSW 2046

While fires raged near our home in Bermagui in early January the ABC was the only contact we had with the outside world. Power was down for a week so no internet and mobile access was down. We were glued to the ABC on a battery powered transistor radio. It was the only thing thru the ABC that kept us informed of what was happening and whether or not we may have needed to evacuate. The Federal Govt needs to recognise the vital part the ABC plays in regional Australia and fund it accordingly. Spend more on the ABC not less!

Karen J
NSW 2546

During the pandemic, whilst the Australian Prime Minister sought to further DIVIDE the states and territories, the ABC sought to UNITE Australians by providing in-depth current news, programs rich in culture for all nationalities, comedy and entertainment.

Karen L
NSW 2508

I watch the ABC News, the morning show and Foreign Correspondent and a plethora of other shows. The ABC on air people are easy to connect with, they are real both i their reporting and in their dedication to their job. They are not some over hyped up person with a voice that sounds like scratching glass on tin that wants to sensationalize events that can have a lasting effect on everybody. . The ABC kept us up to date with the bush fires, we had family that were affected, and throughout the COVID pandemic the reporting has been calm not full of reporting that would cause stress. My sister is deaf and she watches the ABC as it has captions and she enjoys the content. All the on air presenters seem like they enjoy their job and are keen to report the real news, as real as it can be in Australia. I do not watch any other news service.

Karen L
SA 2486

- My family live in a semi rural area and we rely on updates from the ABC during bushfire events and disasters. We get information clear and concise. This is our reputable choice of information.
- We are avid watchers of all current affairs on the ABC for up to date information with integrity and honesty unlike the commercial versions.
- We watch the ABC for programmes about our country such as Australian Story and Four Corners, Compass. It also presents some of the best in Australian drama shows, which we watch regularly.(Operation Buffalo)
- the Breakfast program is the most superior on TV as we have unbiased information with informative and current affairs at the top of the show. Journalists are precise and challenging to the interviewees. We are assured it is for the information they seek, not the advertising dollar. They are not their to make friends but to get the information required!
- to my family the ABC is crucial for both news information and entertainment.
- we don't watch the commercial stations they are trash , and that is what it is TRASH absolutely!!

karen m
NSW 5162

In a nutshell when I am wanting the facts, accuracy and researched information I go to the ABC. If another news story makes its way onto my feed I will use the equivalent ABC story to cross reference so I can be accurately informed. I feel that the ABC is trustworthy and the only media voice telling the truth as information, not profit is the business of the ABC

karen O
NSW 2096

If money is the issue start running Government advertising on the ABC it has the highest reach of any television station and they would save millions in advertising costs.

We need the ABC, it builds a better more engaged community.

Karen R
WA 2257

As 77 year old aged pensioner who has had to stay at home during the pandemic, I have relied on the ABC for up to date information and news and analysis via Radio National. As well, I depend on RN for entertainment with Australian content from programmes like Conversations with Richard and Sarah. Classical music is an important part of my life so Classic FM is essential at any time but even more so during isolation.

The emergency service was critical to friends at Cobargo whose house was gutted in the summer fires and very necessary for my daughter who lives on the edge of a reserve on the scarp in Wollongong.

The ACB needs a budget increase, not a cut to force "efficiencies" to maintain these services.

Karen Rooksby.

P. S. Some new content on ABC TV would be nice, too.

Karen R
ACT 6014

I have relied on the ABC to deliver excellent tv and radio programs that are Australian made and content. There is so much rubbish on tv with the exception of drama and comedy that has now been sold to other channels. This should tell you how good they are to provide shows with little budget that exceeds the quality of other channels.

I have always used the ABC to provide up to the minute news that affects myself , family and friends. We especially relied on it during the recent bushfires, especially when we were travelling to meetup with family in the hunter and Foster areas, as well as Mansfield Victoria.

With so much "fake news" out there thrown at me by family, friends and dodgy news items, I depend on the ABC to hold those in power accountable and provide researched news. This has been very true in regards to keeping up to date with COVID19 crisis that affects us all in our work and family life.

In summation, nothing else provides the quality content in one place like the ABC does. In these times where we find we need to rely even more on homegrown for everything from food, medical, fuel, community support, we should be promoting the one media that uis essentially by Australian for Australians. No brainer!

Karen S
NSW 2620

The ABC has been my key source of information during COVID. The information is good, reliable and based on evidence.

Do not see the sensationalizing as in commercial channels. I know friends in Shoalhaven relied on it during the bushfires, it saved lives.

My family watches ABC a lot. The majority of our favorite shows are on this channel. Loved all the program during Covid. Love the drama, crime and comedies.

Friends OS have checked in to Coronacast on ABC for reliable information

ABC was a lifesaver when my kids were little the kids content is great.

Reporting has helped me to understand issues and to advocate at a local level to MP's, love the Australian content and focus.

We need a well resourced and supported national broadcaster. Corona virus had emphasised the value even more.

Regards
karen TS

Karen T
NSW 2500

I am deeply shocked that the Morrison government is trying to strangle our wonderful and beloved ABC. It is tantamount to genocide as we all rely on the ABC for everything from flood warning to bushfire alerts and now Covid 19 alerts. Not to mention the only objective news left in the country and wonderful documentaries.

Karen W
SA 2481

I am vehemently opposed to any funding cuts to the ABC.

I rely solely on ABC news as a trustworthy source of Australian news. I do not watch or read any other news sources. I do not trust commercial news sources who are known to have bias and the desire for power which plays out in selective reporting and editorials that push a certain political viewpoint. I only trust the ABC for true reporting.

I also rely on the ABC to produce Australian content that represents our unique culture. This is vitally important as there has been erosion of our culture by the impact of American tv and news. Our voice is multifaceted, multicultural and diverse and distinct. Our children need to see themselves and their experience represented so they can be validated and uphold our Australianness.

This has been my view for many years. Every funding cut to the ABC represents to me a loss of culture, a loss of values, a loss of hope and there is nothing to restore that. There is no other avenue that meets those cultural needs.

Every funding cut leaves me with the feeling that the government have no idea how to lead Australia. To devalue and undermine one of the flagship Australian cultural icons shows a complete lack of understanding and respect of what makes Australia great.

Australians want an independent voice. That's part of our make up. We want to make our own decisions based on unbiased reporting. We have never wanted to be puppets of greater political or cultural institutions. We want to do it our way and that means we need the ABC to be there, reporting on things that are important to us. We want to know what is happening in rural and urban areas so we can feel our heartbeat. From bushfires, human rights issues overseas and at home, whistleblowers, everyday stories, drama, Covid-19, we want to know how it really is and we want to know how our Australian brothers and sisters are going and we want to be told by the ABC our Australian voice, who rises above the muck of commercial media enterprises.

Karen Y
QLD 5074

I just need to tell the government that as far as I'm concerned the most reliable channel is the ABC. We tune into ABC24 in the morning to catch up with what's gone on in the world overnight and suffer NO advertising and constant interruptions. I am not interested in commercial channels. Journalists around Australia the world are 'reigned in' to give us the latest information on events. We can get news all day on ABC 24.

Then for entertainment, the ABC or SBS are my go-to stations. Absolutely love Australian and British drama. The commercial stations feature a lot of American drama, which has no appeal to me.

I see our ABC as an essential service.

Karen & Lyal P
ACT 4703

#REF!

The ABC provides an essential service to all Australians in so many ways. They were indispensable during the devastating bushfires and have continue to play an indispensable role in keeping us informed about Covid 19. They provide impartial services that commercial media is not capable of doing and often doesn't has a monetary incentive to do so. Now that the \$11 b arts industry has been decimated it would make real economic sense to fund the ABC to be able to provide a multitude of programmes with Australian content. This would provide employment for our actors, writer, film crews, graphic designers etc. These people, rather than having to draw unemployment benefits, would then all be paying tax to the Govt and creating programmes that could be exported. The best way to encourage tourism is through our film industry. It is way more effective than expensive advertising campaigns. The rise in tourism in New Zealand and Scandinavia can be directly attributed the their film and television industries. Think Lord of the Rings and Scandi Noir etc.

Kari H
NSW 3127

300 hundred acres hit by the drought and trees dying. Bush fires burnt 5 of our buildings. Torrential rain washed the top soil away as ground coverage was gone. Covid-19 is a a terrible disaster. How to compare them all. The ABC has kept us all sane and has been a great comfort.

Karin A
ACT 2429

Isolated in my bus house, the classical music helps me through the sleepless hours. During the fires the AGC was essential. Dr Swan et al keep me informed about the current plague. Despite the shocking cuts, while the vulgar and ignorant commercial stations are given taxpayer money! Also, though sometimes ABC staff seem afraid, hence too compliant, still I depend on it (and the BBC) to keep myself grounded and up to date. I also feel less lonely and despairing hearing intelligent people speak to me, saving me from an illusory solipsism.

Karis M
VIC 2622

90% of my radio, podcasts, television is with the ABC. I pay taxes too and I want these used to fully fund the ABC. In a world where it is hard to find what news is accurate and factual and what is in deed news the ABC stands out in providing this. The ABC has been crucial in it's factual coverage of Corona Virus.

The ABC in my view seems to be the only news organisation that holds our politicians to count and keeps our democracy strong.

We must keep the ABC fully funded and stop these cuts by stealth. The Murdoch press must not have any say in how OUR ABC is run. It is totally unacceptable that the coalition government is allowing a foreign company to have any influence on OUR ABC.

Karyn Stevenson

Karyn S
VIC 3777

There is no excuse not to fully fund the national vital ABC. We the majority rely on ABC radio and TV. We strongly support our taxes fully funding such an essential service.

Kaspa E
VIC 3018

2020 has been a destabilising and stressful year, and the ABC has been an essential source of accurate information for my family during this time. We are indebted to the organisation for maintaining a high standard of independent journalism despite funding cuts and for helping us stay safe during multiple mega-scale emergencies. In a time of so much misinformation it's never been so important to have a publicly-funded ABC that can hold state and federal governments to account. Please make sure there are no further cuts and restore previous funding arrangements so that the ABC can keep doing it's essential, life-saving work.

Kat L
QLD 3070

When the coronavirus pandemic started, I downloaded the ABC news app onto my phone. Until then I hadn't felt the need for it but as the pandemic events unfolded, I wanted to be informed about the facts without the sensationalist nonsense of mainstream media.

Kate B
NSW 4178

The ABC is an essential community service that can not afford to be stopped back any further. The ABC is hugely influential in my life, not only it is a reliable impartial source of news and media but a wonderful enriching source of cultural information. I listen everyday to news and the arts programs on radio national at 10 am weekdays, let alone interviews on all topics during the day. The ABC isn't just a broadcasting institution but a essential part of Australian life, it should be protected on all accounts. I feel very strongly about this, and I am not alone.

kate d
NSW 2204

I have relied on the ABC for many years now to receive true in depth reporting on all sorts of things. However this year, in particular, I have thoroughly relied on the ABC for up to date news that I know is reliable. With the Murdoch press becoming more and more looney and unreliable, I truly don't know where I'd turn without the ABC for truthful journalism. It needs to be funded properly so that their amazing work can continue.

Kate E
VIC 2785

In the past couple of years more than ever I have relied on the ABC to provide factual, clear and non biased news, emergency broadcasts and current affairs. No other media outlet is willing or able to provide this. It is crucial that all sides of all news are presented so that we as the people can understand the world we live in and how it fits with our ethics, values and plans for the future. The ABC also gives Australian actors and producers opportunities like no other media outlet, so that they can show our country and then the world how good Australian talent is. This means better opportunities for Australians on the world platform.

Kate F
WA 3144

I am writing to implore you not to continue to cut funding of the ABC, and to reduce current cuts against it. The ABC is a vital resource, during corona it has been a lifeline, and through all things it is a reliable and trustworthy source of news and information. I believe it is a bastion of honesty, and without it we risk becoming another fix news nation.

Kate J
TAS 6163

I've been listening to the ABC for all my adult life, starting in the country where all country people rely on the news, in-depth analysis, discussion from a variety of views, fearless investigation, fairness, support and community. There's no where else in the multimedia platform where there is that consistent relationship and trust towards a media source. Recent examples of crisis, bushfires, floods disasters the ABC is exemplary in supporting us, the community. It is nothing but shortsightedness to cut the ABC. One can only be suspicious of those who agenda it is to knobble and disenfranchise the Australian public by weakening the ABC. Less shrill shock jocks, less reactivity and negativity in the commercial media realm value and protect the quality of the ABC and journalism I say. Kate

kate m
NSW 7000

I'm a dedicated follower of the ABC's various services who lives in a small community on the Coffs Coast of NSW. I am very concerned and dismayed about the underfunding of our national broadcaster, the ABC.

I've chosen the ABC all my adult life (I'm 66) as I believe it to be the only trustworthy broadcaster of reliable news (with the possible exception of the SBS), and the only source of quality Australian-made programming that has no commercial aim.

Though regularly accused of a left-leaning bias, I believe the ABC aims for, and mostly achieves, balance in reporting and commentary, and is in line with my own liberal democratic views.

I wonder, where will the Australian community go for content such as Fact Check, Q&A, balanced political commentary and quality educational programming for Aussie kids in the future, if inadequate funding of the ABC is an ongoing reality?

I demand that the Government abandon its plan to further reduce the effective reduction in funding of the ABC in the forthcoming October budget, and I demand further that it commit to restoring the already cut funding.

Yours in solidarity with the ABC,

Kate S
NSW 2456

My particular story relates to using the local ABC for information during the bushfire emergency in the Bega Valley. This was the way I was able to keep up with what was impacting us through my battery radio. These were terrifying times during which it was the ABC who kept us informed.

Kate T
NSW 2546

I check the ABC each day. I need it for news about COVID, bushfires and local events - the other networks don't cover this information clearly or comprehensively. I also value the ABC because it has real local content with stories about Australians. Other networks don't invest in our stories because it's cheaper to use ideas and formats from overseas.

The criticism by commercial networks that the ABC gets an unfair advantage is ridiculous given they've been dealing with that landscape for decades. A government owned, well resourced broadcaster is a key feature of a functional democratic nation, particularly now that reliable broad based Australian news sources are drying up.

Kate W
VIC 2000

The ABC is Australia's and my go to provider when you want to hear the facts. For me the 7.45 news is a must as I drive to work to start at 8. It has kept me in the loop in regard to the quickly changing landscape with cover-19 on a local scale. I love hearing local presenters talking about local issues and then I love to switch to radio national for the news on stories on a national perspective. Recently we lost our local newspaper, and so our local ABC radio station has become even more important to stay informed.

Kate W
VIC 3937

The ABC is my longstanding go-to for reliable, independent news and current affairs and for smart, funny, local and international entertainment.

It's my most trusted source of information, especially in a crisis, which we've had back-to-back in the past year - from the climate and extinction emergency to the bushfire crisis and more recently covid 19, recession and Black Lives Matter.

I'm a daily listener/viewer/reader spanning radio, podcasts, TV and online.

I've been paying taxes for 33 years and I strongly support increasing the ABC's budget to at very least reverse a decade's cuts and restore a now damaged and vulnerable institution that most Australians love and trust.

We all need a strong, healthy, independent ABC that's properly resourced to meet its charter obligations. In a shrinking media landscape with tumultuous change happening worldwide it's never been more important for everyone throughout Australia to be able to access well researched news and analysis as well as distinctly Australian story telling from across this huge country.

Successive governments have cut the ABC'S budget out of ideological objections to one of its central roles in our society: holding power to account. That's dangerous with democracy demonstrably under pressure here and worldwide.

A well funded ABC helps us maintain a healthy democracy, understand ourselves as a nation, embrace our diversity, reconcile Indigenous and non-indigenous Australia, debate the big issues of the day and come together for a celebration and a laugh. That's money well spent, regardless of your political ideology.

Sincerely
Kath dolan

Kath D
NSW 3044

I am most grateful for the daily podcast Coronacast with Tegan Taylor and Dr Norman Swan. Every day I listen to the news, very balanced information, new research and answers to listeners questions. This way I found my way out of a panic mode quite early, because I know I can trust the ABC, their reporters and the high quality of background research and presentation. As members of society in a crisis we need unbiased and relatable information which the ABC is providing.

We need you, ABC!
Your daily listener,
Katharina

Katharina K
NSW 2035

I rely on the ABC for ALL of my TV news. It is essential. Please restore funding - indexed. Australia will be left much worse off without a viable ABC - especially now, when we really need it. Please, do the right thing. Make our tax dollars work FOR us.

Katherine D
VIC 2069

I find Many of the ABC stations interesting and spend alot of time listening to Classic fm as communte between jobs as a community support worker. Alot of Youth I am close to enjoy triple j as do I. I rely on the central Victorian ABC news updates and other segments, which focus on local issues, eg Fiona Parker.

I prefer the Presentation methods of the ABC broadcaster, and find it very difficult to listen to the sensationaling presentation of the Commercial stations, which make a mockery of the current circumstances, and fuel My rogue mind, which internally chatters that there is something more sinister going on then what is being said.. I grew up in Remote Australia, where few other braodcasters reached. Also the podcasts, and some new digital formats I find are integral to the maintenance of a neutral media link. I would cry a river and My mental Health would suffer if the ABC has to endure any further cuts, and fuel My concern for free speech, as the administation of the country tries to feed the hand of the Corporates, whom are running them. and the Power invested in the administration at this time is very scary.

katherine I
NSW 3523

I have always relied on the ABC for trustworthy news and I sought it out even more over the past summer to get information about the location and strength of the bushfires, particularly as I had a family member who was in an area directly affected by a bushfire for a time.

But I have relied on the ABC even more heavily since the onset of the Coronavirus. Every day I check the ABC's live feed to get up-to-date information about what is happening. My husband and I are in the 'high risk' category and this is vital information for us. In particular, we have relied on the Coronacast, the ABC daily podcast presented by Dr Normal Swan and Tegan Taylor. This provides reliable and objective information about current research and answers the listeners' questions, of which there are many, all in an accessible and user-friendly manner. Given the plethora of disinformation and crazy conspiracy theories on social media about the virus this podcast is worth its weight in gold.

It's not just that I rely on there being an ABC; I rely on there being an ABC which is sufficiently resourced to provide all the services that it currently does, including the information which is a matter of life and death to me at the current time. I hate to see the ABC struggling with limited resources and all because of the short-sightedness of certain politicians. The ABC is a treasure. It really is one of the best things this country has going for it. I might add that I'm writing this while listening to ABC Classic FM on the radio. Every day at this time, the presenter (Alice Keith) plays a piece of music requested by a listener as an expression of love and gratitude for someone else who is out of reach under the current restrictions. People have asked for music to be dedicated to family members and loved ones. They have also asked for music to be dedicated to health workers, aged care workers and their children's teachers. I have teared up more than once while listening to this segment. This is my ABC.

Kathie F
VIC 2119

I have relied on the ABC for over 40 years as it's helped me stay up to date with the latest in factual news. It's been especially valuable this summer during the bushfire season to ensure we stayed safe and up to date with all the issues that could have taken out our property. And the ABC is the best place to remain updated based on the situation with the Coronavirus.

The ABC is our Australian Broadcasting resource and I don't want the Murdoch Press to win and just look at the mess they are making via Fox News in the USA!!!

At this point, I think the Morrison Government should be increasing the budget of the ABC and I don't appreciate that the Liberal Federal Governments have reduced their funding.

Kathie W
VIC 3933

I am deeply grateful for the ABC. It's news is trustworthy (and actually newsworthy, unlike commercial channels) and current affairs programs are well researched and presented. For me, it's more informative and efficient to watch a few news programs, especially those providing context, than read the paper every now and then.

As well as news, I rely on the ABC for quality entertainment for my 2 young kids. In the night garden, Bluey, Octonauts and Go Jetters are terrific shows and well loved by all of us.

I am proud of our ABC and hope it receives every cent of funding it deserves. I am strongly opposed to any funding cuts.

kathryn H
NSW 3054

To the Federal Government,

I implore you to restore funding to the ABC on whom so many Australians rely for up to date, responsible & trustworthy news.

Just in this past year alone the ABC has provided us with constant information updates regarding the extreme bushfire events and coronavirus together with Governments' responses, help available to us, education for children at home due to school closures and a lifeline for regional Australians.

I've been listening to and watching the ABC exclusively for over 70 years as it has proven to be the most reliable, trustworthy & unbiased source of information,

Please keep it alive.

Kathryn L
NSW 2233

Hello

ABC is an integral part of my family's life. From the children's programs for my 2 year old son (3 cheers for Playschool) to the news service that was there for us through the disastrous bushfire season last summer, to the Global Covid-19 pandemic. We trust the impartiality of the ABC and admire the professional journalism....done on a shoestring budget over the last few years due to brutal budget cuts by the Government. For entertainment there's Australian Story, Gardening Australia, dramas/mini-series Julia Zemiro's home delivery...you get the picture; it's our go to station for entertainment and to keep us informed and entertained. I've worked hard all my life and have no issue paying my taxes...and I want a good portion of my tax payer dollars put towards the ABC as per \$ of my tax paid, I get the most bang for buck with it as the ABC is such an integral part of our life. I would go so far as to say that the funding of the ABC (or lack thereof) will be a major decider of how I vote at the next federal election.

Kathryn L
VIC 2085

As a person who lives in a bushfire area I constantly listen to the ABC for regular and vital information to keep me informed. I also work in a regional hospital and have been kept up to date with all things Covid. It is essential that we have access to such a vital service.

Kathryn M
QLD 3959

We cannot be without the ABC. So gutted that our general population have no idea what is real reporting and not Fake reporting.....Australia must have the ABC...it is us!. Sorry cant articulate any more....too pissed off!

Kathy K
VIC 4220

The ABC and television have always been a trusted source of information locally and worldwide. The journalism and presentation have always been of a very high standard and unbiased. This year, 2020 has been a tough year not only in Australia with our bush fires but worldwide with the Pandemic. If it wasn't for the ABC keeping me up to date with news and clarification on various situations I would have felt disconnected and unsafe, not sure of what really were the facts when we were in a crisis. It is imperative that the ABC have ongoing adequate funding to continue to offer high quality journalism and service to the Australian society. If we lose this we will get tied up in sensationalism and lose touch with reality as a society.
Kathy

Kathy L
NSW 3199

I live on the south coast of NSW and we were hit very badly by the bushfires. It was very scary and I cannot imagine what my community would have done with out the ABC during that time. The ABC was a lifeline for many, we had no power and relied on the local ABC radio to know what was going on. They were a vital role in keeping us informed and safe, and a comfort to know they were there. Making cuts to the ABC is scandalous and seen as a selfish political move.
Kath Rogers

Kathy R
NSW 2539

How our family loves the ABC - especially in 2020! Let me count the ways:

During these unprecedented times, we need unbiased, investigative and fact driven journalism. I know that I can always get that from the ABC. And so, since the bushfire crisis started and right through this pandemic, I have been checking the ABC news website over the day, tuning into 702 in the morning and watching the 7.30 report via iview after the kids are in bed.

As a family, Triple J cheers us up with their great taste in music and tolerant, funny and considered talk in between songs.

Classic fm (in my headphones) keeps me calm and alert while I work from home.

Of course there is all that great educational content on iview for the kids - handy for homeschooling! BTN in particular is a godsend to make learning about big topics entertaining.

And then there is ABC tv and iview with an amazing array of programs - perfect for an evening in lockdown or just to take our minds off the real world for a bit. Gardening Australia another godsend in this department!

So please no more budget cuts and please reinstate the recent funding cuts - our family relies on the ABC for our wellbeing.

Katie B

NSW 2120

In light of the incredibly important community service the ABC provides for all Australians, cutting its budget is unforgivable. I feel so strongly about this that it will be a key factor in determining how I vote at the next election. Please don't mess with the ABC; you're messing with our nostalgia, our authentic "voice", and the soul of Australia.

P.S Not to mention that my reliance on the ABC has increased enormously in 2020 because of the COVID19 nightmare.

Katie H

NSW 2064

The ABC is the only reliable, trustworthy media we have in Australia. They keep the public inform with accurate reporting that is balanced, represents ALL Australia and is particularly important for regional and rural areas.

They kept us informed and safe during the bushfires and now COVID. SHAME on you for making it harder and eroding their ability to continue doing this. We NEED the ANC to keep being funded properly and your plan is not going to do that.

Katie M

NSW 2479

Like many Australians I rely on the ABC for up to date and unbiased news, especially in a local context. This past summer I was holidaying with my family in Jervis Bay. As the fires approached our location we slowly lost internet, then mobile phone coverage and were dependent on ABC radio for updates and notices to shelter in place. Without the vital services of hardworking ABC journalists and staff we would've been quite literally in the dark and in fear of our lives.

When we found out that the emergency services provided over summer are not given their own discrete funding we were appalled! For us city slickers bushfires are not a part of life, but for these communities the ABC updates are the difference between life and death - between evacuating on a safe road or driving into a fire front by accident.

This is just one example of why we need to properly fund the ABC. They were there for us - now we need to be there for them.

Katrina B

NSW 2049

I am one of the many Australians who rely on the ABC for so many things. I trust the ABC to give me real unbiased reports about the things that matter to our wonderful democracy. In these times when many people blindly trust their social media feeds, the ABC is dependable in telling the real evidence-based accounts. If the ABC continues to be defunded we risk a serious threat to our delicate democracy; if real news (not propaganda) is denied its place in our society the very fabric of our society will be undermined and we'd lose the very qualities we value in this wonderful country. Please help us be proud of our country and restore funding to our beautiful ABC.

Katrina R

NSW 2500

Ive been with limited social contact for 8 mths. I have the A.B.C. tuned in 24/7 radio and t.v. My daughter calls me daily to see how i am, but its the long nights that are filled in by Phillip Clark and Nightlife, the daily talk backs that keep me interested in others opinions . I rent a small place at \$315. Per week the A.B.C. keeps my mental health balanced as i hear of others like myself. Through our National broadcaster im given choices information and local support. My family survived Black Saturday fires in Victoria and they did so by information and coverage by the A.B.C. I sincerely miss BarryMt.Isa who always declared that the A.B.C. was a wonderful organization and deserved more funding. I cant live without IT.....

Kay L
NSW 2256

My story is brief. The ABC news service both on both television and radio is my only 'go to' when i want the latest NEWS on anything that is happening locally or internationally. I trust it. I trust the reporters. 2020 has been a year of major disasters Australia wide.i.e. bushfires, drought, floods, a pandemic the likes of which we have not seen before. Political turmoil rages world wide and the one trusted hand on the tiller guiding and advising us through these times is the ABC. Where would we be without Four Corners investigative excellence or Q&A's weekly opportunity for discussion and debate on pressing issues. No more fund cutting please. We all need the ABC.

kay l
NSW 2257

The ABC is such a gem.
The only media to give us in depth detail about foreign affairs throughout the world.
Also the only media to cover all the detail we need in current affairs in Australia. The experts are interviewed, and the audience can judge the subject in order to gain an opinion.
Much of our media throws opiniated pieces out with no evidence.
The ABC employees are of a high calibre nomatter which area of media one is contemplating.

Kay M
NSW 2085

I live in the Jervis Bay area and during the Bushfire season I listened to ABC radio and TV on continuously. I trusted and relied on the information they gave as it was up to date and they were relaying information from the people in the field and people affected. It is not sensationalised like the commercial channels.
I seem to only watch SBS and ABC on the TV now. Their content is relevant, honest and up to date and does not 'Dumb down the Viewer' like the commercial channels.

Kay M
QLD 2540

Apart from the ABC being a great connection to me with 'real' current news (commercial stations don't show news it's just sensationalism and items to grab viewer) I rely on the ABC for wonderful entertaining shows such as Australian Story, Backroads, Aanh's Brush With Fame and it's many classy drama shows and series, which relieve the stress and worry of the current Covid situation. Please keep the funds coming to the ABC it's our lifeblood. Sincerely, Kay Ryan.

Kay R
NSW 4035

The only consistently reliable information on Covid-19 is provided on the ABC nightly news and the ABC website. It is always factual, accurate and free from hype. I know I can always trust it and act accordingly. As a national network it is crucial for informing everyone about issues across Australia.

Kay V
ACT 2021

I'm 88.8years old, I've had 3 house fires, fought several bushfires up close, been threatened by major fires in the Adelaide Hills, a Sth. Coast fire, the 2003 ACT fires and the Namadgi Fires and Airport fire which threatened Canberra this past summer. I was the Patron of the Mitcham Hills EFS and have sat on and made innumerable submissions to too many enquiries.
The ABC was an essential survival tool in the past and now with Global Warming, to diminish the ABC furthur is a serious deriliction of duty by this or any Government. Please responsibly fund the ABC again.

Kaye b
NSW 2617

In February 202 I moved to Brisbane to join my partner who had a contract with University of Queensland.

I found myself at home alone a lot. I began to listen to ABC Classical FM via the TV. Once Covid lockdown took hold, the ABC radio and news were my connection to the world outside. News of my old community and friends was available via ABC news.

Since my partner has returned to work, listening to favorite classical music on the ABC has helped me feel that I am in touch with friends. I still have very few sources of contact with my new community; ABC Classical is my old friend. I really appreciate it, it helps me get through the days.

Kaye G
WA 2540

I rely on the ABC radio and television for an overwhelming amount of my sense of security; ie. my well being, my mental health. A news and entertainment source free from political interference, a free press, is essential to my way of life and to our democracy.

The ABC and SBS are my reliable source of news and especially in a crisis such as the current Covid 19 pandemic and the lockdown.

The ABC is also a vital source of new talent, series and programmes which I rely on and add to my appreciation of being Australian.

The ABC needs funding to do more of the above, not less and not umpteen repeats of series and programmes.

Kaye Lake

Kaye L
WA 6159

The public's ABC provides crucial emergency service announcements, news that is reliable and DID provide employment and training for many Australians. We also relied on the ABC for quality Australian drama and documentaries as opposed to cheap, mind numbing reality productions on other stations. The cuts are another nail in the 'Arts' coffin with less quality productions. Is the purpose of the cuts to dumb down the public? That and secrecy seems to be this governments agenda.

Kaye L
VIC 6000

As a retired architect on an Aged Pension I rely [as always] on ABC news on radio & TV, especially during this corona lock down. I value reliable news.

There must be no cuts to ABC funding!

Keith J D Butler

Keith B
NSW 3199

I write to you to demand at least the same level of funding for the ABC as in previous years. Indeed I would suggest we need an increase in funding for the public broadcaster, certainly not a decrease. As newspapers shrink and die, I rely more and more on the public broadcaster for my news (usually accurate), current affairs (always of a high standard) and entertainment. Local Radio is invaluable in times of flood and other natural disasters. Local Radio still broadcasts some expert local opinion on these situations. This is life saving because we have found that the centralised SES and Fire Authorities lack or discount on the ground knowledge and at times, through their ignorance and arrogance, have dished out wrong information making matters worse. One only has to look at the disastrous floods that hit Lismore in 2017. In the old days Local ABC broadcast stream heights from a range of stations in the catchment areas, enabling farmers and other long term residents to form an accurate picture of what was happening. So they could take sensible measures in a timely fashion. In 2017, local people were making frantic phone calls to SES headquarters (Located 1000km to the south) telling them a serious flood was on its way. They were given a polite brush off and then, when the bleeding obvious became apparent, they enacted alarmist measures effectively shutting down the CBD and preventing many local business owners from moving their stock out of harm's way. This incompetence was reinforced by armed police. On the fire front, I found ABC coverage accurate, sensible and non-hysterical. Just good information on things like which roads were closed and when to "take shelter from the heat of the fire". In a "post truth world" it is more vital than ever that we have a well resourced public broadcaster who can get on with their charter of informing and entertaining, without the ever-present need to satisfy share-holder expectations and profit-making, which the private broadcasting and news service corporations are subject to.

Many of our human endeavours are better done by the state than by private enterprise. Public broadcasting should not be a dirty word any more than other loss-making areas such as public transport, health, education, welfare and defense. The neo-liberal dream has run its course. Let it die and keep funding our national treasures, of which the ABC can hold its head high in any company in any country. Stop defunding it and stop dumbing it down. And, lest we forget, the music on Sunday night Classic is divine, inspired no doubt by the "God who sings"!

Keith Gasteen

Keith G
QLD 2480

Whether it's bushfires, sociological awareness of emergencies, or factual reporting of the Covid-19 pandemic, only the ABC has provided continuous, detailed, factual coverage of events and the political and sociological outcomes, together with general relevance to all Australians.

Keith G
NSW 4212

The IPA is once again instructing the Morrison government to defund the ABC. Interesting, because Tom Switzer is employed at the ABC to give voice to the political right while conforming to the charter of independence to inform and entertain Australians.

While making his own views clear he does at least allow other points of view to be aired.

In our democracy the ABC has, and continues, to examine in public the policies and practices of governments of all stripes.

Yet it appears that the IPA wishes to muzzle any assessment of the conservative position on every issue. Why is this so?

Why has the phrase "commercial in confidence" now been extended to cover behaviours and performances of members of the government, especially those with executive power? What would a Commonwealth Independent Commission Against Corruption find against the government that the IPA wants to conceal?

Perhaps James Murdoch knows something...

Keith R A Smith
krasmith38@gmail.com

Keith S
NSW 2066

The ABC is the most trustworthy source of news in Australia. I am surprised the term "intellectual elite" is used as an insult by many in the commercial media where celebrity opinion is often given as much weight as scientific argument. We are on a slippery slope if this idea takes hold as it did in China under Mao and Cambodia under Pol Pot. Son of a baker and nurse and the first in my family to achieve a university degree (with honours) I am proud of being an intellectual and ashamed of the culture being created by the consumerism, victim blaming and trivia often presented as news on commercial outlets. We need a strong ABC to keep the commercial news outlets honest. As a democracy we cannot afford the mainstream media to slide into the fake news abyss dominating social media and political debate. Please restore ABC funding to previous levels and continue to maintain with CPI increases. Keith Swann BEHon, MBA, GDAGDAppScpSc, GDEd.

Keith S
QLD 2533

During Cyclone Yasi we were huddled in our cyclone shelter unable to hear anything but the jet engine roar and sound to debris slamming into our house. The category 5 storm had long since take out the local radio station and now the ABC radio was our only means to know what was going on outside. With no electricity there was no internet and by the next morning even the phone were all out. With the ABC's broadcast, we knew when to expect the eye of the storm and after what help we could expect and when. Whether the water was safe to drink and when the power and communication would be reestablished.

During the recent bush fires, the ABC was the only source of reliable information on where the fires were, which way they were heading and whether it was safe to evacuate. This saved countless lives as the phone network went out and communication was cut off.

Australia already has the most monopolized media in the world. We need the ABC as one of the few unbiased sources of news and opinions. Not to mention that I love the shows.

Kellie T
VIC 4860

I have always relied on the ABC reporting!

Kempson M
NSW 3130

WITHOUT THE ABC THERE WOULD BE NO GOOD NEWS. I ALWAYS LISTEN TO IT (THE ABC)

ken c
NSW 2770

I worked with ABC for 20years and I enjoyed every moment so I have not left their side.. Not a good comparison for your endeavours.

Ken M
NSW 2508

I listen to ABC Radio National 24/7 both day & night. I cannot imagine what its loss/reduction would be for my quality of life!Listening to RN is essential to the maintenance of my general sanity and well being as a citizen of this country.

ken m
NSW 2038

Our Family relies on the ABC for accurate news and warnings generally, but especially during Crises.
The Emergency News was invaluable during the Traumatic bush-fires in Nowra and especially for us in Bundanoon. and now through Covid19.

Kenneth C
NSW 2577

I rely on ABC as I live in the middle of a national Park. Without timely information I would feel much more exposed.

I prefer the abc for much of the content. It's investigative reporting is second to none. It even criticises itself at times which is refreshing.

I find other news injected with thinly veiled adds. Shallow reporting. In sky case outright lies and unbalanced bias while crying bias from others.

Kenneth F
VIC 2233

Please don't cut the ABC funds I can't live without the honest, informative journalism and that's without the incredible news they gave during those terrible bushfires and now COVID no other news would provide such essential detail.

Kerrie B
NSW 3437

During the black summer bushfire season of 2019 to 2020, the ABC news channel 24 and the local ABC radio station were the constants for reliable news regarding the Gospers Mountain fire for the towns of Wallerawang, Portland, Lidsdale, Oberon and Lithgow. Because I have parents in a Lithgow retirement village, plus caring for a farm and my husband away on work four out of seven days during this period, I was relying on these media outlets with the RFS "fires near you" app to keep me informed. I live ten kilometers away from the Mt Piper Power Station, and I was able to watch the massive airtanker souse the area, with the information from these sources to keep me in control. I would suggest to the federal government that they had no other established media in the central west that was as reliable, professional and up to date with the mores of these fires. If the ABC is dismantled any further, then on the government's head be it when more lives and infrastructure assets are lost.

Thank you.

Kerrie D
NSW 2847

During the past 12 months especially (but usually always) I rely on the ABC for all matters concerning safety notifications (fires, floods and now the virus), information about what is happening globally, political and Australia wide country knowledge and discussions to help understand our wonderful country. Landline and Gardening Australia guide my ever growing vegetable and fruit growing 5 acre garden. The ABC is my go to for so many things. I would be lost without my daily updates and weekly guides.

Kerrie G
QLD 2422

I watch ABC news every day as I find it reliable and clear reporting keeps me informed in a way that other stations don't.

I am a mature person, live alone and work for myself mostly at home. ABC plays a major part of my day to keep abreast of the news and current affairs and other social interest programs.

It became life-saving for me during the corona virus lock-down keeping me up to date at all hours of day and night.

It was also very helpful for my adult children to know about the ABC classes offered for those without internet or temperamental technology.

Kerry C
QLD 4114

During the lock down earlier on the year, I was enormously helped by the good humour and positive attitude of the presenters from ABC Classic.

I live alone and started my day with singalong at 0745 then we had dance class around 1100. Being able to laugh and move to music kept depression at bay.

I need the ABC!! for more than independent news.

Kerry G
TAS 4007

Living in semi-regional Tasmania, I like to receive local news that is produced here and has knowledgeable staff on local issues, of which the ABC is the best option.

The ABC is synonymous with trustworthiness, quality journalism and quality programming. I love that it supplies such a broad range of satire, locally produced tv shows and current affairs.

The Australian public's money is well spent in this institution. We need it, use it and it supports us.

Kerry G
NSW 7277

The ABC is the only source of information that I can trust. It brings me informative, real and truthful news. Keeps me up-to-date with what is happening around me.

During the bushfires the ABC told me where the fires were, which areas to avoid and most importantly I could see if my family and friends were in danger. It also let me know what I could do to help, who was doing what and just how close things were to me so that I knew in which direction to run.

Kerry K
VIC 2251

During this current pandemic I need to know the information I'm getting is reliable and without bias or prejudice. I think the ABC is the only TV /radio organisation which meets this criteria.
For most of my day either the radio or television is tuned to one or other of the ABC stations/channels.
The ABC is an essential part of my day during disasters.

Kerry O
NSW 3183

I am a missionary sister living in Rome, Italy, for the past 7 years. My work is to help our sisters in numerous countries (English-speaking) to document their histories.
Although I have lived outside Australia for long periods of time, I am always fiercely Australian and I rely heavily on ABC radio for most of my news and research.
I stream the ABC through my Samsung tablet and it is always loud and clear, comprehensive, unbiassed, scintillating, responsible and all I could desire!
Viva ABC !!!
Kerry SCANLON f.m.m.

Kerry S
TAS 2048

For many, many years I and my family and friends have relied on the ABC for accurate reporting, particularly during the devastating bush fires, floods etc., and Corona Virus.
And now your government intends once again to slash funding to the ABC even further!!!
Never, ever will we be voting Liberal again!!!
ABSOLUTE SHAME ON YOU!!!

Kerry T
NSW 7300

If ever there was a case for the continued funding of the ABC it has to be the invaluable role the ABC has played over the past year.

Namely, its accurate and trustworthy dissemination of information about the bushfires, Covid 19, local elections, plus economic and political analysis.

In a year of challenges, disruptions and disinformation, it has done so much to inform, support and build a cohesive community in unprecedented times. It has, and will continue (if funded correctly) to be the linchpin of Australian society.

Support the ABC, because Australia needs a trustworthy and professional public broadcaster.

Kerry W
NT 2038

#REF!

I've long relied on the ABC for local news .. breakfast on 92.5 with Scott Levi provides timely and accurate local news and events.

ABC was especially useful in providing up-to-date reliable information during the bushfires last summer.

And us again the only reliable media with news and updates during the Corona - COVID-19 pandemic ..

Proper funding of our national broadcaster is essential to prevent further deterioration in the service.

Kevin A
VIC 2261

Given the amount of misinformation floating around on social media, and the highly emotive and sometimes biased commercial media, we need a healthy ABC. During this pandemic, during the bushfires, during cyclones, the ABC saves lives! If we degrade the ABC we risk spiralling into a nation of conspiracy believers like the US. Cut the ABC at your peril. ABC viewers have long memories!! I can still hear Tony Abbott, "No cuts to SBS, no cuts to the abc".

Kevin B
VIC 3280

On many occasions I have attempted to submit documents to support the subject above but on each occasion it took weeks to get a response which she, thank you for your email but that subject does not fit our criteria. Are you kidding nobody will respond, nobody wants to know, The Prime Minister played Mrs Butros. Whom is certainly towing the liberal party line. Could you give her a prod, I think she is asleep at her desk. The ABC have bowed to the government and will not address the very subject put of which can expose crime and corruption and how the government relies on the same. To control the abc and in fact how they plant the right people to each statutory office to include IBAC Victoria, the AFP all of whom are groomed to support the system. You can't change the culture unless you actually start to investigate this matter given you don't know what you are up against and the real reason journalists are being attracted. It's your office that needs to get in touch with me if you really want to understand why Murdoch can walk over the abc. Get me a real investigative journalist and I will give you the power to reinstate the funding to a real and honest abc but they need to want it given Mrs Butrose is simply there for the money and a good retirement. I have documents which prove what I say and which will illustrate how the government, the Federal Police, and Statutory office Victoria have more than one Lawyer X of which once again the abc are too scared to disclose. Much more But only if you and the abc can cope with the truth

Kevin B
NSW 3939

2020 is a rising time of fires, floods and pandemics. Society more than ever needs the ABC as a multi-faceted reliable media source. Increased funds are required.

Kevin H
NSW 2060

I relied solely on the ABC for information during the coronavirus as I could trust what was written was true and not exaggerated or misrepresented. This is absolutely vital during trying times.

Kevin L
NSW 2101

I rely on the ABC for unbiased reporting of events Australia and world wide. Its coverage of bushfires, floods, pandemics and corruption is essential. Trying to cover up real cuts to its budget will influence my vote at the next federal election. The Murdoch share of Australian media is 85% and needs to be balanced out by one own network, our ABC

Kevin M
VIC 2121

I am reliant on the ABC to provide an independent and reliable news source. It is of vital importance in today's mixed and biased media reporting. It provides the most informative and up-to-date reporting on natural disasters and daily life. It is of critical importance to all Australians

Kevin M
VIC 3122

I'm 67 years old, live 3 ks out of Bendoc, on the Black-Allan Line. I had to evacuate twice in the last fire season : early January for a few days then again in February from memory. I slept in my car, sometimes in a friend's driveway, sometimes alone.

At my friend's place, we watched the ABC news channel, and when alone I could even find ABC news on my phone, but I mostly listen to Radio National.

Fires got too close to Bendoc and Delegate for my comfort, so one night I camped in Bombala and by the morning there were fires within 20 or 30 ks to the south and east, or so they said on the ABC, which turned out to be pretty close.

It certainly wasn't enough by itself to keep me as informed as I needed to be, and nor were the Vic or NSW emergency services apps by any means. Word of mouth was essential, and so was the ABC.

My son moved in with me early March to avoid the virus. He works in his room from eleven till five Monday to Friday as a public servant, a statistician. So I keep it fairly quiet around the house now, but we listen to the Drum and news at tea time, and a few other ABC programmes through the week, including some comedy. It's all the TV he tolerates, and, though he keeps in touch with his friends through zoom, the ABC is a great unwind for a 28 year old remotely locked down worker.

It has been with us since Doctor Who knows when, whittled away to the bone, but keeps delivering the bare essentials.

We can keep Australia global and unique, or bonelessly go with some ideal of a market; nothing but a compromised sales pitch, which is the commercial media.

Cuts must not be made to the ABC in the October 2020-21 budget: And I need more, in my old age, than the repeats, which are the inevitable result of cuts that have already been made.

Restore the ABC.

Kevin S

NSW 3888

i,KRVIN,- Want to see, JaiLeD, immediaTely, Australian PoliticiaNS WHO, ARE, - Tax-Payer's \$ s Thriving, TheiveS.

Kevin J. T

WA 2136

I have family over east, so abc helps me feel connected because you can see everything that's going on all over Australia and we can talk about it together on the phone. The abc is non biased, not attached to any political party/ agenda and its FREE! The abc belongs to Australia so leave it alone :angry:...

Cheers, kez

Kez H

WA 6147

ABC provides Nationwide News like the current Coronavirus and how different states are dealing with this pandemic.Before forest fires and areas of emergency.Abc is very important to the Nation,and funding should not be cut.

Kheng Su C

VIC 6005

This year, more than most, the ABC has been so important to our family.

First, we relied on the ABC for reliable, trustworthy news with regards to the bushfires.

Then COVID-19 hit, & again, we have relied heavily on the ABC for trustworthy updates & information.

Perhaps most importantly, however, during lockdowns, homeschooling & unprecedented restrictions, we have relied on ABC for Kids as a go-to for safe, educational programming for our young children. It is SO important to know that our kids are not being bombarded with ads & 'agendas', & no click bait at the end of a show etc. This has been so important for our sanity this year!

Please consider these stories from ordinary Australians when you discuss funding for the ABC in upcoming budgets.

With hope,

Kia Brusa

Kia B
TAS 3163

The ABC is really the only reliable radio broadcaster in Tasmania. The commercial stations are few and only in the main cities. They are pretty well useless to rural and remote Tasmania. We hear about everything we need to hear about from the ABC. It is amazing! And during emergencies it is absolutely essential. The same is true of the ABC in rural and remote areas of the rest of Australia.

Kim A
NSW 7250

My family live in the mid northcoast area of NSW (Coffs Harbour, Coramba, Nana Glen. We were all heavily reliant on the constant fire updates and reports, (only available from National ABC), during the savage bushfires 2019.

It is unthinkable, unimaginable that the ABC may not be broadcasting in the future, th services to the Australian people.

Kim D
NSW 2450

I rely on the ABC (and occasionally SBS) for ALL of my news and up to date and unbiased news and current affairs. Commercial stations do not come close to the ABC for independent, non biased reporting, great programs and raising topics that other networks are too afraid to tackle. Commercial stations often present their content using sensationalism or to appease or promote their advertisers. Every country needs an ABC equivalent, especially in the era of fake news, and to make budget cuts is an insult and a tragedy to everyone who turns to the ABC as they have done during last summer's bushfires and the current Covid 19 pandemic. These cuts are absolutely unacceptable. Surely the true value of our national broadcaster is obvious and common sense.

Kim D
NSW 2482

ABC it's the core of my day - I keep connected with the world, especially since working from home.

During the bushfires local ABC radio was there with me - keeping me informed about what was happening locally.

A vital resource for us all but really so crucial for those of us living in the bush - the essential link!

Regards
Kim Freeman

Kim F
NSW 2446

The ABC was the most reliable, and factual during the South Coast bushfires. After being surrounded on three side by the fire, and having family and friends in other bushfire zones, it was the ABC that gave us exactly what we wanted.

The Commercial. Channels were all hype and drama, with no thought on our reality. And that's not the news we want.

Kim H
NSW 2550

I understand the government is planning on cutting back on documentaries on the ABC. This is an important part of my viewing as commercial stations don't cover important content and I rely on the ABC to keep me informed on real issues. I have been disappointed in the continuous decline of comedy and drama on the ABC as I can remember the days of so much great viewing of Australian shows. We are so talented and should be celebrated not defunded.

Kim M
NSW 2481

The ABC has been part of my life for over 60 years since growing up in a rural country town with no TV. It has helped me keep abreast of things during periods of disaster such as bush fires and without it the ACT Bushfires of 2003 we would have been totally unaware of how close the fire was to our property and what to do when it had been left to burn unattended for weeks. I rely on it for radio when outside and TV for good drama although that budget seems to have gone. We should support local talent and our local industry having got rid of secondary industry in this country we will regret this decision in the future. Australian content should be encouraged with our ABC and surely it is worth more than 8c a day. It has always been independent but now I think it has been influenced by the political agenda and narrative in this country. Maintain a public broadcaster for the future of not only our identity but as a public independent service for all Australians.

Kim M
WA 2902

Hi, I don't have a story, but I know what I like and what is needed. What a democracy requires. Its a public broadcaster that tells the good and the bad that keeps us informed, tells the true story. Life as it is - people, govt, politicians. If there was no free to air public broadcaster we would only be hearing or seeing what BIG business, those with the MONEY what us to know. Where a buck could be made. We are already in a terrible place, the world today climate change is here and still govts have their heads in the sand.....because of corruption by BIG MONEY.

Kim M
NSW 6011

Thanks to the ABC, my husband and I have been able to access reliable, up to date information on events in Australia during the pandemic. This has meant a lot to us as we are currently living in London and have elderly relatives in Australia.

It has been so valuable to watch current affairs programs such as the Drum on a daily basis and to listen to various health reports from experts.

Kim M
NSW 2119

The ABC really is "our ABC". It means so much to so many. It has reliable news, thought provoking documentaries and important investigative journalism.

It's cover of the devastating bushfires was life saving for many and made me realise that I needed to make a bushfire plan as I live on the edge of a National Park.

Programmes like Four Corners, Foreign Correspondent, Q&A, Insiders, Landline, Back Roads and Media Watch, keep me informed of the issues and stories that are significantly important both here in Australia and around the world. Then there are the comedy programmes, The Weekly, Mad as Hell, that bring a sense of joy and laughter when you think the world is filled with pain and horror.

Our ABC must be properly funded and continue its work to inform us, make us think and make us laugh.

Kim M
QLD 2076

I live in a regional area and am dependent on the ABC. The ABC helped with information about the Bushfires, Pandemic, Political actions and government in general. We no longer have a local newspaper. We need our national broadcaster.

Kim v
NSW 4700

I am a volunteer with Mittagong RFS. I fought fires week in and week out from November 2019 to February 2020. ABC is an essential part of rural NSW. We cannot rely on for-profit radio stations to be there for us. We need ABC to provide local unbiased news all the time, but particularly in times of desperate need such as during bush fires. We will need them again in the future.

Kim Z
VIC 2576

We, the Australian population, own the ABC through our taxes. We do not have a more trusted news source - a source that is more likely to give a balanced reporting of events without the nudging of market forces. This is what we want to maintain. We do not want our community voice to be sabotaged by party politics or political ideologies. The ABC provides us with trusted emergency information which saves lives. GIVEN THE AWFUL PANDEMIC AND CLIMATE CHANGE CHALLENGES AHEAD OF US WE CANNOT AFFORD OUR PUBLICLY FUNDED VOICE TO BE ROBBED OF ANY MORE FUNDING. Instead we want more funding for our voice - THE ABC.

Kipps H
NSW 3084

From news in the car to news on the TV to news on the Internet -- the ABC is there for me.
Massive revelations by investigative journalism have uncovered corruption and political deceit continually. It is their job and they do it well.
They are suffering for performing well with budget cuts, of which I'm appalled. If the federal government can find 63 billion dollars to buy over-expensive, outdated and even antiquated military hardware we don't need -- then why can't it fund one of those billion extra on the ABC and do with one less submarine or fighting jet.
Like the 80s song sang, ♪ I want my -- I want my -- I want my ABC.♪ (You go Rage!)

Kirk S. H
QLD 2285

Please don't cut funding to the ABC for their news and reporting. In times of disaster I prefer the ABC as I find the other news stations go on to much about irrelevant stuff and too many sales ads. I don't agree with all viewpoints on ABC but I find ABC relatively comprehensive.

Kirsten S
WA 4352

Dear Mr Morrison and Government Ministers
I am a former newspaper journalist and now solicitor in Western Australia.
The ABC is the ONLY reliable source of properly practiced journalism that still applies the correct presentation of stories with balance and insight featuring highly in all news and news extra programs aired by the ABC consistently over the past years.
With humor perspective and truly understanding what the Australian people want and expect from our journalists, the continual funding cuts by this and past Liberal governments - death by a thousand cuts - is a national disgrace!
Most especially during the COVID19 pandemic, I have relied daily on the ABC's measured coverage to stay abreast of important developments, including most especially your Government's decisions and directives.
I also relied on the ABC's, SBS and NITV to provide coverage of the horrendous BUSH FIRES experienced recently, as well as for a proper presentation of the ongoing difficulties of our Aboriginal brothers and sisters just being treated the same standard as all other Australians, not least of which, in convening legitimate gatherings to highlight the gross and growing inequities in our society.
If this Government continues its appalling treatment of the ABC's journalists, administration, and most especially continues to MUFFLE the ABC by cutting and cutting and cutting its budget I will NEVER vote for ANY of your ministers again ever.
Please increase the FUNDING now for our national broadcaster we need these wonderful journalists like never before it is crucial to our democracy.
Thank you for your consideration of this extremely important matter.

Kirstine F
NSW 6163

The ABC belongs to all of us and we need Govt to, if you can't defend it, fund it, protect it. I and my family rely on the ABC for reliable quality journalism without bias and in the public interest. And that includes revealing stories about politicians and government process, even if you don't like it. This is where the ABC has been fearless and honest, something which sets us apart from dictatorships elsewhere in the world. You cannot deny that the Murdoch press cannot be relied upon to present the news without bias and private interest at the fore. Fund our ABC, we expect you, as our elected leaders to do this regardless of your personal opinion. Otherwise it becomes apparent that you have something to hide. Fund our ABC.

Kirsty F
QLD 2516

The ABC influences my life more than any other form of media. It is the mark of a civilised country to have a 'public broadcaster' and to have one that everyone trusts is a bonus....but the ABC is so much more than that. I have bought countless products, travelled to many destinations, attended concerts, restaurants and movies because I learned about them on the ABC. The reliable medical and scientific information and disaster updates are critical to our wellbeing as Australians. I feel like a better informed, motivated and educated person because of the ABC. Of all the things my taxes go towards, this is one of the most worthwhile.

Kisita J
WA 4500

I live in a fire prone area of the hills above Perth. When there is a fire in the area the ABC is my go to place for information - regularly updated and comprehensive. Classic FM is my delight and sanity. RN for intellectual stimulation and entertainment and of course 7.20 (local) for news and events in my local world. What little tv I watch - it is usually the ABC. I cannot imagine life without the ABC.
Catherine

kit H
QLD 6076

Hi, I listen to the ABC nearly every day and rely on it to get local, national and international news. I appreciate the high level of integrity in reporting, and the wide range of issues covered, such as a range Indigenous shows. I also like the connection it provides to other Australians through talkback and commentary from listeners. Please strengthen the ABC, don't cut it

Kris S
VIC 4102

As an older person who lives alone the ABC, both radio and TV, is very important to keep me in touch with my community and to keep me informed during the difficult times we have faced this year during the fires and the pandemic. I rely on it so much for both news and entertainment. It is an Australian icon

Kris S
NSW 3057

The ABC plays such an important part in my families life. It provides us with local Australian content, comprehensive news stories, unique and interesting journalism and insights into the world like no other. I have grown up with the ABC, as have my children. Please support this great institution and continue and develop their great work.

Kristen L
NSW 2107

Living in an extreme bushfire zone, every summer we rely on the abc for regular and accurate emergency information. This past summer they were absolutely outstanding and gave us such relief and security. Also during this pandemonium of Covid 19 we have heavily relied on abc radio Melbourne to keep us informed in an accurate and efficient way. It totally reassures is in very uncertain times that we have connection and balanced informations we cannot live without this!

kristi T
NSW 2048

Throughout the devastating bushfires over the Christmas period my best friend Rebecca had to evacuate with her husband and young son, four times from their property in Nabic on the New South Wales North coast. It was only through local ABC broadcasts on radio that she knew how to keep herself her family and her farm safe. Without the ABC having a local reporters and large regional headquarters that are properly funded, she and her family may have lost their lives. We need correspondents reporting from each region throughout the country we can't stay connected and safe in these times in such a vast country as Australia. Also with Covid and my family living in Sydney we are relying more than ever on ABC local radio and television to report the numbers and hotspots and help keep my elderly mother and the rest of us safe. this is the time to increase to the ABC's funding and a reinstate of all the journalists who work so hard to protect and inform us. Thank you for funding the ABC and supporting all Australians.

Kylie B
QLD 2024

I rely on the ABC as my main source of unbiased national news and current affairs, as well as for quality TV drama, comedy and documentaries. Their children's programming is legendary and gave most Australian adults a collective sense identity.

My kids and I have used ABC resources extensively during the COVID-19 crisis for updates and educational resources. ABC Listen is another source of news and entertainment for our household.

We trust no media outlet to bring us all of this without fear or favour.

Fund and grow our ABC!

kym H

NSW 4655

On the morning after the Black Summer Fires had devastated the towns of Cobargo & Quaama and surrounds, and after being evacuated TWICE on being informed by the local ABC 810AM radio, I huddled in my car on the small island on the "isthmus" road between Wallaga Lake & Akolle as a safe refuge in the middle of the lake and watching the fire red sky burn all around me.

The ONLY contact I had with the outside world to get CRITICAL FIRES info was ABC Radio that, on BOTH my EVACUATIONS, had warned me of the impending flames coming my way.

There was NO PHONE signal as all the towers were burnt and so NO EMERGENCY SMS.

The ONLY connection I had to the outside world was the ABC.

The ABC must be considered as an ESSENTIAL SERVICE and funder accordingly.

Kym M

VIC 2550

I live the ABC. It's Australian. I trust the ABC News as an independent news source. I don't arch or listen to any other source if information regarding public affairs and news. All other commercial channels are corrupt and biased.

My kids love the ABC and it's the only source of trusted content for my 6 and 9 year old that Ads free.

Additionally it's our only source of Arts entertainment during COVID-19.

I listen to ABC classic and Tripple J.

Please save our ABC! We love it.

Kym W

NSW 3015

I have been watching the ABC for over 30 years and apart from ABC and SBS I don't watch much other commercial television or listen to much commercial radio.

During the numerous crises we've had this year, the ABC has been essential watching and listening for everyone. I think you would find few people, especially those who live in country areas, who didn't tune in to ABC during the bushfire crisis. It was essential to find out what was happening with the fires, where they were burning, when we needed to take action.

Now during the coronavirus pandemic, we are reliant on the ABC to inform us of what is happening, what our restrictions are and how to live with Coronavirus in the community.

ABC needs to have funding restored during the next budget cycle and into the future. It is imperative to have an impartial news reporting service that is not answerable to private corporations and their political viewpoint.

One only has to look at all the false information regarding COVID19 that is circulating on the internet to realise how important the ABC is in getting the truthful message out there.

Lani I

NSW 2541

The ABC is a constant comfort, not only through these times but during ordinary times too. The ABC news has been the only reliable source of information since the bushfires and pandemic and when the news becomes overwhelming we are able to rely on the ABC for shows that will educate and soothe our children and offer light relief or escapism through comedy and drama programs.

During the NSW homeschooling period the ABC offered supportive educational programs to help out when the workload became too much and is helping prepare my younger children for school and broader independence with many of the shows on ABC kids and ABC ME.

I can't imagine what our lives would be like without the ABC to keep us all steady.

Lara S

VIC 2300

Please increase funding to the ABC. During corona virus it's the first place I look to get reliable, up to date news and information about restrictions and cases.
During the fires, ABC actually saved lives with its up to date broadcasting.
And their dramas and comedy keeps us all entertained during lock down.
There's so much educational resources for the kids while they are at home.

Laura h
NSW 3860

The ABC is our national brains trust. During the bushfires last summer we turned to the ABC for reliable information that saved lives. During Covid-19 the ABC is the only news source that we can rely on for accurate and up-to-date information, that saves lives. Other media outlets have spin their information to make a profit: in a world where profit and sensationalism drive most content, we need the ABC more than ever.
Don't compromise our ABC any further.
Don't deny Australians access to accurate and unbiased information.

Laura J
NSW 2030

The ABC is the ONLY free- to-air station I trust and listen to. I rely on the ABC to share non- biased information, news and current events. Keeping well informed with what they have delivered (in the past year especially) has been immensely vital and valuable, as it has helped me feel connected during all of these challenging events we have been experienced throughout the last 12 months. I cannot imagine losing the ABC, they give me hope, make me feel connected and I trust what they share with Australia. Please help protect this highly significant part of our daily lives.

Lauren D
VIC 2450

Let's get it right.
ABC is a source of unbiased news.
We need it.
Thanks. Laurence Evans.

Laurence E
NSW 3188

Living in the mid-Blue Mountains my family and I rely heavily on the ABC every summer for news on bushfires. Last November-December we had 2 fires in our region: one at Blackheath, 30 kms from us and one at Woodford, 2 kms away. Receiving updated information on the ABC is critical for us. No other network comes near the ABC for accuracy, non-sensational reporting and the absence of commercials that interrupt critical news.
When it comes to news reporting the ABC does not have moguls and economic masters to serve and so the reporters are not bound by commercial concerns. This is refreshing in an age where lying and sensationalism are common currency on radio networks.
Cutting the ABC budget does not serve the nation. Reducing the reach of the national broadcaster seems to be merely a political move and betrays the immaturity of powerful politicians whose goal is to stay under the radar of national scrutiny.

Laurie W
VIC 2779

I've always depended on the ABC for independent world, Australian and local news and content. This year during the first lockdown in March it became crucial to our household when my husband and I were working from home and our 9 year old daughter was left for many periods to handle her own education. ABC Me's children's educational programming during this time meant that we could trust she could be both entertained and educated. Please, please, fund the ABC to the extent they need. Their independence is crucial to our freedom.

Leah O
TAS 3013

I now work for the government - which I always hated and thought were thieves. But, no, they are regular people doing a job.

It's the politicians that are lying when their mouths are moving! A small percentage are good, honest human beings that care for their fellow man and the country.

I can remember watching TV, news etc, 20 years ago (nothing has changed) and I ALWAYS felt that I could TRUST an ABC reporter. They did not allow anyone to 'own' THEIR story (Murdoch) so one could rely upon the ABC nightly news.

In my world, the ABC would be the 'Institution' that many Australians can rely upon - as they have done for decades.

Leanne A
VIC 7050

The ABC has been a saviour throughout my life, let alone 2020. From when my kids were little, watching all of the fantastic kids shows, to this year, trusting them to cover the bushfires and Covid. We trust the ABC news over any other! We love the comedy channel from Spicks and Specks through to Hard Chat and Utopia! The Australian mini series are top quality, and I prefer Iview to Netflix! We NEED the ABC to stay as it is!!

Leanne R
QLD 3941

We always get our news and current affairs from the ABC. Whether it be radio TV or on line. I believe we get reliable intelligent news about what really matters. The high quality journalism and reporting is important as the country really needs this now. I always go to ABC for updates on COVID 19. NO CUTS PLEASE.

Leanne R
VIC 4101

I Relied On The ABC To Keep Me Informed My About The Drought, The Bushfires, Parliamentarian Going One, The COVID Virus, The International Happening And So Much More Therefore Their News Team And Most Of The Programs That They Produce Are In Need Of A Decent Budget.

Leanne T
NSW 3637

As an educator, in these times, I need to keep up to date about what was happening, what I needed to do and how I could support my students and their families. In addition, ABC provided a wonderful resource for learning options for our students, at school and learning at home. ABC was there for me personally and on radio and TV, every day, 24/7 ... I could not have managed, both professionally and personally, through the last 10 months! Whether it was bushfires or Covid-19!

The ABC is loved and relied upon by Aussies!!! Please re-fund!!! Thank you, Lee

Lee M
VIC 2261

I live in rural Victoria and was a teacher till COVID 19 changed all our lives. My elderly mother now lives with us and so my days are mostly spent caring for her.

Our entire household has totally relied on the ABC – both TV and radio – for COVID 19 updates and explanation of government policy. We need facts and science with a minimum of infotainment and our trust in the ABC over the past few months has been rewarded.

The ABC is the only broadcaster that can be relied on for investigative journalism. Programs such as Insiders, Late Night Live, Q&A and Four Corners analyse events and evaluate those in power. And the ABC is generous with credit where it's due, for politicians, health workers, police and all the other people working hard to keep us safe. This positivity is rare or insincere on the commercial channels.

The ABC provides valuable COVID 'relief' in the form of consistently high quality programs that inform and entertain. The commercial channels cannot be relied for much more than the cheapest of TV or radio programming, treating the viewers and listeners like dummies but keeping shareholders happy.

It is very difficult for me to understand why funding to the ABC was recently reduced, in real terms. These cuts should be restored. No further cuts can be justified. The ABC is a national asset and should be protected, whatever the monetary cost.

Lee N
VIC 3032

We have always relied on the ABC to give us reliable news in a wide variety of scenes. eg: fires, floods, storms, traffic accidents, road blocks as well as world events. This has been our eyes & ears to the world as well as our own State & Nation for over 50 years. It needs to have full funding, not more cuts.

Lee T
NSW 3931

I rely on the ABC daily of up to date reliable news via the web page TV and radio. I have in the past asking politicians why is it that the investigations by the ABC are so good, reliable and balanced while with all the accountable systems of government on occasions fail so badly. I rarely watch the non ABC TV channels. The ABC is hype free. It maintains high standards.

Lee R B
QLD 2578

Apart from the fact I watch almost exclusively ABC & SBS the beginning of this year was particularly important. I live in Queensland & have 3 family groups living on the NSW south coast & was glued to the ABC watching for news as the fires went perilously close to all of them.
Also ABC & SBS are the only news services I trust as they state the facts without the 'opinions' & personality embellishments of the commercial stations. The calls to defund are nothing more than commercial self interested & a danger to our democracy. What really needs to happen is a review of commercial media ownership in Australia with a view to mandating great diversity than currently exists.

Lee-Ellen M
VIC 4560

In these days of fact- denying media like the Murdoch press, the ABC is extremely important in providing evidence based news. It also has quality programmes unlike most of the commercial channels.
We cannot afford to lose the ABC.

Leigh A
NSW 3103

Every day I rely on the ABC as a source of news and current affairs where I can find unbiased and fair reporting not skewed by political self interest or profits as is the Murdoch press and commercial press in general. I enjoy programming involving the arts, science and quality comedy and drama and my kids love the children's programs. I quite simply would be devastated not to have the ABC broadcasts in my life. They are a vital part of my life. It's a national treasure and we are so lucky to have an independent government funded broadcaster. More funding please, not less!

Leigh B
VIC 2021

The abc in both forms, radio and television, has been paramount to my wellbeing through both the bushfire and Coronavirus pandemic. With my childhood home and family based in Gippsland, the abc has forever provided critical information for safety in crisis and a strong sense of community in alienating times.

In the year of 2020 there has been a lot of upset and the abc has been a rock of up to date information and would be absolutely devastating for it to be another casualty.

With my elderly father, alone on a remote Gippsland farm, abc is truly his primary company and his lifeline.

Please support the abc as if you have nothing to hide.

Leigh M
NSW 3188

The bushfires came to within 5 kms of home and I had to be evacuated twice. I relied on the ABC for updates and important information.
I ONLY ever watch the ABC news. There is relatively little bullshit to cut through to find out what is happening.
All the information on COVID 19 I need, and again to cut through the bullshit, I get from the ABC news and programs.
DO NOT CUT THE BUDGET ANY FURTHER.

leis g
QLD 2365

Having sound, calm and clear information and background without sensationalising is so important.

The ABC is neutral. It is for Australians, not for a commercial owner, and does not have to consider the political views or perspectives of a media baron's ownership.

I am so glad we have this service in such a terrible time and during so much uncertainty.

Leisa L
QLD 4520

The ABC is my go to source for reliable and researched information.

This is especially relevant in a time of fake news and the sort of infotainment that is so common in commercial "news." It is especially important in times like these when we need to know facts about covid19 to keep us and our communities alive. I have a distant relative who is in ICU in Melbourne with covid 19 because she believed the shock jocks telling her it was all a beat up.

We need the ABC for doing in depth research behind problems in our community whether it be aged care or youths in detention. In fact, it sometimes seems that Four Corners is setting the political agenda in this country where all else is a policy void. That is, of course, why it has been defunded.

In this time of isolation, I rely on the wonderful ABC for information on health, philosophy, science etc through their wonderful podcasts. I rely on the ABC for good drama and comedy, especially at this time when live entertainment is such a risk.

And I was was immensely grateful for being able to track the location of bushfires in my area in November and December of last year.

That this government wants to defund a national treasure that is such a valuable part of the fabric of Australian life, is a disgrace.

Leith R
QLD 4220

I can not think of life without the ABC. In Australia we depend on, enjoy, keep informed through disasters and trust this Government (people)funded information centre. I will not vote for a party that keeps fund cutting, hollowing out and diminishing the ABC in any way. I live in a semirural area and during storms we have been totally dependant on the radio for information with our mobiles and phone lines and power completely cut of at one point for three days. We don't live that far from a major city but were still left in silence due to roads cut off and violent storms in 2013. Australia is better than most countries in the world lets keep it that way. Save our ABC, build our ABC and look after all Australians in times of need and every day. I feel very strongly about this issue.

Lelarn G
NSW 4552

I trust the ABC news and reports.

It's the only news I watch.

It's our broadcaster. Please do not cut any more of their funding.

Enough is enough!

Lena C
WA 2034

I will keep this short.I only trust the ABC when it comes to stories on climate change and COVID19.

They are the only organisation that I feel gives an unbiased balanced reporting of news and events.

Leon D'Alton

leon D
WA 6156

ABC has been my educated for many years. I tell friends if I tried to change stations on my TV and Radio they would have a hernia and stop working.

Leone F
NSW 6050

The ABC provides me with access to news and current affairs that are balanced and reliable. I get access to excellent journalism and entertainment.

Leonie S
NSW 2107

The COVID pandemic has highlighted the need for science based facts supported by analysis. The ABC has been the only source of information which has adapted its news information to provide relevant facts.

For example, I needed to know what travel to work I could make to reduce the risk of COVID transmission. The ABC provided this information updated day to day, hour by hour.

The need to information to manage my risk of exposure to COVID is continuing. The pandemic remains a world wide health emergency. Scientific evidence needs to be provided with analysis from recognised experts without political ideology. I have found the ABC has satisfied my need for updated information. No other news service goes anywhere near that provided by the ABC.

Les J
QLD 2041

The ABC has always been there for our family. I grew up listening to the morning news sitting beside my grandparents THE TONE Has never changed..It has always provided news and current affairs in an up to date honest and straight forward manner... Always detailing a cross section of views on contentious issues....I feel sorry for those who have lost their livelihood in other news outlets, (News Corp, 9 News, Commercial Tv)but I cannot compare the depth of coverage provided by these organization when compared with the ABC....and therefore not surprised by their by their lack of support when compared with online news outlets. I am Very disappointed by present government stripping ABC funds.....We have never been subject to such an uneven battle of intellects as a result of politicians so desperate to gain any advantage they can.

Les

Les P
NSW 4350

I rely on the ABC all the time. The ABC provides excellent coverage of all news, as well as entertainment that is of far superior quality to the commercial station. I could not have managed throughout the bushfire crisis had it not been for the coverage supplied by the ABC, the regular updates, and news of all areas. Cuts to the ABC would prove horrendous to those of us who depend on this service.

Lesley A
QLD 2536

I've always loved the ABC: ABC TV, Local Radio, ABC News 24 and I'm well aware how much I MAY need local ABC radio if a bushcare ever came to my area. But this year with the Covid crisis and Doctor Norman Swann I have REALLY relied on their broadcasts. The best and least sensational reporting of the facts and how to avoid the virus. And above their TV programming is brilliant. No commercials so no bias. Straight reporting of facts, scientific facts and current issues. Rather than cutting their funding it should in fact be increased.

Lesley H
NSW 4500

The ABC is the only station I rely on to not exaggerate the news, to not be partisan and to just give the facts. They are independent and are not hostage to either private or government influences.

Lesley J
ACT 2132

I depend on the ABC. For information about the news and the crises we are living with, and for the intelligent entertainment on RN.

I am full of admiration for and gratitude to the staff - technical people and researchers and presenters - who continue to provide these programs despite ever decreasing resources.

Lesley L
QLD 2602

Hi I am writing to implore you not to reduce funds to ABC any further. ABC is the most factual and reliable source of information available to me. Other television channels treat their viewers with contempt. I resent the way they present headlines to the public instead of providing the full story about it. This leaves many lazy thinking people to spout off opinions based on very blurry information.

Please don't deny the Australian people the opportunity to be informed. Spend our taxpayers money wisely.

Regards

Lesley L
NSW 4165

If it were not for the ABC I think my intellect would have gone downhill by now. There is nothing else offered on any of the other radio stations or television channels to equal the quality of the ABC - that is, what USED to be the quality of the ABC before it suffered all the budget cuts.

I always watch the ABC news bulletins because I know I will be given factual reporting. I watch and listen to ABC drama, comedy, and other shows because I know nothing on the commercial channels goes anywhere near the intellectual content that is displayed by those on the ABC. Furthermore, programs are not interrupted by ridiculous commercials which urge me to buy products that I have no wish to buy (please bring back "Gruen"!) and I lose my train of thought from the program I've been watching. I reckon that without the ABC I would, by now, have dementia!

Let's try to bring commercial radio and television programming up to the standard of the ABC, not the other way around. Please bring the ABC's funding back so it may continue its wonderful informative and helpful programming.

Yours sincerely
Lesley Wilkins
Byron Bay

Lesley W
QLD 2481

The only radio stations I listen to are ABC stations - RN, local, classic, news. The only TV programs I watch are on ABC and SBS. There are no other stations that do the hard interviews with impartiality (despite what the Coalition says), that capture the issues relevant to Australia, not just the US, and help me keep alive my understanding of the world. If only the ABC was funded as it should be!

Lesley W
NT 4563

The ABC is the only news source that I trust.

It is crucial for emergencies such as cyclones.

It has more thought provoking content than any other station.

It is important to keep the ABC running well and well funded. It is the only trustworthy, unbiased news source we have.

Lia Gill
Darwin, NT.

Lia G
QLD 810

The ABC has always been a part of my life. As an Australian the people's broadcaster is just that. THE PEOPLE'S BROADCASTER who confers directly with our govt. ABC is part of the Australian growing up experience. Recent examples of how ABC has kept Australia informed, simply watch ABC News 24's coverage of the Bushfires and the current US riots and also evidence based programmes such as 4 Corners and Foreign Correspondent.

Liam J
ACT 4114

Dr. Swan and the abc were always there when I needed accurate information about the coronavirus. I learnt how it spreads and how to protect myself and others through listening to the ABC.

Liam R
NSW 3013

The information given by this trusty chanel the ABC during events, and is generally unbiased as it doesn't have to please sponsors.

It is better informed than the commercial channels and is most important for people in the country who do not have any other way to receive much needed information as for example during the bush fires and other events.

Having deprived OUR ABC over the years to favour commercial stations is most unfair. I and lots of people in this country do not want Americanised information and we prefer the ABC and SBS.

Both are important and and deserve to be better funded. WE are a multicultural nation with immigrants who should be informed in order to understand how we function in this country, the Australian way. It helps new arrivals to feel part of our land and ways of living and now in Australia for 62 years I have to confirm that the ABC and SBS have remained the best stations and I hope that with adequate funding that Australian productions will again be possible. It is culturally important and our government has a duty to fund both adequately. The Australian government should understand and represent the people who after all pay taxes and their salaries. It is about the Australian way and not only about money the government uses as an excuse.

The government has a duty to represent all the people in the country and not play politics with what is the only way of access to correct information for many people who cannot afford to have expensive Foxtel, Sky and other commercial stations.

Liane C
NSW 2122

The ABC has been a vital part of my daily life now for 46 years. It provided me with entertainment and education as a kid, and has been the primary source of essential news and information for the whole of my adult life.

It's invaluable service has been more evident than ever since late 2019 when it was a resource for learning about the fires that affected my father-in-law's property and advised when we needed to head up to assist him fight the fires.

It has also been a source of reason and enlightenment as COVID has unravelled and affected my business and personal life.

I am upset by the extreme cuts to ABC funding and request that you increase or at least maintain funding so that the ABC can continue providing premium quality journalism investigative journalism, and public discussion.

Libby J
VIC 2050

The ABC is an integral part of my day. Whether TV, laptop or iPhone, I stay up to date with news, analysis and opinion and it helps me form my own because I know that I can rely on it. It is the only alternative to the hysterical, media hyped, trumped-up, fake news available elsewhere.

During this state of emergency due to Covid 19 I rely on the ABC for accurate information. Isolated and locked in, the ABC becomes my contact with the world. It informs me and entertains me.

The ABC is as important to me as the provision of any other essential service. I will never support any party that attempts to deny me an essential service.

Lila C
NSW 3441

Everyday when I go to work and on the way back, I listen to ABC Radio National and it brings me so much joy. The Australian content on the ABC is a beautiful part of my life. I don't watch TV as much but I also cherish the quality of the content on ABC TV. I value its journalists and the way they are always trying to inform in the best most neutral way possible. The factcheck and media watch is amazing and unseen anywhere else. I ABSOLUTELY LOVE MY ABC. Please give it more money NOT LESS!

As a teacher I value its content for high school students and remains a strong model of ethical journalism. Don't cut the ABC, its just wrong!

Lilas M
NSW 2489

In January we were to see our son, his wife and grandchildren in Canberra. Joining us were to be our daughter and her partner, driving to Canberra after travelling by ferry from Tasmania. The frantic rearrangements were only made thanks to the reporting from the ABC. With difficulty we got the children to Sydney, my daughter and her partner flew here, my daughter in law and son had to barricade the house against the smoke. BUT through All this we had the ABC to guide us. The reporters usually seen groomed and professional were out and about in yellow gear, still the ultimate professionals but on the front line, feeling the heartbreak, seen gate emotion, suffering the heat and the terror from the fires.

Then came COVID19, and the ABC, while still keeping us informed on the bushfire areas, seemingly forgotten by so many, plunged into information, updates, advice. FUND the ABC properly, we CANNOT do without it

Lilian A
WA 2088

The ABC is vital to me in 2020 as it has been all my life. The news services provide factual information with no spin, and no agenda, especially regarding COVID and bushfires. I was in Norseman (WA) and found out from the ABC that the roads were closed by bushfires and looked up to see they were indeed in the process of being closed. You can't do better than that.
And all along ABC Classical has been providing calm and beautiful music to ensure that I stay sane.
We need you to increase funding for the ABC back to where it was.

Lin F
VIC 6148

The ABC is my window to the world! I've learned to trust it for news, for education and for entertainment....especially vital during lockdown.
On the rare occasions that I check out other sources...TV stations, radio channels and newspapers I usually find them to be crass, superficial, sensationalistic or infantile.
I'm being completely honest when I say that I'd be lost without the ABC.
It's an essential and much loved Australian institution that should be appreciated, if not valued, by every government.
It's high time the ABC was supported instead of being battered by Government.

Linda B
TAS 3180

My husband and I are pensioners and live remotely. We rely on the ABC broadcast for everything, news, alerts, entertainment. Please find this essential service, we would be lost without it.

Linda C
WA 7150

I rely on my ABC News app for reliable news updates on a daily basis, and have used it even more frequently on occasion -eg. when the Coronavirus first broke out. WA often doesn't register in other news platforms, and I don't find news on commercial media reliable. I also love the ABC iView app so that I can catch up on my favourite shows - Gardening Australia is a constant inspiration to me. There are also amazing podcasts - I am a huge fan of Late Night Live and its informed, in-depth analyses of issues in Australia and around the world. The ABC is a national treasure, and I consider that the continuous cuts to its budget over the years are ill-considered and unfair. So many people rely on the ABC, especially in times of crisis. The government should be increasing the ABC's funding, not cutting it.

Linda D
NSW 6156

The ABC is a constant companion as I work at home or just to keep abreast of what is happening. Its reports during the bushfire season were something I sought living in a bushfire prone suburb of Sydney. I find the ABC extremely informative, something that is not always available on either commercial radio or television. When home I enjoy the hour long programs by the likes of Cassie McCullough and Richard Fidler. A longtime viewer and listener to ABC.

Linda G
ACT 2120

My husband and I have been sticking pretty close to home during the COVID crisis as my husband has an auto-immune disease. Our main source of authoritative information on developments and advice has been the ABC website and TV news. Dr Norman Swan has been a hero and the daily Coronocast has been great.
Please keep the funding up for the ABC. It would be great to even increase it so that it can foster more local content. The ABC is one of the things that makes Australia a great place to live. LONG LIVE THE ABC!!

Linda K
QLD 2605

ABC News and current affairs shows are far superior than any other broadcaster and their entertainment programmes are a good watch and informative, however lots are repeated :registered: repeats because of lack of funds.
Please do not starve the ABC of vital funds, Australia needs the ABC.

Linda M
VIC 4868

The ABC has been marvellous for me over the whole of 2020. A most challenging year with the bushfires and the lockdowns. I am a radio listener and enjoy ABC Melbourne and ABC Radio National. I appreciate all the fine work Rod Quinn does on his show Libby Gore is another personal favourite. I also enjoy ABC TV drama productions. I love the ABC. Thank you so much.

Linda M
NSW 3161

The ABC was there for me during the 2019 bush fires in the Blue Mountains NSW.
No other source of essential community information was reliable at this very dangerous and frightening time.

Linda P
ACT 2114

The ABC is and has been a lifeline for many of us especially over this past year. While I live in Canberra, it was blanketed with dense smoke for a couple of weeks while conditions deteriorated around us. The ABC radio and television was my sanity, source of information and reassurance, especially for those I knew who lived in danger areas including Bargo, the nearby south coast and Sydney. It is there for me every day, keeping me informed, educated, entertained. And now, during COVID-10, keeping me up to date about restrictions in places where family and friends live and I can no longer visit. The ABC has been a part of my life since I can remember - it was the source of news, music, education since I was a child - the Argonauts, Blue Hills, news in the morning and at dinner time. My mother was horrified when we moved to country NSW and the only radio station we could get was the local commercial one. Thankfully this changed and as we moved again, it remained central to our lives, keeping us connected, informed, entertained and comforted. It has remained my anchor as I've moved, aged, kept me connected with places where friends live, people's interests, lifestyles, changes, educated and enlightened me - it remains our ABC for a reason.

Linda S
VIC 2612

I get most of my news from the ABC. It keeps me informed about world events, it encourages me to learn more about other people and ways of life, it allows me to hear voices that I would otherwise not be able to hear, it gives voice to my own opinions, it helps me to find causes to which I can lend my voice or assistance, it gives me information that will affect me, and it helps me to care more about the world in which we live.

Some of my favourite television programmes are broadcast on the ABC, both those produced locally and internationally. These programmes are a blessing for their entertainment value as well their range of opinions and educational value.

As someone who is mostly house-bound through disability, I can honestly say that the ABC is something of a lifeline to the outside world. It helps to bring the world to me, and that is a precious gift indeed.

Linda S
VIC 3800

So lucky in my life to have journalism and entertainment from the ABC.

1. No matter how good the film or drama is, if it is punctuated by ads I cannot watch. The engagement and involvement is broken by ads. I understand that the money has to come from somewhere but the flow interrupted is no flow at all. There is only so many tasks you can get up and do or cups of tea you can make to take you out of the room and away from the commercials before no magic is left and you turn off and go to bed.

That is commercial TV.

2. News. Trust or vested interest and sensationalism. I like to think I'm a little bit discerning and don't need my news dumbed down to chew free pap. Something more than salacious grabs and headlines. Also, endlessly interrupted by ads. Aunty and current affairs journalism is miles ahead of the rest. SBS is also an important part of the mix

Two points will do. Obviously just the first instalment.

Love Our aunty

Linda T
NSW 3151

The ABC is the backbone of Australia's soul.

The ABC is the most reliable source of unbiased news, current affairs, documentaries and investigative journalism.

The ABC has been the most important media source for my whole life.

I am angry that successive conservative governments have made savage cuts to the ABC budget. Could it be because the ABC uncovers so many important issues that the government would prefer to ignore?

The ABC is free of commercial/corporate influence and is therefore trusted by most Australians to be the most trustworthy source of news and current affairs.

The ABC is invaluable in times of national disasters, providing a lifeline of communications to rural and regional people.

If the ABC is to continue providing high quality, trustworthy services then there must be no further cuts to its budget.

The government in fact has a moral imperative to increase funds to the ABC to a level commensurate to the last decade.

Linda W

NSW 2281

PLEASE DON'T MAKE CUTS TO ABC FUNDING.

I live in rural Far Sth East NSW, without the ABC during the bushfires, we would have been totally stuffed!!!

Then Covid19 hit, and AGAIN, I am reliant that ABC keeps me up to speed, on the news.

I love my ABC radio, have been an avid listener, for 30+ years.

This shouldn't even be a consideration, to cut funding.

Linda Jane R

VIC 2550

I live in an area with very unreliable phone connections and frequent power outages. I relied on my ABC throughout the fire season (I live in a high fire risk area), and now with Victoria in lock down I am relying on my ABC for clear and accurate information on Covid-19 warnings, information and restrictions. I implore you to fund my ABC generously so that they can continue to do the excellent jobs I need it to do for my - and everyone's - wellbeing

Linden S

NSW 3160

When we were surrounded by fire, the ONLY communication we had was ABC local radio. No landline, no mobile reception, no Internet, no electricity, just the ABC. Those of us who weren't forward-thinking enough to have a transistor radio on hand, sat in our cars to listen to the news because our lives depended on it.

Fund the ABC. Fund the arts. Keep politics out of it.

Lindsay P

NSW 2550

I BELIEVE THE ABC IS GOING TO SUFFER FROM FURTHER UNACCEPTABLE CUTS & or NO increased funding in the next federal budget ??This is completely ANTI AUSTRALIAN & diminishes our access to a fair & impartial media. This lack of funding & constant budget cuts is simply undemocratic. IT COSTS TAX PAYERS LITTLE EACH YEAR & DELIVERS AN IMMEASURABLE NEWS & CURRENT AFFAIRS SERVICE.I LIVE IN A RURAL REGION IN NORTHERN NSW & DURING LAST YEARS SEVERE BUSH FIRES I DEPENDED UPON THE ABC FOR ACCURATE & UP TO DATE INFORMATION. AT ONE STAGE BUSHFIRES WERE ONLY A FEW KILOMETRES FROM MY PROPERTY & THAT INFO ENCOURAGED ME TO PACK A SMALL BAG OF CLOTHES & A FEW NECESSITIES. Luckily we didn't have to evacuate due to a wind change but my relatives on the Sth Coast were not so lucky. They listened constantly to the ABC (radio National /country hour etc) and some did have to evacuate. One relative had his property severely burnt losing sheds/machinery & some precious animals & pets. Luckily again his house that was built into a cliff face & did not burn, but he like many others has PTSD after fighting that fire at 3.00am alone in a blood red sky, with the sound of that fire like 4 jumbo jets above his head.The ABC he listened to & relied on for every moment of the day during these horrific events. IF NOT FOR THIS SERVICE & THE ONLY MEDIA HE COULD ACCESS DUE TO ISOLATION, HE MAY NOT HAVE SURVIVED.My many other relatives near & around Bega /Bemboka were all relying on ABC TV & radio 24/7. We have witnessed just how crucial the ABC is during Covid 19, with journos delivering facts & not fiction. The Covid updates are critical to everyone's health not just in Victoria BUT right across the nation. During home schooling I know many of my friends & relatives have relied on the ABC service for home schooling programs & learning.The commercial stations can not be relied upon for this. They have NO interest or commitment to doing ANY of this, which has been established beyond any doubt.Furthermore, music/drama & comedy have been vital in maintaining good mental health & delivering social contact/s and necessary connections during isolation & limited outings.Everyone I know without exception, not only relies on the ABC for news/documentaries /current affairs BUT also for entertainment/lifestyle programs/ delivering health information/music and as I said previously 'comedy' and how we need MORE of that in these stressful times. PUT MORE FUNDING INTO THE ABC & SBS... NOT LESS. THIS IS OUR PUBLIC & DEMOCRATIC RIGHT TO A NON COMMERCIAL & ACCURATE MEDIA SERVICE.WE LOVE THE ABC IN ALL IT'S FORMS.

Lindy S

TAS 2479

My father listened to the ABC during the Depression when he sold his car to buy a wireless so he could hear the stock prices and weather reports. Our family and neighbours without a wireless listened to the reports of the looming war every night at 7 p.m. I grew up listening each day without fail, and in demanded silence, to the 1 pm news and Blue Hills and the 7 pm. news. The ABC was the only station we trusted. Then came TV and again, we turned to the ABC as the programs were more enthralling, more carefully produced, the English was better than the programs on other stations. This has been our family's experience throughout my long life. Lately however, with all the cuts, there are too many repeats, too little real news with a focus on a few items. We are turning too often to SBS. We all regret the changes and switch off more often.

Linley G
NSW 7000

the abc is the only btroadcast worth listening to for news and the only one with worthwhile entertainment. As i live rural i depend on the unbiased well researched and intelligently presented news and programming to form my opinions of the world AND MY COUNTRY. No more cuts. Enough damage to the abc, |Leave us something to watch beside realty trash.

lisa b
NSW 2454

My family and I live on the NSW South Coast and we were directly affected by the recent bushfires. My husband and I and both sets of parents were evacuated on New Year's Eve. We spent the night sleeping in our cars with our dogs and chickens unaware that our houses were burning. On 1 January 2020 we awoke to find that my husband and I had lost our home and all our belongings, everything was totally destroyed in the worst bushfires ever experienced in Australia let alone the south coast. My parents home was severely damaged and they spent 7 months in temporary housing. My parents in law were spared, their home saved by a last minute southerly wind which stopped the fire in Rosedale across the road from their house. During this most catastrophic of events in our lives and with no power, no TV, no internet and limited mobile communications we relied on hearing the constant news reports of the ABC radio. With the fires continuing to burn for almost all of January up and down the coast we remained on alert and it was the ABC radio that let us aware of what was happening around us and around Australia. The ABC is hugely important in regional communities and we believer that funding cuts will be severely damaging. The ABC is the people's network, it is here for Australian people and is independent, not owned by billionaires who have vested interests in what news is told to the average Australian. We support the ABC and do not support any funding cuts, we need the ABC.

Sincerely,
Lisa Carnall

Lisa C
VIC 2536

The ABC is part of my life everyday single day. Whether I need the latest news, music, constructive discussion on a wide range of topics, expert opinion, the latest information on books, arts, law, science & medicine, or a good yarn, the ABC is always there. Ten years ago, I moved to regional Qld & not long after, a cyclone hit. It was a terrifying experience but we had the radio close at hand, tuned in to an ABC news program which kept us connected & informed. From then on I've been an avid listener to the extensive lineup that is offered. I've always watched ABC tv & can rely on a comprehensive news telecast as well as the many excellent programs on offer. The ABC is the only non bias, reliable source of news programs that cuts out the rubbish & gives you the facts. It is an essential resource and plays a huge role in the lives of many to keep us connected with the world in an authentic way.

Lisa C
VIC 3134

The ABC is there for me every summer when bushfire threatens, because I live in a wildfire bush management zone. The ABC is there to give me unfiltered, unbiased news. I cannot not trust the Murdoch mainstream media empire. Every developed country needs an authentic source of media truth. Otherwise, we become like Russia and other despotic empires. I know the Federal Government hates balanced reporting, and I know that a deal was done with Pauline Hanson to crush the ABC in return for her support, but can you now see that there are bigger issues at play? The very decency of our society, and the truthfulness of our pubic discourse? Without this, we as a society are diminished and reduced to something ugly and idiocratic. Federal Govt, stop attacking the ABC and support its charter. It is is your responsibility to do so.

Lisa F
NSW 3158

On Monday 24/02 I was watching the Four Corners. It was the first comprehensive expose that I'd seen on the the Coronavirus. It helped me to make a decision to cancel my trip to Italy. I had been flying into Milano and going for a ski holiday a week later. I would've been right in the thick of it.

During the bushfire crisis, I always felt reliably informed of where the fires were and what action I needed to take. The accurate reporting allowed me to make informed decisions about whether to leave home or not. It helped a friend of mine decide to go to her property near Lithgow to make sure it was adequately prepared. I went with her and we felt safe, knowing that we could get up to date and factual news.

I recently watched the fictional show on Maralinga. While not an absolutely true story, it followed facts about the history of the event. It is so important that these stories are still told, so that we can learn from them and improve our society. While TV may not be seen as the greatest educator, it is a fact that it is seen by a great many in society.

Truth and justice are what the ABC stands for. As a society, we need this.

Lisa G
NSW 2017

I live on the south coast of NSW & during the first week of this year, 2020, I sat in my car on & off over 6 days while evacuated listening to the fire updates on the ABC, it was my only source of information about a terrible time.

We were without power, phones, internet, potable water sometimes & the only way to receive any information about the current fire situation was to listen to the ABC on our car radio.

Many of us down here saw it as our only lifeline to the world beyond the fire front.

Do not take funds from the ABC, it provides an important service that no other broadcaster does.

Lisa Kempster

Lisa K
NSW 2546

I am writing this submission to highlight how the ABC provided us with valuable communication of information during the Bushfires and was one of only 2 accurate sources of information about where the fires were, which direction, how close, what we needed to do if the fires got any closer. (The other being the NSW Fires Near Me). Likewise the ABC has been the only news source that has provided Covid info without the crass politicisation and judgement that the commercial channels have participated in.

We've relied on the ABC:

- during the coronavirus crisis?
- for emergency broadcasts in times of bushfires & floods.
- to keep kids engaged and informed when schools were closed.
- to hold those in power accountable at a time when deception is easily overlooked.
- to help us stay connected through its Arts programmes of visual arts, drama, music, comedy and commitment to Australian stories.

We live in regional Australia and rely on the ABC for all sorts of things, and feel that the constant cuts in the ABC's budget serves no-one in the community except politicians, who are ideologically opposed to the transparency it provides on govt activities.

Refund the ABC - it's one of the best things about Australia, and any politician who is anti-the ABC is un-Australian.

Lisa Zanderigo

Lisa Z
WA 2447

The ABC is a fair & unbiased broadcaster. I can't believe that a government would feel threatened & punish a taxpayer funded broadcaster. Why would a government feel threatened??? If they do, then they do have something to hide & this will eventually come to light!! Please ensure our ABC has sufficient funding in the next budget & do not make anymore cuts...

Liz C
NSW 6282

My family and friends all rely on our ABC news, during the bush fires last yr n beginning of this year, it kept us up to date as we have family all over the place, a few lost their homes. So we had the radio on 24/7 . Then floods, once again we had family effected, so again ABC News kept us up to date. Now with this virus, we have family in most states of Australia, so have the radio on 24/7 again, ABC News is the only news we really know were getting up to date news and only news we can trust.. I hope the ABC is here for my family for the future, my Grandparents were staunch ABC listeners, we we are5 generation ABC listeners.

liz l
NSW 2525

My husband and I live in the Far South Coast NSW and were severely affected by the bushfires in our area. At one point, we were completely surrounded by the fires and had lost mobile phone reception and wi fi reception so we could not check the fires near me website. Radio was our only line of information and the ABC the only station we could get on our radio. A fire had started just around the corner from our house, so we evacuated that night and slept on the beachfront! This is why funding for the ABC should NOT be reduced, but in fact should be increased!
Thankyou.

Liz M
VIC 2548

I've always relied on the ABC for all relevant news and information . To me it has honest reporting and credible journalists that do a remarkable job telling the truth. They are not afraid to report what we have the right to know . I love their range of comedy , documentaries,music, current affairs and kids tv. Can't live without our ABC in this family. No more cuts to our ABC Scomo just because you can't control it!!

Liz M
VIC 3350

As a 74 year old woman living in Melbourne I have so much to thank the ABC for.

My earliest memories of the ABC are from around 1950, Sunday nights sitting cross legged by the open fire and listening to Crosbie Morrison's nature show which always opened with the sound of a kookaburra. I also remember that my parents listened to the cricket on Saturday afternoon but that wasn't my cup of tea at all.

The ABC has been there right through my life, but now in later years it plays an increasingly important role in my life. RN keeps me company during the day, increasing my knowledge of so many topics, from science to religions, from history to the future, and so much more. It opens my mind and enriches my life. In the evenings it entertains me and also makes me laugh, so important at this time when it's not always easy to smile.

The ABC should NOT have its funds cut. It belongs to all Australians, brings us the stories of fellow Australians, and shines a light on both the good and the bad aspects of our country. The investigative journalism excellent. If funds are cut, year after year, how can the quality of the ABC be maintained. The government is doing a great disservice to our country if it keeps cutting the ABC's funds.

Liz R
VIC 3170

Clearly if it wasn't for media watch and the ABC, we would all be left with so called "fake news"

I don't use this borrowed term lightly, but with other forms of media having set agendas to the point of a son leaving his fathers business empire due to the absence of anything mentioned in their media about Climate Change, if we can't be kept abreast of the reality of the world in which we live, then the fakers win and god help us all.

Liz S
VIC 3136

I used to listen to Virginia Trioli in the morning on the way to work. After I started working from home, I listened to ABC on my digital radio, as well as on the ABC listen app, and have the ABC news app on my phone as well for updates. They live stream the Premier's press conferences, and I know I can rely on them for accurate and up to date emergency broadcasts. I love the ABC and I pay taxes. I want my money to go towards the ABC rather than build war submarines or other military arsenal. Fund the AbC.

LiZ s
QLD 3073

Where to start, the ABC is the only source of credible News in this period of "Fake News" distributed by sycophant's of the absolute looney right (read TRUMP).

From the Bush Fires to COVID, only the ABC has provided a balanced report, even down to providing condemnation news on the Federal Government over the fires to absolute and well deserved credit for the Morrison's government handling of COVID.

No left wing bias, just the independent news presented for a thinking person to contemplate.

As to other ABC content, I would be happy to up my anti to \$1.00 a day to maintain ABC programs.

Cheers

Lloyd Casey

Lloyd C

VIC 4151

I am so thankful the ABC brings into the light many of the questionable actions of big business and those in government (why else would they keep cutting their budget) Their inquiries are so thorough and often lead to valuable changes, Long may they keep doing their wonderful work .

lois L

VIC 3782

I watch The Drum, The News and 7.30 Report. I am then up to date with facts and informed comment. I also choose to watch another 10-15 hours of ABC-TV per week. I do not watch commercial TV.

As a 4 year old in 1950, I listened to Kindergarten of the Air. As a 10 year old, I was Berenice 16, enrolled in The Argonauts. At 75, I have spent the last months at home, in Melbourne, under lockdown. Where would I be without Martin Buzzacock, Ed Ayres, and all the others on ClassicFM? I am entertained and uplifted daily, during this pestilence.

I feel sick in the stomach as I watch the deliberate demolition of the ABC by Mr Morrison's government.

How can he? And why? For a devout Christian, he is too given to malice, hidden behind smarm and lies.

Lola Jane Quin.

Lola Jane Q

VIC 3101

DON'T YOU DARE CUT FUNDS FOR THE ABC IF YOU EVER WANT ME TO VOTE FOR YOU AGAIN!!!!

And don't try to hide cuts in bureaucratic double-speak either!

I need a BIGGER ABC!

When my god-daughter was trapped in Mallacoota, surrounded by flames, who did I turn to? The ABC.

When I need to read online with my grandchildren, I turn to ABC Reading Eggs.

When they need cheering up during COVID lockdowns, they turn to ABC for kids.

When I need to know what's REALLY going on in Australia I watch 4 Corners and 7.30 and The Drum on ABC. Or listen to Virginia Trioli on ABC.

When I'm TOO DEPRESSED with what's going on in OZ, I watch Shaun Micallef's Mad as Hell on ABC.

When I need inspiration for my COVID garden and veggie patch, I turn to Gardening Australia on ABC.

When I'm busy with anything that I just need my hands for, I listen to ABC classic!!!!!!

I don't have enough time to tell you EVERYTHING I NEED THE ABC FOR!!!!

But cut it any further and I SURE AS HELL WON'T VOTE FOR YOU!!!!

Lomela K

VIC 3550

I rely on the ABC for all my news which starts my day of a morning on Radio National and of an evening with ABC TV.

It has been essential viewing and listening of late with the bushfires and the current Covid -19 pandemic.

I am reassured by the professional and reliable information which has been vital during these times of crisis.

Quite apart from emergency coverage which no other media outlet provides in the breadth and consistency is the broad range of programs on all its platforms which provide an eclectic mix to cater for the wide range of supporters.

The erosion of funding that has been applied by the Coalition government is having considerable impact on programming. The loss of local Australian content is tragic. Furthermore with the commercial media outlets demanding quotas for Australian drama and childrens' programs to be removed will leave the viewing public with only imported content. We need local content that provides work of the industry and equally important, stories that reflect Australian values.

Lorelei D
QLD 3025

During the outbreak of the Covid19 virus, the ABC was the go-to for me & many Australians .

This is where we are able to hear the transparent truth regarding the virus & the Government response. The continual updates were vital & helped to allay the sense of helplessness in society.

As a front line worker, I rely on the ABC for the facts.

Not the distorted view presented by the politically aligned news & media organizations run by the Murdoch empire.

Australians have always trusted & relied on the ABC & in these troubled times, we do so even more.

Thank you ABC for your enlightened & intelligent news coverage.

Loretta F
NSW 4558

The ABC has the most reliable and genuine reporting. Even the PM relies on the ABC to get his message to Australians throughout the continent. It's a disgrace to even think of making cuts. In fact this government needs to be handing out more \$\$\$ to give the ABC greater access to people during COVID.

I rely on Dr Norman Swans reports. As we go I to the second wave we know his earlier foresights have come to light

We couldn't do without Patricia Karvelis and Fran Kelly's comments and common sense interviews each day. Stop the nonsense and start giving the ABC what it deserves

Loretta Reilly

Loretta R
VIC 2084

The ABC is always my go to for news and important updates. I trust they are reliable and timely and have the Australian public's best interests at heart. The ABC kept me up to date on the horrific bushfires so that I knew loved ones were safe. And I trust the ABC, as our public broadcaster, over any other news source, especially when it comes to accurate and update news on COVID-19 developments and restrictions. With clickbait, fake news and social media algorithms muddying the waters of accurate news coverage more than ever, I have full trust in the ABC. I would feel lost without it. In these times of climate change and corona-virus upsetting the globe we need our information to be accurate, unflinching and without unnecessary hyperbole.

Loretta S
ACT 3073

During the bushfires, over the Christmas 2019 period, we relied on the ABC to keep track of the fires on the South Coast where our daughter lives--we couldn't be there ourselves as travel to the coast was forbidden, and internet contact uncertain. We also needed the ABC for updates on fires nearby in the ACT. Where would we be without the community focus and balanced reporting of the ABC--in a privatised media wasteland, I fear.

Lori R
NSW 2611

I always rely on the ABC for all the news. Especially when the bush fires were raging.

Loris K
VIC 2122

I rely on the ABC for most of my news and certainly Radio and TV entertainment. Its reliability during crises like the bushfires and the Corona virus, its news and analysis of local and world events, its uncovering of injustices in the community and its quality TV and radio programs, these are all vital to me, and they are the qualities which make for a wholesome, well-informed society. The ABC deserves to be richly funded for the wellbeing of all of us.

Lorna H
QLD 3145

The ABC is and always has been the station that I prefer to watch. The news coverage and programmes usually are excellent viewing and, without doubt, it is my favourite station. An important part of my day.

Lorna H
SA 4216

I have found this year in particular with the pandemic that the abc has been a good source of real information from morning to night. And also they have the best programs in all.

Lorrae C
WA 5162

I rely on ABC for direct and instant communication regarding news be it: corona virus, education for my grandson during this time, my daughter's financial situation (although she has fortunately remained employed) and I just have the highest regard for the ABC.

Having been born in Kalgoorlie, I remember the ABC to introduce the "School of the Air" which assisted young people (not me) in remote areas to have some education. This was an amazing concept and I think people have forgotten the amazing foresight of this invention by the ABC

I do hope that the Govt will grab their brains and provide the budgetary requirements so that the people of Aust can continue to be protected and to keep being informed by the ABC on all issues in an honest and integral way.

Lorraine F
NSW 6060

The ABC provides an invaluable news and information service which must not be threatened by reduced funding.

In a country like Australia where many people live in isolated areas, their dependence on up to date reports of impending fire, flood or other disasters is imperative. The ABC has always been a reliable source and its continuing importance cannot be underestimated. Government funding should be wisely distributed and it is essential that the ABC be a very high priority.

Apart from necessary news and information, my personal mental health is maintained by my immersion in the calming and inspirational music and commentary provided by ABC Classic. It provides my lifeline to a feeling of calm and peace.

Please prioritise necessary funding for this wonderful organisation.

Thank you,
Lorraine Gibbs

Lorraine G
NSW 2291

Dear Mr Morrison,

I am writing this letter to help you see just how important our ABC is to me and my family.

I am in my 50s and still vividly and fondly remember play school in my early learning. As a parent ABC kids has been such a great resource in providing quality viewing for when I needed to work. My kids will always remember their favourite feel good and educational ABC kids shows like Octonauts!

Now as an accommodation business owner in a regional NSW location ABC radio is a lifeline in providing quality reliable news and information. During this years horrendous bushfire event. ABC radio provided a source of crucial information to our community.

I also highly value our ABCs balanced and uncorrupted political reporting. A government that seeks to undermine this honest journalism is a government is a government that I cannot trust.

Please take a leadership role in protecting the future of our ABC.

Warm regards,
Lorraine Hunt
Tanja Lagoon Camp

Lorraine H
NSW 2550

In Narooma where we lived during the bush first was frightening. There was no power, no phone, no radio, until we remembered the radio that ran on batteries. And there was the ABC, thank God for the ABC. They were our lifeline. We went down to the refuge centre which was full of hundreds of people, the surrounding area was covered with people in cars and caravans. We offered our spare beds to some "refugees" from the little town of Cobargo. News was scant but rumours abounded, "Cobargos gone", No school No pub and so on. This was not true but the little town did suffer terribly. We took some people back to our little unit and we made do with food, and candles. The ABC put us straight on Cobargo, but of course they couldn't tell us how many homes or which ones had gone. Our Refugees were worried sick but stayed stoic. The little town was full of people. Some said our town of 8000 was now "full". We were told to have an exit plan, fires to the north, south and west. Really the sea was the only escape. No ATM's working, no petrol. We were lucky, others were not but the ABC was there day and night. Thank God for the ABC

Lorraine S
VIC 2546

The ABC consistently provides excellent news coverage. I will not be voting for the liberal party if the budget to the ABC is cut. This pandering to the private sector has to stop. We need a government funded broadcaster . All it's tv programs are exemplary. Our country will be just little bit worse if the budget cuts are imposed.

Lorraine S
WA 3046

As a young mother, staying at home with small children, the ABC was a life saver and revelation for me.

It kept me sane and entertained, as well as being informed, educated, and in touch with local issues including those of the wider world. That was 35 years ago and I have listened to the ABC ever since.

I am appalled that the Government is considering cuts to this valuable Australian commodity .

The ABC is the essence of what it means to be Australian. I am so proud of it and will not turn to another broadcasting service, should you make cuts.

How dare you consider doing such an unAustralian action.

lorraine s
VIC 6160

Please, please, please keep our ABC funded fully. It is such a part of my life, my security and my decision making. I DON'T want to have to sort out the bullshit from the truth to the extent needed on the other channels in our society. The ABC offers high quality journalism, supports Australian artists and actors, broadcasts emergency information and pulls apart so many controversial issues to help me make sense of what's going on. During the bushfires, all the information the ABC provided helped my family to keep abreast of what was happening in areas we have family in when we couldn't contact them personally. Covid-19 has further impressed upon us the need for national news to keep up to date with what's happening around the country and to hear full reports from our Premier and Prime Minister. I don't want their press releases bastardised and influenced by private companies. I don't want their press releases shortened, interrupted by advertising and whatever else a private provider might do. The ABC gives us evidence, it gives us Australian journalists, it gives us Australian content in a timely fashion and it gives us security. Stop stuffing around and fully support the future of the ABC! PLEASE! Australian culture needs the ABC; I need the ABC; my grandchildren need the ABC.

Lorraine W
WA 3226

ABC has indeed been the most reliable source of information for my family through all of Australia's recent disasters.
ABC is the most watched channel for it's honesty, openness & truthful reporting.
ABC keeps me well informed about Australia's outback circumstances which keeps me in touch with important issues in our country.

louise b
NSW 6061

During the bush fires the ABC was always there for me- providing information and updates. When this was too much the variety of music was in valuable. The broad selection of music is not found anywhere else.

The ABC is unique and important to us all.

Louise B
NSW 2121

The beginning of this year saw massive bush fires. The Gosper mountain fires came very close to Sydney's north - where I, my family and community live.

Our whole community relied on the ABC's emergency reports and updates to follow the path and progress of those, and other, fires. This helped us plan our fire fighting preparations (wetting down the house and surrounding garden and bush) and where to place the fire pumps, in readiness.

Fortunately, we didn't need to use the pumps - this time! It was a close call.

We will always need the ABC's local emergency reporting of fires and other major weather events; as well as domestic and international news.

Please ensure, firstly, there are no cuts to the ABC in the October, 2020/21 budget. Secondly, previous funding cuts are fully restored so the ABC. This ensures it can continue all its current services and reinstate those that have been forced to close.

The country must have a fully and properly funded National and international broadcaster.

Thank you for taking the time to read this submission.

Sincerely,
Louise Brogan.

Louise B
TAS 2108

I rely on the ABC radio and television to get up-to-date true news.

In the 2013 Dunalley bushfires I was cut off from power, fuel, phone, internet, food and road for days on my 20 acre bush property. Without the ABC I would not even have known there was a bushfire in the region and approaching. It has no sooner burnt down Dunalley than it was racing to my place at Eaglehawk Neck. It all happened within a couple of hours. No fire engines or personnel available. Without the ABC up-dates I would not have known to prepare my property, and then in which direction to flee, as the fire exploded over the hills without warning. The telephone towers to the Peninsula were destroyed. In the following days ABC notified residents where remaining fuel was available, and where food had been brought in by boats, and finally where an emergency centre had been set up. Thank you my ABC.

Similarly during Covid 19 I have listened to the Premier's updates on ABC Radio, and Norman Swan and health ministers. I hear the facts and aren't distracted or confused by false reporting. I trust ABC radio and TV. They work for the public interest. Thank you.

Louise C
NSW 7021

My husband and I are ex residents of Cobargo, so when the fires of 2019 burnt through the town destroying what was once both our workplaces and home we felt a personal impact and concern for the safety of the community. Two sources of information were invaluable in delivering trusted and reliable information : ABC Canberra radio announcer, Adam Shirley and the ABC TV coverage with Hamish Macdonald. The comforting, reliable, empathetic and non sensationalist persona of the ABC presenters was a sanity lifeline at a very challenging time. Now again with the covid19 situation we see the same reliable information and professional integrity displayed by the ABC delivered by Norman Swann. There is absolutely no other media source I would trust during these difficult times.

Long live the ABC

Louise and Clive Goodwin

Louise G
VIC 2582

I rely on the ABC for my news and entertainment- it is unbiased and factual. Please keep this important service for the people.

Louise H
NSW 3350

We are one of those businesses that were able to stay open under strict guidelines. We relied so much on accurate reports and the ABC provided that where the channels offered sensational rather than informative news. We are relieved to have honest forthright information.

Louise L
NSW 2261

Throughout this year and in fact over many years I have relied totally on the ABC to deliver me honest, up to date, and accurate information about everyday news. This has been so important during the Covid 19 pandemic as I am 83 years old and know that I am at risk when it comes to catching this virus.

But of even more importance to me is the way in which the ABC delivers honesty and integrity into my knowledge of national and international affairs. There have been so many social issues which the ABC has reported on which have then gone on to be investigated and taken up by authorities and resolved in the best interests of the community.

HONESTY, INTEGRITY, ACCURACY are hallmarks of the ABC's performance and I am deeply grateful for their continued strong presence in my life.

Louise R
QLD 2088

My name is Louise I live on the beautiful Sunshine Coast in Queensland. I work in aged care and have done so for 23 years . I am a dedicated listener/watcher of the ABC . I respect all the reporters that are dedicated in getting out to the Australian and world reliable information about the coronavirus pandemic. The information shared is important to me and helps give me confidence in the information that is delivered to me on my tv/radio

Louise T
NSW 4551

I rely on the abc to keep me informed in a logical well researched non extreme way.

Especially during the pandemic I have looked to Norman Swan for his informed scientific information on the pandemic.

I get my world and local news through radio national and know it is balanced and fair. It's funds must NOT be cut. They are vital to my well being in this very difficult time. Did I mention abc fm the classical music is such a balm to the soul in this age of information overload. The ABC must be strengthened and supported. They are the media version of koalas and kangaroos to all thinking people in Australia.

Luci H

QLD 2040

ABC has always been there to inform Australian in every event and in the best possible Informative way. We rely on ABC news to know about all things that are going on around us and Australia in general in our everyday life. We want ABC news to continue delivering the great reliable information they have delivered always.

Lucia L

QLD 4224

The ABC has always been my leading news and current affairs source, and continues to be even more so in 2020... especially through the Covid-19 pandemic and in my everyday life. I tune into the Coronocast podcast, the 7:30 Report, Q&A, and Triple J's Hack religiously and without fail. The ABC is our absolutely essential, unbiased, factual, evidence-based, most relevant media outlet, which houses the most talented and respected journalists and media professionals in the business. Please continue to fund this national treasure! We love and need our ABC!!

Luciana M

VIC 4068

ABC has provided me with non- bias news and professional advice. Thank God for the ABC in 2020!!

Lucy S

VIC 3130

The ABC has been my main media source during the coronavirus crisis, during the bushfires this year, and for all general news updates. It has numerous platforms that are available for all my family (AM station 774 in Melbourne for talk back listened to by my parents, streaming online updates and twitter/social media updates for myself, Triple J for my teenagers for focused and uniquely relevant content).

We have specifically used ABC resources to educate and work with our three children during lockdown as well – both online, in print and from ABC stores.

Accountability is important to all organisations and companies, including our government. Providing unbiased and free opportunities and platforms for journalists to hold those in leadership positions is imperative to our way of life in Australia.

I have continued to learn and develop my understanding of Australian culture and heritage through coverage of Australian stories, and truly feel lucky to have watched the support and development of the youth music scene through Triple J over the decades. The exposure and support offered nationally to young people to participate in music becomes particularly beneficial when we are looking for creative outlets during times of crisis, as we are now, so that children have the opportunity to feel connected and to express how they feel in constructive ways.

I implore the government and those that are holding ABC purse strings to invest and allow quality content to continue and to continue to provide opportunities for the arts industry and for open and honest debate in news coverage by not cutting funding to the ABC.

Lucy V

SA 3095

To whom it should concern,

I rely on the ABC on a daily basis, particularly now during COVID.

I need an unbiased source of News. The ABC is the only news source I trust.

I employ you to continue funding the ABC.

Kind regards
Luke Jenner

Luka A
NSW 5000
Hello,

I live in the beautiful Mid-North Coast of NSW, which was devastated by bushfires last year and this year. As a self-employed local business owner, I relied on the ABC to keep me up to date with the area and ferocity of the fires, road closures, aid etc. Now, with weekly and sometimes daily changes occurring because of Covid-19, I know I can trust the ABC to be distributing current governmental advice as it happens.

As a musician, I rely on ABC Classic FM to keep me up to date with new music in my chosen field. It's not just easy to listen to; it provides professional critiques and news which is highly relevant in an obscure but increasingly relevant source of economic importance. Both ABC Classic FM and ABC local radio, along with the ABC's social media accounts and websites hold governments to account, and provides trusted news which is unbiased towards one party or the other. Privatised media will never be completely unbiased, whether to right or left wing, and it will never replace a government funded source of news and current events.

Privatised media abandoned our local area during the most recent Covid-19 crisis. Our regional newspapers were closed, and online news dwindled. Only the ABC remained strong. The economy has suffered as a result of cuts to the ABC; the less local employment there is, the less money is being spent locally.

I urge that, in addition to no further cuts being made at the next federal budget, that previous funding cuts be reinstated.

Yours sincerely,
Lydia Wills

Lydia w
VIC 2345

I rely on the ABC for trustworthy and in depth news and current affairs as well as quality Australian drama . Frankly I was horrified to see some of the best shows being cancelled or seasons shortened due to ongoing and unfair budget cuts which I find bewildering . I am appealing to you to restore proper funding to our ABC which is the voice of Australia

Lyn B
VIC 3198

I have been an avid listener to the ABC for over60 years. My 4 children all born in the 1960's grew up with the children's programs, both on radio and TV, their children likewise. Peter Evans was my radio companion as I drove to work, and Tony Delroy helped me unwind at the end of the day. John Faine kept me informed on politics , current affairs and disaster warnings and updates. The ABC MUST be equipped with adequate funding to give us honest and enlightening programs for our future generations.

Lyn F
NSW 3250

It is of the utmost importance to me and my family that the ABC is funded sufficiently to support the news and the emergency updates when our country has emergencies, such as the fires and the floods this year and including the Covid reporting. I can trust the ABC to give unbiased news to keep me informed. The investigative journalism is a fundamental service in this democracy. I cannot trust the Murdoch press at all. Our public broadcaster has been neglected and underfunded. This must stop.

Lyn M
QLD 2079

I believe our very identity would be comprised by having not having access to our ABC. Being a 5 Gen it has been our trusted friend through our life.

Lyn P
WA 4556

The commercial TV channels news broadcasts are fragmented and too full of sensationalism aligned with their advertisers bias and lacking in depth of detail. The ABC is the only TV channel worth watching to be able to get adequate detail.

In particular the ABC does cover more than the state news in which you are living, it does not brush over pertinent detail of events like the bushfires, Covid it gives geographic information of sites and professionals assessing situations. Living in WA you would assume the eastern seaboard had floated to New Zealand.

Lyn S
NSW 6018

When bushfires were near us last year the Fires near me App was great but the ABC warnings were vital as sometimes the Fires near me had not been updated. Thank you ABC

Lyn W
WA 2450

ABC is my only reliable and unbiased source of information. Invested media interests in WA see a domination of our local newspapers and the seven network. The ABC provides me confidence that the source of my current affairs information is reliable and trustworthy. The journos are not frightened to ask politicians the hard questions. I would not vote for any government that sought to remove the ABC from our screens. It is the peoples network and should forever remain.

Lynda F
NSW 6155

I discovered Radio National many years ago and became a confirmed ABC listener because of the diversity and quality of its programs. For the same reason the ABC is my choice for television viewing.

Commercial broadcasting, both radio and television serves up rubbish in my opinion and I will have nothing to do with them.

Our national broadcaster is the only source of information in times of emergency and for many of us living outside metropolitan areas this information can mean the difference between survival and disaster. I was lucky enough not to be immediately impacted by the dreadful bushfires earlier this year but there were occasions when the threat of ember attack was a possibility. the ABC is always there with current information.

I have a choice because I live in a place where signals are good. Many Australians have little or no other choice but the ABC. They particularly deserve a broadcaster that meets their needs without the requirement for commercial profit.

Lynda G
WA 2535

The original ABC is how children are taught to read and write and gain their education of the world and everything in it. That ABC is unbiased and uses taught symbols to convey information of all types to anyone that wishes to understand their world. That is the magic of that ABC.

In Australia we have another magic ABC.

Our Australian ABC is the same. It too provides us with facts enabling us to understand our world.

I challenge every politician to find a better source of facts that they believe?

Do politicians know of any other readily available source that will provide them with reliable information of their country's people and everyone's needs.

The ABC educates all Australians about everything in life. Their health, knowledge of their community, the broader world and their country's politics.

The key thing is. Do politician want their people to be educated and able to consider a variety of points of view before they make a decision about all aspects of life that confront them?

Forget any political 'double speak' and avoiding the question, what do you truly think? Do you use the ABC's daily news, radio, and television? Do you make use of their up-to-date, unbiased information, straight from the public, or academic sources. Do you? Give an honest answer.

Have you valued the ABC's expert interviews that provide research information. Have you made use of their podcasts that are available anytime?

Politicians use it when they need it to communicate urgent information.

The ABC is our further education. Every person can access this education at home, on the road, in the air. We talk of 'online learning'. The ABC is online learning from babe to nursing home. It is always there.

The public values the ABC. It may seem childish to call it "aunty". In truth it is more like a highly knowledgeable parent that doesn't force you to accept their views, but provides the facts.

Don't underfund the ABC. Don't use it for propaganda like Sky News does. I visited the USA and was appalled by that News presented there.

During these troubled times with China versus the United States, Russia and the subtle influences of such country's affecting our elections by using media, our Prime Minister says 'This country will study the facts and make its own decisions.'

If Australia's population is able to support him in this then the Government must fund the ABC.

It is an essential to educate our population to know the true facts and influences they need in order to make their own decisions.

We need to know and 'believe" our politicians understand that in today's world a well resourced ABC is essential to us all.

Lynda W
NSW 6020

With relatives on the NSW South Coast and in Victoria, I rely on the ABC for the most accurate and up to date news about bushfires and COVID 19. No other media outlet provides the same depth or accuracy in information. I will never forget the night my relatives were abandoned on the beach at Mallacoota. Their mobile phones had run out of power and I was reliant on ABC radio for coverage about what was happening. The other media outlets were not even in the area. In Victoria right now, only ABC radio has the most up to date and accurate information about the Stage 4 lockdown. Other media outlets provide misinformation which I find distressing. No other media outlet is interested in getting the facts right and providing the most up to date information.

Lyndall R
QLD 2300

During the whole of this year, especially during the pandemic months, I've relied on the ABC to keep me informed on where and how this disease is spreading, current restrictions and explanations of figures.

Lyndell B
ACT 4878

Having a strong and appropriately resourced ABC is critical to providing reliable and trustworthy news and information for all Australians.

There are a number of areas of ABC programming that are vital to the whole of Australian society... Especially in these times that we are experiencing at the moment.

The first area is Australian produced content. The ABC has always been a strong sponsor of innovative and intelligent Australian content, across numerous genres. This has made a strong contribution to our national identity and our culture. ALL of our collective cultures.

Secondly, the online presence of the ABC is by far the best provider of quality digital content in our country. The diverse points of view are very valuable amidst the trend driven media landscape, which is mostly dominated by advertising revenue targets.... Not worthwhile television and radio content for our nation.

Finally, and most importantly.... Is the standard of excellence always shown in news and current affairs. The BBC and ABC are the last bastions of professional journalism and production in the world. We are the lucky country because we have programming such as ABC24, overseas bureaus, 7:30, investigative journalism such as four corners, and a very high quality radio network that is depended on by a huge part of Australian society.

I rely on the ABC to provide myself and my family with the honesty and quality that we deserve as Australians. Do not dilute the wealth of what the ABC provide to so many.

The ABC needs to be supported for the sake of all Australians, young and old. The ABC speaks for all of us.

Thank you.!

Lyndie L
QLD 2615

A key cornerstone of democracy is a free, publicly-funded, independent media. Australia has relied on our ABC to fulfill this role for generations. Yet in recent times, politicians are restricting funding to this world-renowned broadcaster, for party-political reasons. At the same time, significant public funds have been provided to a privately owned media organization. This is unconscionable and our 'leaders' should know better. In the past two years, we have relied on ABC reporting, via television, radio and the internet, to keep us informed about unprecedented wildfires and floods, and now Covid19. ABC also provides a crucial public service in holding politicians and those in public service to account. It is absolutely crucial that the ABC is properly funded from the public purse.

Lyndon D
VIC 4566

I tune in to the ABC every day both for the news about the pandemic and for diversion from it. Thanks ABC!

Lynette C
NSW 3161

I watch the ABC every day. I also listen to the ABC News Radio. I find that I can follow all the up to date news every single day. For me, to know what's going on around here and the world is important! Happily, I was not in the bush fire areas, but, if I had been, the updates would have kept me informed so I would know to go or stay! As for the covid 19 pandemic, updates are available on the ABC every day!

Lynette D
VIC 2259

I enjoy listening to ABC 774 of an evening to keep me company and learn about current affairs and how people are doing in everyday Australia. I listen to the entertaining midnight quiz. Keep it up ABC!

Lynette F
QLD 3043

I have relied on the ABC News to get the full story about this global pandemic and up to date information daily on the situation in Australia. There is so much biased content in news from eg Murdoch owned companies and newspapers that it is so important, more than ever, to keep the ABC investigative journalism and daily news open and available to the public. The idea of cutting funding and undermining content of the ABC is unAustralian to the very core of our principles as an open, honest and democratic society. In this new world of FakeNews it is more important than ever to have a reliable news service and programming that informs and puts the science and expert opinions out there for the public to digest. Last night for example I watched Australian Story, 4 Corners and QandA - you don't get better than that. Its our Aunty - paid for my taxpayers and is not to be tampered with and diluted by the LNP for any reason.

Lynette L
NSW 4211

The ABC was crucial to those of us who were caught up in the devastating bush fires on the NSW far south coast in January. On New Years Eve our town of Tuross Head lost power around 9am in the morning. We did not get power back on till 42 hours later. When we lost power we also lost internet and later in the day we lost phone coverage and mobile internet so we had no way of knowing what was happening in the outside world and worse still what was happening with the fires and where they were in relation to our town. The only way we could get any news was by listening to the ABC which kept us updated and they themselves were working under duress as one of their transmission towers was burnt down and they had to relocate their broadcasts to another frequency. A common sight around our village was people sitting in their cars listening to the ABC on the radio to get information on the fires position, evacuation notices and details on what roads were open so people could try and get out of the area. Without the ABC we would have had no information or contact with the outside world. The ABC is an essential service to all AUstralians and especially those in regional areas and it must be properly funded so it can be there for us all the time especially in times of crisis.

Lynette N
VIC 2122

The ABC is my main source of information. My analogue and digital radios are only turned to the ABC. On Black Saturday, I went to sleep listening to the ABC and woke to their news . Realised how serious the fires were and rang friends in Flowerdale. No answer ever received. At least the ABC prepared me for the devastating news that both friends had perished.

I rely on the ABC for news, information and entertainment. Surely at 74, I am entitled to see my taxes pay for this vital service.

Lynette P
NSW 3121

I relied on the ABC 24/7 during last summer's bushfires. From the first week in November 2019 my house in the Blue Mountains NSW was surrounded by fires right through until March 2020. I live alone and it was my constant source of information. It provides me with essential independent and balanced news; entertainment; and company through quality programming. It needs to stay and it needs proper Federal funding.

Lynette S
NSW 2778

As a resident of the Blue Mountains in NSW, I make this submission, to show just how important the ABC is to myself and my Family. I am in a wheelchair, relying heavily, on the Independent ABC as my source of information about bushfire activity in or close to my Community. Having experienced the Black Summer Bushfires, has once again brought back the stress and trauma of my experience of being a bushfire survivor in 2013. The ABC has given me the comfort of unbiased and independent news reports and facts. My Family and I rely on this, particularly in these times of increasing disasters.

With Climate Change proving to be taking place currently, a greater account of this type of independent journalism is essential..

Thank-you for the opportunity, to write this submission.

Lynette T
SA 2777

The ABCNEWS is SO IMPORTANT it's hard to know where to start.

Integrity, diversity, unbiased, - these are values that are not often found at Fox And many commercial outlets.

My grandchildren have needed ABC support, my many many friends across Australia relied on the ABC for up to date bushfire coverage ..

It goes on and on what the ABC provides to Australians.

It is a disgraced and a disclosure of either, or both, ignorance and/or co-ercion by monied and powerful players that the government could even consider reducing ABC funding.

you will loose a substantial voting base if you carry on with this scheme..

lynly c

VIC 5044

I am a 75 year old who lives alone and relies on the ABC for news and entertainment. I turned to the ABC for their dependable bushfire and now coronavirus information. The Radio National programs are also greatly appreciated - I simply can't conceptualize life in Australia with a curtailed ABC. It is what I depend on. We are all so fortunate to have this (sadly already depleted) unbiased public facility. Further cut-backs will only dumb Australia down even further. Maintaining a modicum of culture is very important rather than rushing down the superficial American capitalistic path. Funding to the ABC should be increased - not cut.

Lynn T

NSW 3927

I would just like to say that ABC Grandstand offers the best coverage of the NRL and AFL on radio. The commentators are better than any of the others.

I would be extremely unhappy if ABC Grandstand was taken off air.

Lynne C

NSW 2194

We live in regional Australia & during the bushfire crisis & the flooding of our Rivers 2 years ago the local ABC was the most dependable source of live-saving information. Now, during the Covid19 Pandemic it is the only source of news I trust. Dr Norman Swan's information on both ABC radio & TV, is always well balanced & clearly presented too. The Federal Government must restore all of the ABC's funding so it can continue to inform all Australians regardless of their political positions.

I am a #Voter & I fully support the ABC & want it to be fully funded ASAP!

Dr Lynne De Weaver

Lynne d

NSW 2480

During the horrendous bushfires late last year and over the Christmas and new year period my family and I relied heavily on the ABC for information on the fires. I live on the Central Coast of NSW and for 4 weeks from 23 December my daughter and her family from Victoria were staying with me. The TV was never off and was always tunes to ABC 24 News so we could keep up to date with fire info.

I have relied, and continue to do so, on the ABC for info in the COVID 19 virus. Both radio, TV and on line coverage.

I want Increased funding for the ABC from government so they can continue to provide round the clock, intensive coverage of emergency situations using excellent experienced presenters who can be believed.

Lynne R

WA 2256

I have lived most of my life in regional areas across Australia and the ABC has been vital for national interests. Recently I have been shocked that most of the news delivered via online publications like the Age and SMH is American, including sport. Journalism using American expressions is a dead giveaway. The ABC is the most reliable for australian culture, without a doubt.

Lynne S

VIC 6281

I have always looked at ABC as my number one and reliable news source as they present information with facts and research. They have kept me informed and up to date about our current global climate and I hope this delivery of news will continue on for the future generations.

Lyreca C

WA 3023

I have relied on the balanced and accurate news reporting of the ABC for many years, but none more so than in 2020, when their coverage of the domestic and overseas issues of COVID19 and also the bushfires was superlative. I also rely on 4Corners, Q&A and Mediawatch for unbiased commentary.

The ABC is vital to Australians. Dont cut its funds!

M K
NSW 6959

In Regional NSW we absolutely rely on the ABC for up to date news, information about local issues and events. This year the we relied on information re Fires in particular. When the local Furies came and asked if we had water tanks and were fire prepared we knew to tune in. But Rain events, road closures, other local emergencies are all covered by our local stations. Really important to us, we know it is reliable and up to date.

M & M R
NSW 2447

ABC is the only Australian-owned newspaper I consider reliable, that isn't hidden behind a paywall. When Australians are looking for their news, they need to get getting it from reliable sources to stop the spread of mis-information. It is essential that ABC continue to receive robust funding to do proper research and high-quality journalism.

Madeleine B
QLD 2077

I really rely on the ABC for the quality of its' programs & more factual News! Commercial Channels drive me mad!!It's our ABC! Don't cut any more more from its' budget,please!

Madeleine E
VIC 4216

I have depended on the ABC to keep me abreast of all the news, as I totally trust them. They fact check dubious statements (which are far too prevalent), and I feel I have a good understanding of world issues. Since Corona virus I have depended on ABC to hear my premiers daily announcements. I live in an area where I do not receive many commercial stations. ABC radio means I can access news wherever I am. ABC TV fills me in with all details that I need to know regarding our current situation. Their staff deliver the news clearl plainly and with no spin. I need the ABC

Madeleine W
QLD 3220

The fourth pillar is dying at the hands of funding cuts. Please, the ABC is so important to me and my life and connection to community. They have been the only voice that is truly for the people and guiding us through hard times. Through covid so far there has not been a day when the ABC was not my information highway. It is so important to a healthy media landscape in Australia. There is no one else that I turned to through the bushfires in Victoria while I was on holiday there and the reporting was so important for all those around me. The ABC desperately needs funding and you could create so many jobs for our local communities by funding the ABC properly and growing their budget to suit our economic and country's growth. Please put our ABC as high priority and give our ABC the money it needs to be a strong voice for community. A few hundred million to the ABC is nothing in the landscape of spending we have already made now due to Covid. No one wants a surplus they want their communities supported. Please find the ABC properly and now.

Madeline H
NSW 4051

I am an 81 year old. The ABC has been my friend for the vast majority of my life. As a secondary teacher in state schools for at least 46 years, moving to Murwillumbah, Western Qld, Brisbane, Kurri Kurri, Trangie, Macksville and Gundagai before returning home to Cessnock, it has been the ABC and especially its radio service that kept me informed about my new town, the rest of Oz and the world. Who can survive without Macca on a Sunday morning and Nightlife and Overnights? What a mess you made of SBS with its cutbacks and who wants to listen to the drivle on Sky news etc and commercial TV??

Mae M
VIC 2325

The ABC is the only TV station that I watch. I never miss The Drum, 7.30, Foreign Correspondent, and most importantly Four Corners.
The ABC has always been essential in keeping me up to date and informed on important issues.
During these strange times in 2020 the ABC has played an important role for me during lockdown keeping me entertained and informed.
The ABC should receive increased funding not decreased funding.
The ABC is an Australian icon.
The ABC gives voice to the marginalised and disenfranchised in our society.
The ABC showcases artists and musicians, interviews interesting people, and so much more.
I believe that the ABC is an integral part of the Australian culture and should be supported to operate at optimum levels.

Maeve O
ACT 3078

The bushfires in NSW, starting the first week of September 2019 were horrendous, more so as family were living in some of those regions being gutted! No other tv channel had it broadcast 24/7 - but in a scenario like this unprecedented one, it was extremely important that all new updates continued. I even had my map spread over the lounge room floor to keep abreast of where the fires were going. The ABC was also the only channel advising residents where the fires were closing in and when it was time to get out. They did a remarkable job! Even the fire apps could not keep up with new spot fires and if it was not for the ABC, I'm positive the fatality rate would be much higher.

mag f
NSW 2633

I am so disappointed that the government will be taking more money from the ABC.
The ABC is the only reliable and interesting tv and radio channel we have.
Please do not cut their funding.
Why are you forcing them out? Do you not like the factual and realistic broadcasts they produce. I always go to the ABC for news as they are independent, non prejudiced about all stories. I live in the country and most intelligent people I know watch the ABC. Do you want us to turn into a red neck country? Come on please don't cut more money. You should be giving them more so they can continue to make people happy.

maggie d
NSW 2480

The ABC was absolutely essential in the 2019/2020 bushfire crisis. A national/local voice that everyone could tune into and get vital information about fires and safety. It has been likewise a valued voice to turn to for information about the corona virus crisis. I listen to ABC radio, watch ABC television news, read ABC news online.

I often tell people that I grew up in the US where there was and is no national broadcaster, no truly independent voice. Even the so-called public stations are funded by vested interests. Australia should be really proud of this important entity and we must do all we can to protect it. In this era of "fake news" it is especially important to have reliable public broadcasters who present all the facts.

Thank you

Maggie Gluek

maggie g
VIC 2079

I was caught up in the bushfires in NSW last November. The app didn't work and while I was in an evacuation centre I was totally reliant on the ABC for updates.. Further, the ABC provides a service that simply cannot be replicated by local stations.

Through bushfires, drought and now Covid 19 I have totally relied on the ABC for factual information.

I simply cannot understand how or why the ABC is constantly defunded.

Quite apart from their crisis reporting, I also rely on the ABC to provide Classical music, international political coverage and light entertainment such as the arts and general interest topics.

I don't live in a major city, so programs like Landline and Country Roads are important to me. Apart from the ABC, which other station offers philosophical, historical, international, regional, religious, and gardening shows? As a regional citizen I feel totally disenfranchised with every cut the ABC has suffered and know that no other provider has the capacity or inclination to meet regional needs.

Please....instead of defunding, protect our ABC by funding them adequately So they can make new programs as they used to be able to do.

Maggie M
VIC 3021

I wake up on the morning to the 7 o'clock

News for I need to know what is happening in the world and especially in

my own world. Most of the day I listen to

classical music on the ABC for I am an 84

year old just out of hospital living alone. Monday evening is the best day of the week, with Australian Story then 4 Corners, always important, Media Watch

and Q. and A. I cant imagine living anywhere without the ABC. I had a car accident some time ago and now have no

Car. With this Pandemic there is good medical advice and news on ABC.

Maggie R
WA 3127

Our family have relied on the ABC as a reliable source of news from around Australia and overseas since I was a child when we would listen to daily ABC news broadcasts on the radio.

Since having my own family, my now adult children enjoyed watching and participating in Playschool, a truly Australian production for pre-school children, as well as our family continuing to daily watch and depend for reliable news information on ABC TV.

More recently we have enjoyed the many interesting programmes produced in Australia by the ABC and appreciate the refreshing honesty and integrity of its producers and reporters, without us having to be influenced by advertising as on commercial TV stations.

We have also valued ABC reporting on overseas events, as well as daily information about the spread and management of the Coronavirus, which is vital information to help maintain our health at this time of a world health and economic crisis.

The ABC is the only media outlet in Australia that is independent from profit and politics and is Australia's most trusted news source.

The ABC has been the heart and soul of Australian media for decades, bringing stories to country and city folk alike all over Australia.

We depend on the ABC to hold governments and politicians accountable in the face of possible deception and have observed the depth of research, diligence and commitment of ABC reporters in verifying their stories.

It would be a huge loss to our Australian society if we no longer had the ABC, a stand alone Australian media outlet providing a role model of integrity and accountability in our society.

Maggie W
NSW 6230

The ABC, in particular ABC radio was the only up to the minute news source for local bushfire news during the fires in the Blue Mountains. Even when we lost power we listened to the ABC on our phones until the early hours several times while trying to figure out which direction to flee in. We need the ABC.

Mahalya M
NSW 2780

We age pensioners are feeling left out S we need more funding to be able to pay our council bills and registration for our cars .utility bills

Maja C
QLD 2566

My wife and I are age pensioners living in Brisbane. I have been moderately disabled with spastic diplegia because of a brain injury at birth and as I am now 76 it has become a major disability. Beryl has a condition associated with aging which will continue to cause a slow deterioration physically. We swap caring roles as required.

My father worked on farms for the majority of his fifty- eight year working life and probably because of this he drilled into his kids the fact that the ABC was the organisation you could rely on for accurate information/warnings about natural disasters. That role and the quality of the service hasn't diminished. In fact the increasing influence of the Greenhouse Effect, man made "climate change" caused by more and more Co2 in the atmosphere has made the ABC even more essential in saving lives and property.

No one could have imagined what 2020 would bring even if you were well versed on what global warming potentially has in store for us. The Bushfires, local flooding and Covid 19. We were not confronted by the bushfires, but one of our sons living in Captain Creek had a close shave and Beryl's best friend owns a house in Peregian where the first fires in Queensland broke out. We first heard details/warnings on the ABC. No sooner do the Bushfires abate than the drought breaks and my elder son and family, living in Dalby are put on flood alert. Next Covid -19 a myth, a hoax, a cold-war plot, a V recovery, a "one hit" wonder??? Thank God, "Aunty" ABC invited Norman Swan to share a regular virtual cuppa with us to chat pandemic. I find i trust friends.

And then the greatest "Man Made Disaster"* the "nonexistent" budget cuts to the ABC which required scores of staff to be sacked(allegedly Tony Abbott arranged the cuts in 2012). Just imagine if cuts are "really" made in the future, the ABC would be abolished.

We're gobsmacked that the National Party won't defend the ABC, the former farmers party is now the Miners party.

* I chose everyone of those words carefully.

Malcolm Campbell Beryl Falconer

Malcolm C
QLD 4101

For me the ABC represents a high quality source of both news and information that educates me about a range topics. For example Australian story inspires me and raises my hope for better society, the show that followed young adults with autism and their families. It highlighted the value they contribute to workforce as well as their struggles to find work and socialise. Programs like the drum, Q&A, 7.30, media watch, 4corners, the weekly are just a few that supplement the traditional news format.

Cuts to the ABC reduce the diversity of shows that keep us informed about world events as well as a training venue for young journalists. It also stops the shows that help develop a more accepting attitude to different points views.

Cuts to the ABC stops multilevel benefits that the ABC provides our society. I think the Australian society has benefited great over the past decades of this multilevel approach by the ABC.

Regards

Malcolm cassidy

malcolm c
NSW 4019

During the January bushfires we had ONLY the ABC as an information source. We had no power, no mobile phones, no internet. Even the RFS lost their Coms for a considerable time. We had ABC radio on our battery radios or car radios. Thanks to the ABC, we learnt that the road north from Narooma was open, meaning that we could leave the town, as our leaders were urging us to do. Andrew Constance advised that there was a way through, so many of us were able to head north, thereby being less of a burden and leaving emergency accommodation to those who weren't able to leave or who had nowhere to go. We would have been completely without any guidance at all without the ABC. It is an essential service and an Australian icon.

mandy a
NSW 2546

I live approx. 200 metres from bush land and the ABC was the only place that I received correct and up to date bush fire information. The RFS Fires Near Me App was helpful but inferior to the ABC coverage.

Also, since the fires I have noted that ABC journalists such as Simon Marney have spent a lot in the areas ravaged and destroyed by the fires, promoting the people, their losses and their businesses on the ABC. The ABC provides incredible service to all without any commercial bias. It needs increased funding to at least maintain its current level of coverage.

Mandy H
NSW 2250

I watch the ABC on a daily basis and consider it the best true source of news around. The ABC also has a wide range of programs and documentaries that I like to watch often. They are on top of the news with the floods, the drought and the covid pandemic. What a shame if the ABC was to disappear completely. Hey, here's an Idea; sell it to the Chinese, after all we sell everything else to them. That way we still get to keep the ABC but will be exceptionally limited in it's content. Awesome!

mandy s
VIC 2322

I have spent much of the first and second COVID Lockdowns in Melbourne alone. Throughout the day, I listen to ABC news bulletins and Classic FM; in the evening, I watch The Drum and the ABC news; while I'm preparing dinner, I listen to a podcast; and if I'm not reading, I'm watching or listening to something on the ABC. It is the rhythm to my day, it's my "go-to" for current, accurate, reliable, and authoritative information, and it's my principal source of entertainment. I cannot imagine life without it.

Mandy S
NSW 3002

maraisaksen@gmail.com

We grew up with the ABC.

I was one of 11 children and my Dad wouldnt let us watch any other channel .

He said it was honest news.

The ABC has always been our go to for news coverage and in times of crisis to keep up to date .

Especially this last summer with the bushfires .

Makes me very sad to see how our govt has over the years chipping away at the budget of the ABC.

Also helps to keep the govt of the day accountable !

The dramas kept me going through the lockdown recently and the daily dose of Norman Swan with his Coronavirus news

If i need some positivity i love to watch Gardening Australia and Back Roads .

My mum would never miss Friday night crime when she was alive and Im the same .

Please dont cut the funding to our National broadcaster!!!!!!

It is the essence of who we are as Aussies!

Mara I
NSW 2480

The ABC certainly kept me up to date during the bush fires with information about where you could travel to safely which led me to cancelling my journey to the south coast to Ulla Dulla to visit friends who were in areas devastated by our worst bush fires .

Also news of the cross roads hotel being an hot spot for the virus was a big help other wise I would have been meeting friends there which may have led to me infecting my family .

I would like to thank the government for the job seeker increase which has enabled me to live much better then on the \$40 a day job seeker payment.

I would like the Government to extend the payment at an increased or similar rate into the future for the many thousands or millions on job seeker , pensions and other welfare as this increases their spending power which can only enhance and help business to stay viable as I and many others spend this money on essentials to live and it would also help the economy and potentially reduce poverty, crime and mental health issues.

Marc S
NSW 2564

I was brought up on ABC TV ,
my children were brought up on ABC TV . What will my grand children do?
It's the only TV channel I watch and is very special to me.
We are a very rich country with a small population.... surely we can afford to support our most loved television Channel !!!

Marcelle C
NSW 2454

The ABC is the network I grew up listening to, and I have never been disappointed. I will never listen or believe any Murdoch news. The Murdoch press has a shocking reputation, so if you think ABC is unfair against the commercial media, consider people prefer the ABC because of the quality of the ABC. Protect the ABC do not cut the funding and reinstate the funding that has been cut no matter what Rubbish you put out that it is increasing.

Marcia G
VIC 2779

I live in a rural/ region of Victoria - and find access to the ABC essential and a comfort to know they are always there.
So good to get a balanced view on issues and so much helpful advice on what is happening not only in Australia/Victoria but global issues.
Without the hype / hysteria of commercial programs
I have been through bushfire emergency in previous years and Thank God for the ABC
Please do not cut the budget any further -
Allow this ESSENTIAL service to ALL Australians to continue

Marcia H
NSW 3781

During the bushfires we relied on the ABC for up to date information re the fires & fresh outbreaks in our area. We back onto a timbered reserve that posed a very real potential risk to our home if a fire had started nearby. We therefore relied on the ABC during that worrying time.
Moving to the current COVID 19 crisis. We greatly appreciate the calm, rational health reports that Dr. Norman Swan provides, countering much of the misinformation and disinformation that has circulated through social media, and some commercial media radio & TV stations that acted irresponsibly with some of the misinformed content of their programs.
In general terms, we rely on the ABC TV & Radio National for balanced information, with journalists conducting interviews where they allow the interviewee to impart information, rather than the endless, uninformed opinions of shock jocks and biased "set piece" political interviews that many media outlets present to listeners/viewers.
Marcia Moseley

marcia m
VIC 2259

Long live the ABC! The alternative? Murdoch.

Marcus L
NSW 3182

In our household, the radio dial stays on ABC and the TV remote scarcely gets used. We trust the ABC to bring us news and information that is accurate and accessible. We watch the ABC for stories about our country and heritage. We laugh, debate and argue with the ABC...we are proud to live in a country where public broadcasting still has a home. Keep the ABC strong!

Maree A
NSW 2135

Living on an organic farm in rural New South Wales delivers so many benefits: clean air; growing our own food; contributing to environmental repair; and a supportive community. During the 2019 - 2020 summer bushfires it was our supportive community and reliance on constant updates from our local ABC that were the priority. Being on high alert for so many weeks took a toll on all of us. However, knowing we could rely on the information from the ABC was the 'rock' that grounded us during such uncertain times.

However, the ABC - Local, Radio National, News Radio and ABC Classical all contribute to the quality of our life here on the farm. From local rural reports to trusted analyses of international events, and insight into socio-cultural dynamics, the ABC is an essential part of our lives. It is with great sadness and growing anger, that I witness continuing attacks on such a foundational institution by political leaders and some media personalities.

With not always reliable internet and phone services, broadcasting by committed, knowledgeable presenters and journalists is absolutely essential.

People like me who rely on our public broadcaster may not make up a large percentage of the population and therefore can be dismissed as not 'politically' important to those in power. More frightening for me however, is how self-interested politicians use 'crises' to sow mis-information and enact legislation that benefits only some small sections of the community. We believe that we make a valuable contribution to our valley community, our region, state and country. To continue to do this we need open discussions and debates on a wide range of political, environmental, cultural and social issues. These we get from our ABC.

Thank you for your time.

Maree B
VIC 2480

I am just an ordinary Australian and I rely on the ABC for truthful information, facts, investigative journalism, entertainment and up to date news every single day of my life.

The ABC was especially vital and extremely helpful for my family during the bushfires crisis as we live in an area which could be threatened at any time. It was a comfort to me and a support to know I could access current information through the ABC's constant, comprehensive coverage. As well I have a relative on Kangaroo Island and I was desperate for any news and the ABC was the best - on the radio, internet and television.

With this latest COVID disaster I am also appreciative of the ABC's excellent coverage for current factual information and advice. At this time I also thank the ABC for improving my mental health as I love following my AFL team and as a low income person I rely on the ABC radio for at least some sort of footy experience to keep me happy and in touch. Other radio channels often have poor reception but the ABC is much more reliable.

I don't know what I would do without the ABC and it should be enhanced not decimated by cutbacks. Protect our ABC.

Maree D
VIC 3442

I was completely reliant on the ABC during the bushfires which threatened our town.

The ABC needs to be financed properly .

No cuts

Maree E
VIC 3189

Through programmes like The 7.30 Report, we have been kept in touch with the struggles and challenges of ordinary Australians during this pandemic. How else would we know about these things?

Maree K
NSW 3094

Myself and family rely on ABC for an honest unbiased, view on events happening in Australia and worldwide.

To have to be subjected to commercial stations which are run and controlled by outside forces really worries me

Leave ABC to the people

Maree R
WA 2538

The ABC is my trusted news broadcaster

Living in regional Western Australia we rely on the ABC to keep our family informed on an daily sometimes hourly basis ... The ABC is our link to Australia and the worldat this time of so much uncertainty we require updates and trusted news responses.

My ABC

Maree S

NSW 6285

I am writing to you in support of the ABC. Living on the NSW South Coast the ABC provided up to date information and solace in late December and January as the bushfires ravaged our areas.

In late March I listened to the ABC and, in particular, Coronacast to get independent and prudent advice regarding the Covid virus. Norman Swan seemed to be ahead of the game always relying on well considered information. As a result, my family and I, acted swiftly to play our part in helping to stop the spread.

With so much false news and poorly researched information out there, having a reliable source of news and information is our only hope.

These days influencers have a massive effect on public opinion. Let's put resources behind an influencer which takes there job responsibly - increase support for the ABC.

Maree S

SA 2533

ABC it's a foundation to Australian democracy and consequently any reduction in funding will undermine its vital role.

Marek V

VIC 5074

I find the ABC a vital element in my day-to-day life. I listen to Radio National in the morning, to obtain a sound sense of what is going on in Australia and the broader world. I watch many programs on the ABC - the News, the Drum, and lots of the drama, comedy and topical and current affairs programs, including Four Corners, Foreign Correspondent, Q&A and Media Watch. I enjoy many of the arts programs and personal interest programs it delivers and feel the ABC needs to be strongly supported with proper funding. I strongly believe that the ABC provides a balanced option for obtaining information, and will look at both sides of politics, despite any rhetoric of various parties that might claim otherwise.

The ABC avoids the sensationalist, shock-jock tactics of so many other media outlets to provide informative, well-balanced and timely information. The ABC had given a broad and deep coverage and information regarding both the bushfires that assailed Australia this year as well as being my go-to source for important information on Covid-19, particularly ABC 24 News channel for daily updates from our politicians, and other commentators. I can only reiterate that I strongly believe the ABC requires further budget support to address some of the woeful cuts it has already sustained. The dedicated, engaged and hard-working staff need more support, not less. In particular the ABC needs to be given the financial wherewithal to continue supporting Australian created and produced programs across news, drama, current affairs, comedy and children's programs.

Marg B

VIC 3225

Each weekday I listen to coronacast podcast for the most up to date information on what is currently happening. Without the ABC there would be no reliable news service as the commercial stations and channels just toe their owners lines. The ABC has consistently shown how essential it is especially this year with all Australia's disasters. Proper funding is essential and ignoring the ignorant right wingers who persistently criticise unjustifiably it's right to exist

Marg H

NSW 3143

I have always relied on the ABC to learn about the news. While other channels (tv) prefer to broadcast their inane advertisements, I can depend on the ABC to keep me informed.

Radio is such a pleasure to listen to when I'm in my car. No LOUD, crass advertisements bombarding me. I do not want to see the ABC services reduced. This is very distressing to contemplate.

Margaret B

VIC 2250

We live in Healesville in a bush fire prone area. We depend upon the information from the ABC to be alert to fire danger. In this Covid-19 time we are greatly helped by knowing the ABC is giving us information we can trust. It is hard to keep a balanced perspective and not become anxious and dis-empowered but the ABC is a great help. Overall we depend upon the ABC for their news cover, investigative journalism and what we see as good quality entertainment. It is vital in this time that the ABC's funding is not just maintained but increased.

Margaret B
QLD 3777

I watch the ABC every day. Early in the year, I was watching the bushfires to check on encroachment to family locally here in Queensland, then family in NSW, then family in Victoria. From February, I have also used the ABC daily to keep track of coronavirus outbreaks, rules and risks. Tuning in to the ABC gives me truthful, vital information for the wellbeing of my family and community. Being back in isolation due to recent virus outbreaks nearby, I totally rely on information from the ABC to keep me and my family safe.

Margaret B
VIC 4208

I live in the Dandenong Ranges. My source of information regarding bushfires, both in my area, and those of family, is the ABC. The coverage is extensive and I know small communities will also be included. During the Corona pandemic, the only news source I trust 100% is the ABC. On the radio every morning, and the Premier's daily briefing, I know I am being given the best information and advice. The ABC is an essential service for all Australians, as is recognised by most, as soon as there is a crisis of any kind. It is also my preferred source of entertainment and information for me, and my grandchild when I mind her. Please do not make any further cuts to the ABC. In fact, given it has been of critical value in the past 12 months, at least, I believe it's budget should be increase. Rather than handouts to private media companies, support the one owned by all Australians.

Margaret B
VIC 3160

This year, the ABC has been especially important for me. Its reporting of the intricacies and recommendations relating to the coronavirus epidemic have been of enormous benefit to me as an older person and therefore in the higher risk category.

In a world of misinformation and speculation, it is extremely important to have such a service as the ABC.

And on a less bleak note, it is also a godsend to have high quality programs without insistent advertising that both entertain and inform, especially in a lockdown Melbourne.

Margaret B
NSW 3206

There is one thing I never miss, that is the 7pm ABC news. It is quality news without sensationalism, I know I can rely on its accuracy and completeness. The ABC provides honest coverage of local, national and international news. It is so important that it not be compromised

margaret C
ACT 2443

Because I have been housebound for some time and as a result I am dependent on both the radio and T V from the ABC for keeping me up to date with both local and worldwide news especially as I live in the country. MargaretDoyle.

Margaret D
QLD 2640

I rely on the ABC as I am 80 years old and treasure the integrity content and quality of the ABC. Our government is sadly more interested in commercial ventures but I don't really want to live in a world where these qualities are not valued.

Margaret F
NSW 4305

I do very much admire and appreciate ABC's investigative journalists who put themselves at risk by their honest reporting of corrupt behaviour by politicians and others. Also drama is especially good, Maralinga series and comedy with Shaun. However I am very disappointed in ABC breakfast program, because since Lisa has arrived the main focus is on Victoria. I now watch Channel7 for some local news.

Margaret F
QLD 2216

I am a retired teacher living on the Qld Sunshine Coast. I have appreciated the information given by ABC throughout bushfires and flooding throughout Australia this last season and throughout the period of the coronavirus outbreak and spread.

This was especially so as my Brother in law is a rural firefighter in Gold Coast Hinterland and spent many weeks fighting fires in NSW and later his own area in Qld. He was sleep deprived and physically exhausted, and knew his work would be awaiting his attention when he returned after the fires. It was important to be able to hear something of the development of the fires (knowing Ian was in one of these areas) between phone calls telling us he was still OK. We depended on the ABC.He journeyed through this time safely.

Now our son is in Melbourne involved in Contact Tracing for coronavirus positive cases, with the Defence Force. It is important for us to be able to stay aware of the situation in Melbourne and the management of the coronavirus spread. We have appreciated the regular updates provided by the ABC.

ABC reporting feels genuinely authentic and less sensational than other commercial reports. I believe we as a nation need the ABC to continue in a healthy resourced future to keep us connected across the vast country; isolated, rural, urban and city.

I also appreciate wider news, current affairs entertainment and education which I access through the ABC

Margaret G
NSW 4701

I listen to the ABC radio every day for news and appreciate the interviews of those directly involved with news events. I trust ABC news and TV documentaries. During emergencies it is the ABC that constantly keeps us informed.

Margaret G
NSW 2170

When I was evacuated from my home on the South Coast in December 2019, and particularly after I returned home to no power or internet, I relied on ABC radio to keep in contact with what was happening elsewhere. My battery radio and the ABC were essential. I have been appalled at the on-going, punitive budget cuts to the ABC. This must stop. Restore the ABC to full health and strength.

Margaret H
VIC 2539

The ABC was there for me during a bushfire in my area of Gembrook Victoria. As soon as it was realised the fire was serious along with other fires across Victoria, they called John Thane back from holidays and the relief I felt was just enormous. Knowing that an intelligent, no-nonsense person was there to guide us through the traumatic experience was calming and supportive. You simply cannot put a price on the service the ABC provides to everyone in Australia, whoever they are, wherever they live, whatever age, sex, colour, status. The ABC makes us equal.

Margaret H
NSW 3783

All my life I have been an ABC follower.

At the early years of my life I sat next to the wireless and listened to Kindergarten of the air. The ABC told me that the King was dead and Long Live the Queen I was so worried that I had to sing God Save the Queen. Then came the Argonauts which were very part of my life.

In my 83 years I have relied on the ABC to give me the NEWS of the world and at home.

This year is such a good example, they were at the forefront of the bushfires and kept us up to date. Anywhere else you would hardly know there was a fire

How would we be without Four Corners, The Insiders, Q&A and our reliable daily news, starting with RN and Michael and Lisa. Life would hardly be worth living without the ABC.

Margaret J
ACT 2090

peggy-j@bigpond.com

Margaret J
QLD 2605

In times of crisis I rely on the ABC to keep me updated. With the bushfires devastating large areas of our country, The ABC kept me up to date as I had family and friends in the paths of fires

With the corona virus it played a big part in keeping me entertained and informed.
Please keep supporting The ABC.

Margaret L
ACT 4558

As I have watched the disaster that has unfolded in the USA because of the twittering of the President on the subject of the Pandemic, I have been so thankful to have had the wisdom of Dr Norman Swan available to me, offering factual information on the virus and on how to avoid it and keep oneself safe.

He is the only reliable media person available to the entire Australian population, and because there has been so much politicisation of the subject, he probably would never get an appearance on any commercial network.

Margaret L
VIC 2614

I live alone and, although I am still working part time from home, this time of isolation from family and friends due to Covid-19 has been very stressful and lonely. The ABC has kept me accurately informed and it has also kept me sane. Daytime radio has become my new friend. The premier's daily press conference have been a daily essential. And in the evening, relaxing with some quality entertainment in front of ABC TV to take my mind off the fact that I'm missing my grandchildren. Commercial media is an insult to my intelligence, with its cheap and vulgar reality trash.. Where would I be without the ABC?

Margaret L
QLD 3056

The ABC has been a constant source for news and information all of my life but even more so in times of disaster and crisis.

We have children living in NSW and Victoria and we rely on the ABC to give us up-to-date and factual information.

We also rely on the ABC to give us factual and sensible unbiased discussion on political and current issues. No commercial stations either radio or TV have ever been able to do this as well as the ABC.

We watch the Drum every week night along with the news and the 7:30 Report and on Sunday we watch the Insiders without fail.

The ABC is also our primary source of entertainment. If we were to lose the ABC as it is it would be devastating for us and our family.

Margaret M
VIC 4077

The ABC (TV, Radio National and the ABC website) has been a constant companion and source of reliable information during this difficult year. It has also been a friend to me in times of loneliness and isolation, particularly the ABC FaceBook Book Club where I am able to find interesting reviews and recommendations for reading material to keep my mind active and stimulated. I enjoy the radio in particular - thoughtful conversations, entertaining discussions, new information on a great range of topics, reviews, accurate news reports about the bushfires and Covid19 in particular, excellently researched programs on health (thank you Norman Swan!). The ABC is a real and beloved alternative to commercial radio stations where news can be overdramatised, inaccurate and sensationalist. I also enjoy FM radio for beautiful classical music which fills my heart with joy and pleasure and also gives me hope that some beautiful things will outlast this current pandemic with all its accompanying misery. I particularly enjoy radio programs like The Conversation Hour and This Working Life and of course The Health Report. There's nothing like these on the commercial stations of the TV or radio. I love the Australian content on TV and these days (apart from the football which my husband watches) we never watch the commercial TV stations. The Drum is one of my favourite programs with diverse and interesting discussions with guests from different ethnic backgrounds and different types of life experience and expertise. There's nothing like this on the commercial channels. I also loved the program "You can't ask that" - programs like these help to dispel misunderstandings and myths about others and help promote tolerance and good will in the community. I also enjoy the comedy which brightens my evenings - political irony like Mad as Hell for example. So you can see that the variety of programs on the ABC is also a delight. Having suffered from mental health problems and loneliness during my life, I find the ABC to a wonderful friend.

Margaret N
WA 3184

I've lived in Australia since 1977. Growing up in Ireland I took my cue from my hardworking parents who installed in each of their eight children a keen interest in public affairs both at home and abroad. Arriving here I soon realised that the Australian ABC was the best source of real news here. Indeed whenever I traveled home to Ireland the one thing I always missed was the ABC. Now of course technology facilitates easy access. As a proud Australian keen to give my best to my adopted country I'm staggered at the appalling cuts to the national broadcaster. When I consider it's coverage of events over the last year and how it's manpower has spent itself in our service I ask myself, would my National government rather I remain in ignorance of what is really happening here. I sincerely hope not. Restore funding to the ABC. Today more than ever we must have a well funded and independent media.

Margaret O
NSW 6076

I have always had the ABC with me, before television it was radio morning news and serials after school. Keeping in touch with the drought, floods, and then the dreadful destruction of properties and fauna from the fire storms that spread throughout the land over the holidays, ABC was there with comprehensive coverage. We were there to see it all.

As if this was not enough, we have been hit with a Pandemic that is world wide. The ABC is to me, a comforting blanket, warm and protecting.

Margaret O
NT 2111

#REF!

Living in regional NSW on the far south coast during the 2019/20 bushfires we totally depended on our South East ABC radio broadcasts for our connection to events as they unfolded. Without power and any communication services for just about the entire month of January 2020, meant that our only means of hearing all the latest updates, news stories as well as just feeling part of our larger community, was via our battery operated radio. Without this, we truly would have felt even more disconnected than we already were at that time. We are ardent ABC radio listeners, always have been. We steadfastly rely on the quality and trustworthy reporting that only 'Our ABC' delivers, constantly and consistently. As for the catastrophe that followed on immediately post fires, the pandemic, the ABC news, TV, online and on radio have all been invaluable, and such an important aspect of helping us feel connected, safe and up-to-date. The Corona podcast with Dr Norman Swan is our 'go to' for daily Covid19 information updates. The Drum on ABC TV likewise. And as for the ABC News and 7:30 - our evening information intake would be bereft. Please understand how significant the ABC is to all Australians, in particular, to regional areas like ours where isolation is too often the great divide.

Margaret P
NSW 2536

Having had a serious motor vehicle accident in April 2019 and been helicoptered to Canberra and only being released on 16 December from Moruya Hospital we knew from ABC radio we had to travel to Canberra via Cooma for a Hospital checkup before flying to Melbourne for Christmas. We flew back to Canberra for New Year and waited till the ABC told us it was safe to use the Clyde to head back to safely return to a Nursing Home on the Coast which knew was still safe from bush fires again via ABC. So I constantly watch the ABC to know how the family in Melbourne is being affected by COVID 19 for accurate reports.

Margaret P
ACT 2537

I rely almost totally on the ABC for reliable, regular and trustworthy daily news and current affairs reports, mainly on RN but also the local news (especially the 7.45 am bulletin). I recall, as a child, listening to Wimbledon tennis matches, with the family; listening to "Blue Hills" with my grandmother on visits; for some strange reason following the funeral of an Australian politician when I was 5; etc

The ABC, though sometimes making errors or perhaps displaying some unusual bias, is the only Australian corporation with enough educated reporters/journalists to enrich such a large segment of the population, re topics and specialities expected by Aussies.

It was the ABC that got me through the 2003 Canberra bushfires and the recent ones on the south coast of NSW and in Victoria; it was the ABC that I could pick up when camping across Australia; and the only reliable place to hear accurate info about overseas events, to hear predictions and reviews (and local situations such as COVID -19); and then there is the coverage of music, of children's and educational programs, science, art, film and books: the array is enormous. Country people absolutely rely on the ABC, and it was always a comfort when living in Broken Hill to have access to its range of programs. Thank you, ABC.

It's totally disgraceful that successive coalition governments have continued to reduce the ABC budgets, and their actions will be remembered at the ballot box.

Margaret R
QLD 2605

I was very grateful to the ABC during the bushfires, particularly in November when I was staying in the vicinity of the fires, for keeping me up to date and for the alerts for the various areas especially those near me.

I also appreciate the coverage during this corona virus, if it wasn't for this I would not be aware of what the restrictions are and the changes in these, or where the cases are, particularly those in my region.

So please allow the availability of these services through the ABC.

Margaret S
NSW 4670

I have always loved classical music, and the ABC classic FM have been absolutely wonderful in how they've responded to the COVID-19 crisis, with music to dance to, sing even more than in the past. Also the news I get by listening and by email has been so fair and informative on the issues. As a past member of our local community radio presenting programs, both classical and other at times, I have a good appreciation of what they need to do to prepare their programs. And the tremendous work they have done in ensuring we have a fair view of so many issues.

Margaret S
VIC 2350

I am old and I need to understand how best to protect my health. I have found the ABC reliable, honest and clear. I find the ABC news particularly helpful. It is detailed enough but with no padding. It is clear and easy to understand. It also helps me know how my children (one in Sydney and one in Brunswick West) have to respond to the pandemic.

I am very grateful for the timely advice from the ABC

Margaret S
VIC 3188

We are aged 85 and 99 and we have relied exclusively on the A.B.C. and S.B.S. for reliable news information and entertainment since our return to Australia in 1972. We particularly value programs like Q.A., Four corners, Foreign Correspondent and the occasional "oldie" like Midsomer Murders.

Margaret T
NSW 3128

The ABC news channel is on all day in my house. I feel it is a link to the outside world. I feel I know, trust and like the reporters and presenters. Whether it is an election, the fires, covid or Trump I want to stay informed. What would we do without the ABC?

It makes me feel bitterly angry that the coalition allows the ideology-driven IPA to formulate policy.

Margaret T
VIC 2350

I am a retiree of 18 months of which the first months saw me have quadruple bypass operation. The ABC was that steady rock I needed both during and after the operation and through recuperation. It provided comfort and distraction through the provision of informative news coverage along with entertaining and heart warming shows, particularly in the afternoons. Now with COVID-19 lockdown the ABC has provided me with up to date information about the virus along with the latest on lockdown restrictions. The comfort and support the presenters have provided through this time has been exceptional and without it my life would be all the poorer both emotionally and intellectually. Thus I implore you NOT to make cuts to the ABC in the October 20-21 budget. I know I can trust and rely on the ABC through the good and bad times. It is an essential service and vital to keep those in power accountable as well as provide emergency broadcasts when the need arises. The ABC provides for all Australians across all our wide brown lands.

Margaret T
ACT 3163

I rely on the ABC to provide me with trustworthy local and national news every day, news that is not corrupted by the bias of vested interests in the commercial world. Through that lens I gained insight into the effects of the drought, the black summer of devastating bushfires and news about the regions of Australia through Landline and Back Roads. I value the space given to Australians to talk about their lives through Australian Story and One+One. I applaud the investigative journalism that Four Corners contributes, the space for people to ask genuine questions via Q&A and the fine discussion on Australian politics on Insiders. Updates on the spread of COVID-19 are essential viewing. And I applaud the ABC for having the courage to present well made, hard-hitting local drama like Mystery Road and Total Control.

Margaret V
SA 2603

I rely on the ABC for many things but the news is number one. Information comes from multiple sources these days and much of it is flawed or incomplete, or deliberately misleading. It is exhausting to try to keep abreast of rapidly changing stories. Sometimes friends do not help because they share "click-bait" stories that turn out to be false. I increasingly find the ABC essential for thorough, well balanced reporting that is also well researched and well written. I frequently go to multiple sources for news (such as the New York Times, the BBC, Crikey) and I cross check stories to ensure I am getting correct information. The ABC consistently gets the right balance of facts, analysis and different points of view. I particularly value its fact checking which holds politicians and other people in positions of power to account for their statements. All of this is of critical importance to a democracy. I am very sad that any Australian government of any political persuasion is not fully supportive of this.

Recently of course ABC reporters kept us all informed about the terrible bushfires – often putting themselves in harms way to do so. No other news service can do this properly. The ABC's reporting throughout the coronavirus crisis has been equally important. I have found their focus on mental health and their frequent provision of information about how to look after your own and your family's mental health very important. It has been reassuring to realise that everyone is under huge pressure at this time, and that help is available.

I cannot emphasise enough how important the ABC is to me, my family and my community. Please support it and fund it properly.

Margaret W

QLD 5019

There's no question that the ABC is essential for Australians. Why? The ABC & SBS delivers news. It has become more & more apparent that commercial channels & Sky deliver NOTHING but propaganda & opinions concerning news items. These channels incite Disunity, Division and Despair for viewers.

Their delivery is truly ABHORENT.

I don't even call them journalists any more. They are applying the principles of media if it's sensational enough no matter how bad it is, then people will talk about it. How the Murdoch family and any journalist can hold their heads high to be connected with such trash is beyond belief.

If they were around during WWII they would have been promoting the right's of people to leave their lights on during bombing raids, how dare we be told to turn our lights off. Did this happen? I guess we'll never know will we, as though people who left their lights on as it's their 'right' to leave on their light, would most likely have been bombed. The propaganda machine is truly dangerous, for us now and for ALL future generations to come. There must be truth and ethics in delivery of news items. Otherwise the individuals who partake of such sensationalized delivery cannot be called journalists at all. They should be called media campaign officers, definitely NOT journalists.

The ABC cannot be allowed to go down the path of the other commercial channels. Legislation needs to be in place where news can be delivered as news, and all else is simply commentary.

I would be happy to pay a yearly contribution to SAVE our unbiased ABC. Most definitely.

Margaret W

NSW 4305

We rely on the ABC to find out what is happening in the world.

We do not rely on commercial radio for anything, particularly facts or analysis.

Without the Science Show, Background Briefing, Matt Bevin, Late Night Live and other international reporting, I would have to purchase American news papers.

Time to fund the ABC.

Margery S

NSW 2074

Who would have ever thought that 2020 would be such a time, not just for Australians but for sharing stories from across the world?

I arrived in Australia mid March, hoping to return to Timor Leste after a month of visiting family and having annual check ups. Of course it didn't happen! I went straight into quarantine then into an apartment for the next 4 hours months, waiting to get permission to fly to Darwin then Dili. Because my family has a nurse on one side and a young child on the other, my family deemed me 'vulnerable', so I was on my own for most of the time. The ABC has been a lifeline. Not just for the superb coverage of the growth of covid19 in Australia and the rest of the world, but for entertainment - ivity, current Affairs, comedy and documentaries that kept me sane. I watched movies, series, discovered The Drum, listened to music, and when I did finally get to meet family, fell in love with Bluey with my great granddaughter. The ABC makes sure daily updates are available any time of the day. Sure there is repetition but who cares? After living with no ABC in Timor (results of funding cuts some years ago), I was happy just having someone talking to me! In English!

Please do not cut funding any further. The ABC is part of the Australian psyche, people rely on it for information about what's important to Aussies when we need to know what's happening. With love from East Timor but I still call the ABC home for what's good about our country.

Margie B
NSW 2095

I live on Yowrie Rd .12 Ks from Cobargo ,the little town on the Princes Highway that did not receive Prime Minister kindly when he flew in to have photos taken with the ravaged town as a backdrop .On the morning of the 30th at around 2.30 am we fled the fire which was racing towards our property.The noise and heat was terrifying .We had followed our fire plan but it was obvious that without protective equipment we would have to leave . First we went to the Cobargo Showground because that was what we had been told to do.Most people had already left there and had headed to the coastal town of Bermagui .We set off there .There were spot fires staring along the roadside and we had no way of knowing if the road was passable .Il learnt one thing that night .If one is fleeing for one's life one does not have time to be scared .My whole focus was on the road and the need to keep calm and keep going . Over four thousand people ended up at the Surf Club parking lot .So many cars they opened up the oval .Cars were everywhere .Most of us stayed in our cars that night waiting for the dawn that never came .The only thing we had ,any of us was the ABC local radio broadcasting from Bega.It was still pitch dark at 10 o'clock in the morning ..with an eerie red glow from where we had come from . We saw the best of humanity that day and the days to come .The officials pleaded with us ,if we were able ,to go on to Narooma as poor little Bermagui was breaking down under the strain of a non working surge system ,no power or running water and Narooma would be able to help us .Once again in the smoke choking gloom we drove to Narooma .The ABC was with us all the way .The Fires Near Us was not working as we had no phone coverage. We spent days in Narooma once again experiencing the kindness of strangers and the daily briefing from the Fire Service ,local mayor and politicians giving updates twice a day .The ABC vital .The information was delivered in a calm ,informative manner .The broadcasters from Bega were tireless in their efforts to keep everyone up to date ..We learnt after several days from a neighthat our house had survived but everything else on our property had been destroyed including our protea plantation of over 1000 plants . We were unable to return to our farm for 8 days and the task to clean up after this devastation is on going with tremendous help from volunteers and both state and federal government contractors . I have listened to the ABC since I was a child .I would lie down in the street in protest if they ever tried to change this organisation . A month or so after the fires I went to Bega .I knocked on the door of the ABC office .I need to thank someone ,anyone who worked there , for guiding us through that traumatic time I cried when I tried to express my feeling ..Margot Nettheim

Margot N
VIC 2550

The ABC is a trustworthy source of news, which is vital for a strong democracy. The ABC is uncluttered by advertising. Each morning when I turn on the ABC it brings me in touch with others and helps lift me out of my small world. I listen to intelligent, decent people giving me a window on the world. Thank you ABC!

Marguerite M
VIC 3095

My name is Marguerite. I am in my mid sixties. I live and work in regional Victoria. I work in the health industry. I have learnt to value and trust in our National Broadcaster the ABC over the years. They are community driven. They have integrity and a conscience. They report and behave in responsible ways. They do not aim to distort and sensationalize reporting. They give us the facts. Their reporting is timely and accurate. Technology and Apps. are not a strength of mine but I can turn the ABC radio or news on my TV and get the information I need during times of emergency such as bush fires. I have relied on the ABC during the Corona Virus Pandemic to keep me informed. I rely on the ABC to hold those to account that others do not. Do not diminish the little credibility that we have left in journalism. I know I can rely on the ABC. Don't diminish their ability to continue to deliver a vital community service as our National Broadcaster by reducing their funding. I would like to see their funding increased. Please honor and support our democratic system by supporting our ABC.

Marguerite M
VIC 3931

If I ever need news, un-sensationalised and factual, I would never go to the commercial media sources but head straight to the ABC. It is the only source of news that I can rely on to be thorough and accurate. During the bushfire crisis and now during the pandemic lockdowns, the news is there with detailed analysis that I can't do without. This is aside from any entertainment value that there is from the different programs. The ABC is a constant companion to my life, particularly ABC local radio and the ABC news and 7.30. Please protect this invaluable institution from further cutbacks to keep the integrity of the journalism intact.

Maria C
VIC 3111

I am a 79 year old woman and have relied on the ABC to keep me informed and up to date over many years. I have been widowed for the past 10 years as well as quite isolated and the ABC has been a trustworthy and engaging part of my life. As a society we need to keep an eye on our ever expanding world with its many challenges and to do so we need ethical journalists to keep us informed which in turn enables us to make good decisions.

Maria C
NSW 3820

Recently I moved house and was unable to get ABC, my trusted news and entertainment source. The only channel available was channel 10, and I was disappointed with the quality and content of material. I couldn't wait to be able to access ABC as I have confidence in the ABC for reliable and independent reporting of events both at home in Australia and overseas. The quality of dramas and other entertainment material is excellent. Talk about simple pleasures, I was so happy when a technician came and was able to re-establish the connection to ABC.

Maria F
QLD 2096

Hi, I'm Maria, a migrant, I came to Australia in 1990. I live in Brisbane, and since then I been watching ABC TV, it did help me to learn English. I am a health worker in a public hospital, and been here as a migrant and citizen appreciate what a beautiful country I have to opportunity to live and enjoy. But make me sad to know you intended to cut funding away for the ABC, my story may be very different, but I can tell you, I did learn English from all different programs and newsreaders and reporters, as I felt they did speak better than other people on commercial tv, I can appreciate they don't "show any bias" to people of different background, they most objective, professional and ethical. I wish we (as people from minorities) could enjoy ABC for many many year to come.

Maria M
NSW 4077

How can you even think of making cuts to an iconic ABC they have been around forever not just when we are all going through a crisis. ABC gives clear and concise news without having to put up with a lot of razzle dazzle and big egos of other stations. ABC has always worked for Australia let them continue to do a good job.

Maria R
VIC 2170

I am a semi-retired maker/ crafts person. I have just listened to Daniel Andrews telling me about the new covid 19 restrictions on the ABC. I really appreciate a news broadcaster that does not politicise everything. Measured commentary is essential to me. I watched various leaders clearly articulating the restrictions and situation during the fire season from September through to early this year. I am frustrated when commercial news channels create oppositional commentary and politicise situations that require everyone to be on the same page and work towards the good of the whole community. The ABC is reliable and an essential part of the Australian community.

Marian H
NSW 3941

My husband & I rely on the ABC for our news especially with the fires not far away & now the covid19 pandemic. Our health of us, our children and 6 grandsons is dependent on unbiased news and information. I look at commercial local news, but not always sure if it's true or not.

Marian S
VIC 2251

To whom it may concern,

My name is Mariana Martheze. I live in Chelsea Vic and work as an integration aide with primary school children with special needs.

I feel compelled to email and express to you the important role the ABC network has played, not only throughout my life, but particularly in 2020.

The challenges we all experienced as a nation in the first days of this year with the bushfires all the way to today with the intense pressure and challenges in our world with Covid 19 to the unrest in foreign relations with China, the ABC has been the only constant source of solace in my family's lives.

From triple J in my car, Q&A and news updates to children's shows and education support, this network constantly endeavours to support the Australian community through every facet of their lives. They consistently reach out to the community with honest, reliable information and most importantly, always offering connections to mental health services and real life stories.

Thank you for your time

Kind regards

Mariana Martheze

Mariana m

QLD 3196

During the bushfires in Northern NSW I feared for my elderly uncle and aunt overnight and got up in the middle of the night to check (via abc) that they didn't need to evacuate.

Then the pandemic, as someone who works in healthcare and also had my father pass away in another state, I relied on the abc to stick to the rules as to what we could safely do around his funeral and our travel.

Thirdly, I trust the ABC reportage on climate change and its role as a risk multiplier for heat waves, bushfires and other natural disasters. Well before the Murdoch media empire even admitted the science was real, (vs a matter of opinion) the ABC rose to the challenge, despite its board being stacked with government appointees; it took a brave journalist to hold the vested interested fossil fuel merchants of doubt to account, and tell the story on climate and human health which they wanted silenced so they could profit from ongoing coal extraction.

Lastly ABC kids shows helped us and our children grow up to be confident, educated adults, and the comedy and other dramas have kept us all sane during lockdowns. Bring on Wednesday and the Comedy channel in this time of uncertainty and fear.

Marianne C

NSW 4060

I arrived in Australia as a migrant in 1981. If it had not been for ABC radio and ABC television I would have not settled in as well, not known any of the history of Australia, not understood cultural and social life in this country and not been able to talk about movies, music and current affairs, to list a few examples. The ABC has been my anchor and my lifesaver for nearly 40 years. No other station/program has come near its breadth, depth and professionalism.

Marie M

NSW 2010

The ABC with SBS offer the best programmes available in Australia.

Accurate, intelligent, unbiased news reports and current affairs on both channels. Quality home-produced and overseas drama, classical music on FM.

Without the ABC intelligent viewers and radio fans would be condemned to the revolting menu of rubbish featuring narcissistic exhibitionists which is provided by commercial channels competing with each other to achieve maximum mind-numbing tastelessness.

Successive LNP governments seeking to gag the fearless National Broadcaster have systematically starved the ABC of funding in fear of its unbiased, truthful reporting.

Marie M

QLD 2750

ABC...the life blood of all those seeking the news affecting their lives. For years and years we have relied on Aunty to tell us what is happening within our venues. Whether it is weather events, road conditions, local happenings or news from other societies, the ABC tells us what is happening and what we should do to keep ourselves and our loved ones safe. No sensationalism, no misinformation, no journalist's opinion; just the news and how it relates to us.

PLEASE. May this broadcaster go on for ever and ever and keep Australians reliably informed.

Marie M

NSW 4221

During the summer fires I depended on 702 to keep me up to date with the fire coming from the north with it arriving in my yard on Christmas Eve it burnt in my gully for a week. Then the Covid19 virus hit and being 82 I like to keep up to date with where it is, again ABC keeps me up to date truthfully

marie M
VIC 2786

I am a 63 years old woman living in Clayton, Melbourne. I am very sad to hear that the government intends to cut funding to the ABC. Since lockdown in Melbourne, I haven't gone to my volunteering work. I have watched this channel as I can rely on it if I miss other news. Even late at night, I watch this channel. I can rely fully on it. They give information most of the day; even news from other countries. They also detail the covid graph for Australia. I believe this is a great station/channel and it should be kept on air for all of us. Please do not cut funding to ABC. The only channel that helped me to stay connected. I will really miss it.

Marie T
VIC 3169

I have relied on Dr Norman Swan for my information during the corona virus crisis.

Marie-Louise D
VIC 3078

In a time when the commercial stations (and news reports) are sensationalising almost everything in an effort to catch someone's attention, ABC continues to provide unbiased, sometimes conflicting sides to a story UNINTERRUPTED by commercials. We rely on the ABC for accurate news about fire or threats of fire (we are semi-rural), for intelligent, measured stories which are both informative and sensitive. Both the ABC radio and TV, with several stations bringing national and international information to me - I feel that they know I have a brain which can THINK not just swallow dumb stories. Keep your hands off the ABC.

Marie-Louise H
VIC 3928

Turning on ABC TV news morning and evening is part of my daily routine. This week and last week there have been afternoon announcements by Premier Daniel Andrews that I and my partner also watched. This is how we know the latest restrictions for managing COVID 19!

In between there is ABC news online, usually read on my smartphone.

ABC is a sane and reliable source of information locally and globally.

Marie-Therese J
NSW 3162

All year around, I rely heavily on the ABC for a multitude of reasons, not the least being honest and forthright information on issues local, state, federal and world news.

I have been glued to my TV throughout 2020 in relation to climate change and the effect of that on the bushfires. I have family in some of the affected areas and I knew I would be given regular updates as to conditions in those and other areas.

Covid-19 information has and still is readily available to me through the ABC, which devotes a great deal of its screen and radio time. It is the only place where I know we won't get any form of conspiracy theories. In fact, I know if they debunk any stories that I hear of a dubious nature.

Without the ABC, there is little fact to be had in the media anymore.

Marilyn M
QLD 2400

Need to act on deaths in custody and close the gap and me to issue for women. Gender and race issues are big.

Marilyn N
NSW 4122

I am a 71 year old woman who has worked all my life and paid taxes to the Australian Government since the age of 18 until I retired 5 years ago, apart from 3 years when I lived in the UK. I have never been on the dole or taken anything from the Government that I wasn't entitled to.

I have always relied on the ABC for my news and information, both local and overseas. Why would I trust any huge commercial news organisation, all of which are influenced by lobbyists, immense corporate interests or overseas owners or interests to give me a true picture of what is happening in Australia and around the world. I rely on MY ABC, paid by MY taxes, to give me true and unbiased news and information, particularly in times of crisis and uncertainty. I relied on ABC radio for information during bush fire crises, floods and other natural disasters, as well as for daily news around Australia and from overseas.

Why would I rely on the likes of Murdoch Press, or other commercial networks, whose employees hack phones, harass people in their most emotional and sensitive moments, and employ senior management who force their staff to do so, just to sell newspapers and manufacture TV news to pander to the gormless idiots who read and/or watch them. I feel the funding for the ABC should be INCREASED, or at least not cut any further.

Marion B
VIC 2452

I know that the ABC is often referred to as elitist but, I left school at the end of year 10 so, unlike many of its critics, I have not had a university education with a degree and entry to a highly paid profession. Instead I listen to the ABC.

I have spent years agreeing with its commentary/information or snorting with disgust and yelling abuse. Overall the ABC has informed me, challenged me, dismayed me and educated me.

Where else can I listen to programs covering the arts, science, sport, religion, philosophy, law, politics, history, gardening, the natural world, sociology, books and music, and other topics I can't for the moment remember.

The ABC is invaluable as a spur to curiosity, interest, rage, activity and so much more.

Please increase the funding to the ABC so that my self and countless others can continue to be informed, enraged, confused, stimulated and delighted by this, the nation's broadcaster.

Marion B
VIC 3158

The ABC has been a vital source of information for me during the pandemic. Our national broadcaster is unique in providing stories about remarkable people, commentary on the arts, locally produced drama for both adults and children, supporting artists at a time when we long to be able to see a movie, go to a gallery or live music performance. It connects city folk with what's happening in the bush: the challenges faced by farmers, tourist operators, people making a living from the sea. We learn about science, hear discussions about philosophy and religion. Overseas news is current and wide ranging. Debates intelligent and stimulating. We are made part of the world, even though our ability to travel has ceased.

The ABC links us in a way that no other institution can, making us proud to be Australian.

Marion C
NSW 3067

I am a 76 year old retiree dividing my time between the Central Coast and Sydney. I listen to the ABC news several times a day on my radio in the car and at home. I rely on their coverage of the issues that concern me to guide my behaviour. I find commercial outlets tiresome and lacking in depth. Through the bushfire emergency and now during the Covid 19 crisis, the ABC helps me stay in touch and safe. I wonder if the govt members who propose cuts to its budget have any idea of what the ABC means to ordinary Australians.

Marion D
QLD 2251

Late last year we attended a family funeral in Canberra. Just as we exited Canberra to head for home in QLD, we heard on the ABC that there were bushfires in the North of NSW. By listening to the ABC we were able to plan our trip to avoid the areas of worst impact. The last thing that fire-fighters need is travellers in their workspace who are unaware of the situation.

Later when we got home and there were bushfires in our area, the ABC was a godsend.

Since the Covid-19 the ABC is the only way we are able to get information about the Covid-19 that we can truly rely on. there is so much fake news around. We trust the ABC.

Marion F
VIC 4570

The ABC has been vitally important during this pandemic. The information is accurate and the experts explaining what is happening are informative. For people living in the regions only the ABC has the up to date truthful information they require. Fund it properly!

Marion G
WA 3134

I find the ABC is an excellent news program. We see the news as it is happening. so we can be sure as to its accuracy, and if there is commentary we can judge better whether it is opinion, fact or politics! Although nothing is perfect, it is certainly the best form of news we can get, rather than politically biased media moguls opinionated drive! Thank you for your attention.

Marion I
VIC 6053

My family and I have always relied on the ABC, Both radio and television, have always found their reporters, both radio and television, to be people of integrity who tell the truth about the state of affairs without sensationalism. We have found them well spoken and in moderate voice, which makes listening both easier and more enjoyable.

marion m
VIC 3212

We love ABC radio. As well as news and excellent information giving programs on Radio National, during the many hours at home in lock-down we enjoy listening to CLASSIC FM and ABC Jazz. It makes being at home a relaxing and enjoyable experience.

marion o
VIC 3461

I m an avid listener to and viewer of the ABC and am heartbroken that the funding of the abc continues to diminish year after year in real monetary terms.

ABC radio

I listen to Melbourne abc to find out what is 'really' happening in Melbourne and the state of Victoria especially during emergency situations such as the yearly fires and this time the Covid-19 situations. Re the Covid 19 the ABC Melbourne has been an enormous help by putting out information that can be trusted and relied upon.

As I have many friends and relatives in other states such as S.A and the ACT, i turn to Radio National for reliable news and information regarding the nation as well as international.

It is sad that due to monetary restrictions stations such as Radio Pacific et al have had to close and that is no doubt felt quite severely by those who relied upon it.

For some relief from the emergency/crisis situation and political commentary, I turn to ABC classic with its knowledgeable hosts of high quality. And then of course also ABC News which one can tune into any hour to catch up on some international news - often during the night when I cant sleep. I trust the news and information the ABC puts out as they are not influenced by commercial and political interest - its ongoing independence is crucial.

ABC television

ABC2 is the television station I watch the most and again, the yearly budgetary squeeze is obvious as more and more programs are repeated over and over again. Surely, it cannot continue - a quality tv station available all over the nation is crucial and must remain so and remain independent of any commercial influence and political.

For both radio and television, the presenters/hosts are excellent - their breadth of knowledge in multiple disciplines I find often amazing.

Again, it is crucial that the ABC is funded properly in order to be able to employ such quality people who present the various programs of interest to a broad audience of the nation both for entertainment, news, be it for the very young, young, not so young from all over the country - both in remote areas as well as crowded cities.

Marjanne R
NSW 3806

We relied on the ABC to keep us informed during the bushfires & now during the pandemic. We also rely on it for unbiased News which is not influenced by advertisers, pressure groups or politicians.

Marjorie H
VIC 2529

I rely on the ABC for:

Up to date reliable news events;

Support to the Australian People in times of hardship, tragedy and danger;

Sound and reliable advice on important topics;

INDEPENDANCE from government and all other sectional interests;

Australian Music, drama, performances support;

Entertainment.

What more can I say - Taxpayer money should support and allow to grow this most important part of Australian Society.

The Government's job is to help and support it.

You I must reinstate its cut funding immediately.

Marjorie S

VIC 3136

Like most Australians, I trust the ABC as a source of independent news and analysis more than any other mainstream media outlet. I trust the ABC at times of national emergency such as COVID-19 or the bushfires to bring me, and the whole country, accurate information that other media sources are so often not able to provide. When I want to unwind, I trust the ABC to give me great comedy, drama, and music. The ABC is central to my daily life. And I trust the Australian government to adequately fund the ABC with a budget that will ensure its independence and allow it to continue providing these services to us, as Australians, now and into the future.

Mark C

QLD 3078

As an ex commercial journalist I rely on the ABC for coverage of disasters like the recent wildfires, Townsville floods, drought and especially balanced unbiased coverage of the Covid 19 crisis.. ABC is the only independent broadcaster giving truthfull information unlike commercial media which is giving one sided openly biased right wing and Liberal Party propoganda. You must allow ABC to do its job to continue to employ professional reporters and cover all of the nation, indigenous, drought, farming, environmental and social issues and not just a narrow metro area focus as commercial media does. Murdoch has abandoned regional and rural centrgres closing many papers the ABC must be funded to fill that vital, life saving gap.

Mark D

NSW 4504

I, and my family, both in Australia and overseas rely upon the ABC as a source of information as well as entertainment

The ABC represents one of the very few news organizations untainted by commercial interest and conflict of interest

We have relied upon the ABC during the recent fire season for accurate and on the ground information which we actively used to help us preparing fire prone property and for direct information regarding elderly parents in the line of the fire in the South Coast of NsW

We continue to rely upon the clear and evidence based reporting of the coronavirus crisis to inform and guide us

The ABC is vital to the cultural fabric of Australia and has shaped much of it

Unless we want our country to come to represent all of the ills of the United States, we need a strong ABC

What seems totally ludicrous in the current climate is the defunding if the ABC and the associated job losses

mark g

WA 2031

The ABC's coverage of the coronavirus pandemic has been indispensable to my wife and myself in understanding it. The depth and breadth of information has allowed us to get a grasp of what it is and how it affects us and our world. And, of course, there is the delightful Dr. Norman Swan, acting on all our behalf in speaking truth to power and ensuring that they can't rest on any pre-emptive laurels.

Mark G

NSW 6530

The ABC is the only media I trust to give me real time information , news , currant affairs , they have supplied vital information during crisis and good solid rural news without the main stream media playing their own political agendas , Australian rely on the ABC and any budget cuts which should be budget increases is an attacked on Australian people , we need an rely on the ABC it is the people's broadcaster not to be used as a political game by any government , cut politics benifits ,and leave the ABC alone with an increased budget...

Mark H
ACT 2264

As Deputy Captain of the Cooma Brigade of Fire & Rescue NSW, I was on duty or on call with most of my crew for much of December 2019 and January 2020. When not actually attending fires or other incidents we were in our crew room at the station for long periods on short notice standby. The television in the crew room was tuned constantly to ABC news, which unquestionably provided the most comprehensive, accurate and up to date news of the developing fire crisis, even for personnel engaged on the front line. No one would have dreamed of suggesting changing the channel.

Mark H
NSW 2630

Our family rely totally on OUR ABC in any national crisis for accurate, up to date Information. We receive such professional, trustworthy deliveries and couldn't imagine seeking this elsewhere. During the fires it was our daily go to and again now through the coronavirus. On a more positive note it has always provided us with quality drama and documentaries ... a world without these would be indeed sad (not to mention what wonderful shows are produced for our children). I urge our government to do the right thing. Our ABC should not just be maintained but rather have it's budget returned we need somebody to keep this country accountable and to also share the good things in life that surround us!

Mark H
QLD 2422

I have long had an interest in public affairs and politics. I appreciate a variety of views on this, but have a strong dislike for the extremes of media coverage, from the far right and far left. While I am a long-time fan of the ABC, I make a point of watching other media organisations. I find that the ABC is by far the most even in the news and even more so, the commentary on the news. While Sky News is quite good, the SAD (Sky after Dark) commentators are deplorable. Compared to this, I see that the ABC always makes an attempt to provide an even representation of commentators, particularly on their premier programs, The Insiders and Q & A. While our Auntie can improve further, I commend her for the way that she attempts at coverage fairly and across-the-board.

Mark J
NSW 4884

I'm a 68y.o. retired man who just loves to live in the bush.
I live in a somewhat remote are in the Northern Tablelands of New South Wales. During the day I rely on the ABC to keep me up to date e.g. with the bushfires last year. I rely on the ABC to keep me in touch with the progress of the battle with the Corona virus.
I rely on the ABC to keep those in power accountable at a time when deception is rife.
In the October 2020/2021 budget I demand that no further cuts be made to the ABC. I demand that already cut funding be restored.
Sincerely
Mark Kearney

Mark K
QLD 2350

With the advent of modern digital and other sophisticated technologies, more than ever, Western Democracies are a target and under increasing threat, not only from foreign and external powers, but equally, internally! My late Father left war torn Europe for Australia in 1955, with 12 children and a wife pregnant with twins. As a 10 pound pome, he knew all too well the horrors and ravages of war. In part, he chose Australia for its isolation and because it has no common borders, a security, Europe could never provide. As we hear stories of our Politicians all too willing to engage in, what I would describe as espionage, sedition and treason, I become increasingly fearful for the future of Australia. Our Government's focus on "jobs" at any cost, our willingness to trade, sell and barter our resources, our properties and just about anything, does little to give me faith that we will survive as a Nation or as a people, beyond the 21st Century. More than ever, we need the unbiased scrutiny of reputable Journalists, we need the ABC and all it has to offer. I'd like to note, that until his death 31 years later at the age of 72, my Father kept abreast of World events and I, from the age of around 12, would sit with him, watching the ABC!! Cutting funding as opposed to increasing it, in my book is just another betrayal to the people who own it, Australia's Citizens, and we all vote! Mark Manning, Buderim, Sunshine Coast, Queensland.

Mark M
NSW 4556

To whom it may concern,

I am writing to state the value that the ABC network provides myself, as well as many other everyday Australians.

To have a non-for-profit network as the ABC that provides valuable news Australia wide, which is non-bias and not sensationalist (like the majority of the other 'for-profit' networks) is extremely valuable.

The ABC has been there on the ground to provide my family with valuable and objective news and information over the last year, through the times of bush fires, then floods and now in these times of COVID-19.

Furthermore the ABC provides programs of a cultural diversity that are simply not available on any other free-to-air TV channel in Australia.

The ABC not does not deserve further funding cuts and in fact requires more funding to get more non-bias and objectives news, and other educational and creative content to Australians.

Yours sincerely,

Mark Pages

Mark P

NSW 2145

I completely rely on the ABC television and radio for keeping me informed and current on all issues of importance including news, entertainment and business. I find the coverage intelligent, balanced and unbiased.

mark w

QLD 2478

If it wasn't for the ABC I would not of had a balanced truthful information regarding the bushfires and the COVID 19 pandemic. I have grown up with the ABC and still today myself and many, many of my friends and family regard the ABC as the guardians of demoracy while others pursue a personal crusade of dismantling the ABC under tghe guise of free speech , yet they are the first to vilify anyone who dare challenge them. The ABC belongs to the people of Australia and is the last bastian of truth in the media. The majority of the Australian public rely on the ABC as the most trusted source of truthful information without the spin. If we lose the ABC our democracy will be in peril to the likes of the Murdoch wolves and news Corp spin and lies.

Mark Withnell

Mark W

VIC 4873

My mother is a Murdoch muppet

My brother is a Hunger Games eat the poor aficionado

My dad checked out in.the recession we had to have.

I'm a Gen Xer who is cynical about everything, except our ABC.

Please restore full funding to our voice of reason in a culture war, our voice for the bush in a land of suburbs, our voice for women in a sea of semen

Marlo N

WA 3169

In 2009 I lost my house and farm to a bushfire. But I didn't lose my life and I manged to save everyone, even my horses. How?

Because the ABC gave me accurate and timely updates on the fire. I don't get mobile reception and I don't have internet (too slow as it has to be by satellite, so I instead pick up my emails from town). Without the ABC I may have been caught by the fire and I certainly would not have managed to save my horses.

Last year the ABC helped tens of thousands of people though these terrible fires.

How can anyone think that cutting the ABC's budget is a good Idea?

Marta S

VIC 6255

I rely on the ABC for all my news, documentaries and satire. They are most accurate and most unbiased and do not kowtow like the commercial channels do and should be properly and be strangled they have over the last few years.

Martin M
NSW 3072

The ABC has guided me through the worst of this year so far, as it has for so many years previously.

Living in north regional NSW, in a fire prone area that experienced unseasonable early fires in 2019, I relied on the ABC to keep me updated on fires burning in my area, but over the border in Queensland which the NSW RFS warning service didn't cover.

Without the ABC's news and current affairs coverage I wouldn't be informed about the rorts and lurks that diminish Australian public life. Its no wonder the Coalition parties seek to diminish the ability of the ABC to discharge this fundamental role of a public broadcaster. Ethical and efficient government is something taxpayers pay for, I don't want government usurped by corruption, cronyism and bloody-minded ideologues e.g. sportsrorts, National Covid-19 Commission, Angus Taylor and Stuart Robert.

Martin M
WA 2484

I've grown up with the ABC as a trusted source of independent news and shows that have helped form my Identity as an Australian
It need s to be fully funded and never privatised. Commercial Chanel's are never going to hit hard an keep our government or any issue accountable.

Martin P
QLD 6163

My wife and I are in our 70's. We have always been ABC viewers and supporters because we value the truth. With COVID 19 in particular, we are very susceptible, so we need to know what is going on with some accuracy. Dr Norman Swan, Leigh Sales and the crew at The Drum provide us with unbiased (in my view) information about the current state of the COVID 19 spread and the various governments management of the issues. Commercial television news lost us years ago with their blatant advertorial content, so they all have very low credibility, like the Murdoch Press. The internet is a joke. What other option is available to be told the truth?

Martin S
NSW 4105

The ABC is the most reliable and unbiased journalistic organisation in Australia. Moreover, for many rural isolated Australians it is their only source of news. It is time to restore the funding to the ABC that both major political parties have removed over the past 20 or more years.

Martin W
NSW 2777

The ABC is the only channel I watch. Not only that but I rely on the ABC to entertain my grand children everyday. They love all children programs. Also the coverage on bush fires and the coronavirus has been excellent in times of crisis. So please I demand the ABC to be protected. No more cuts to the ABC

Martine P
NSW 2106

In January this year, our family, like so many others, was affected by the Gospers Mountain mega fire. We live in the Hunter Valley, and we had glowing red and brown skies, oppressive smoke and falling embers for an extended period. On one particular day we were manning a sausage sizzle at Bunnings to raise money for Men's Shed and burning gum leaves were falling on the ground around us. We had to race home to protect our little timber miners cottage, the danger seemed to be all around us. We had our radio tuned to ABC radio all day listening to updates on the fires, and we followed the updates all day. Our daughter in law is a firefighter so we monitored her progress and listened all day to keep abreast of the latest updates. Now we follow ABC all day for Covid 19 updates, commercial media cannot provide the accuracy or timely information people need and want. The ABC is essential for accurate information and constant updates

Mary B
QLD 2326

I rely on the ABC for accurate news and during the coronavirus we had been given lots of talk by polities and medical experts. BUT they are one sided conversations. Unless one has knowledge of sign language how are we to know the questions being asked? It is a rare occasion when you can hear the journalist speaking. Can't the ABC afford boom mikes or whatever it takes to pick up the speech from the questioner??

Mary C
VIC 4575

I am a regular, almost incessant, listener to ABC's Radio National. Being deaf I have found, over many years, that ABC presenters speak with clear diction & enunciation. Consequently I can listen effortlessly. Furthermore I have found that many regular programs keep me informed of happenings in overseas countries eg. recent lock down in Kenya, drought in Zimbabwe & corruption in Malaysia. Interviews with experts in many disciplines keep me up to date with present research & thinking. Now, with Covid-19 ruling our lives, being old & self-isolating, I am entirely dependent on the ABC to keep me informed about local regulations, national & overseas events. Without this contact I would vegetate. Please, please do not take away my treasured contact with the rest of humankind.

Sincerely,
Mary Davies

Mary D
QLD 3355

Living in the bush the ABC is absolutely vital to me. Last year we had a bushfire come through our property. Where could I go but the ABC for updates? Where else can I go for RELIABLE updates on the coronavirus? Where else can we go for reliable unbiased; not for profit information? The ABC is part of the fabric of Australian society. I've watched the ABC all my life for news and entertainment. I've always been proud of the ABC as one of the great institutions of Australia. It breaks my heart to see it wither away the way it is. I'm sad the next generation won't have the ABC to rely on.

Mary D
VIC 4500

I have certainly relied on the ABC for trustworthy news over last summer with its terrible fires and more recently with the threat of the Covid virus. I was shocked to read the the government is cutting its funding. A country like Australia needs an accurate source of news and we rely on getting just that. Many of us do not appreciate the slick, glitzy news presentations of other networks and these are often not accurate and over sensationalised.

Mary D
VIC 3030

Dear Parliamentarians,

I am a 73 year old. Of course I am worried about Coronavirus - mainly catching it and the impact on Australia and the rest of the world.

I have found listening to the news on RN more important than ever. I also am spending about 2 to 3 hrs a day reading the ABC Coronavirus articles on the Internet. Very informative and reliable information that I trust. Most valuable has been Dr Norman Swan in his Coronacast - insightful, ahead of the Government and epidemiologists in the latest protective measures, level-headed, not over-dramatising the situation. I took his early advice on mask usage while the Government was saying it wasn't required.. And felt much safer.

Over summer, I kept up with the bushfire news on ABC - which gave the best coverage. Particularly online reports with background information and location maps... My sister and family were encircled by fires for 2 weeks...

The ABC is the thinking person's broadcaster. It deserves the money to be able to present this information.

The ABC should also be broadcasting meaningful information into Pacific countries rather than the entertainment rubbish that Fox News? is being paid to provide (What a waste of money that is!)

Yours faithfully
Mary Edwards

Mary E
ACT 3145

I needed the ABC radio to know what was going on in Malua Bay where I was staying at the time of the shocking fires that destroyed many houses and lives were lost in areas not far away. We needed the information to know when it was safe to leave and where it was safe to travel. I believe many people owe their lives and property to the fact that we have the ABC information. We also needed it while in Canberra re bushfires and smoke as well as the hale in various parts of the country. I rely on the ABC for truth and information as well as reliable well researched news, current affairs and documentaries. It has supported my engagement and well-being during the Corona Virus and gives the link and connections to prevent to support loneliness.

Mary E
VIC 2614

The ABC is the only trusted news source that I listen to. Each morning I turn on news breakfast and know that I will get the facts and not some exaggerated right wing propaganda from commercial channels. T

Mary F
VIC 3135

My ABC 'family' has been a vital part of my life for many years but never more than now in the midst of the covid-19 crisis. My mental health would be so much worse without them. This is such a dark and confusing time, it's wonderful to be able to laugh at aspects of this virus and the lockdown with Sammy J. At the beginning of this week when Melbourne was going into stage 4 restrictions, I so appreciated Virginia Troli's intelligent, stern yet reassuring voice, assuring us to do the right thing yet assuring us that we would get through this together.

Dr Norman Swan has been an invaluable source of trusted information about the coronavirus. I came to know and trust him through years of listening to the Health Report. I would be much more confused and frightened without his reasoned explanations.

Also I feel part of a community through the ABC, and that is even more important now that we are isolated from our usual community. I regularly text both Radio National and ABC Melbourne. Around 50% of my texts end up being read on air. This makes me feel that I have a voice in public debate and that my stories are valuable to others.

I am now sharing the riches of the ABC with my preschool grandson. He loves Play School and we both enjoy Noisy by Nature. I hope that when he grows up he will be able to feel the same sense of community and safety that I do from the ABC, plus trust it as a reliable source of unbiased information.

Mary K
NT 3046

During the bush fires that ravaged close to my home in the Adelaide Hills in December 2019 we were totally dependent on the ABC, especially the local radio broadcasts, for frequent, accurate and detailed information. Without this wonderful service the levels of anxiety would have been so much higher, and more lives could have been lost. The ABC provides an essential service to our community and I'd be very happy to see more of our taxes spent on it.

Mary L
QLD 830

When I get up in the morning, I listen to the ABC; while making breakfast, I listen to the ABC; while eating breakfast I listen to the ABC; while washing the breakfast dishes, I listen to the ABC; while straightening up the house from the night before, I listen to the ABC: thank you ABC. Thank you Australia. Thank you ABC. You are unique, informative, always of interest, caring, trustworthy!

Mary M
NSW 4065

I can't rely on commercial news outlets as they are influenced by directors who have a financial interest in the news stories. ABC is not governed by financial investment so at least it is not biased or influenced by the dollar. Also lifestyle programmes like Gardening Australia are free from advertisers' influences..

No ads mean my grandchildren can watch enjoyable, educational shows while not being subjected to advertising.

Mary P
NSW 2226

Living alone on the south east coast of NSW during the dreadful bushfires starting in November 2019 I depended on The ABC television and radio during the smoke filled days and nights when my family were unable to get through road blocks. ABC radio notifications during the hardest post-Christmas time kept me engaged with the outside world and in many respects kept me sane.

Mary S
VIC 2539

I rely on ABC for reliable honest and unbiased news. I respect that the ABC doesn't repeat the same miserable news all the time. I rely on ABC for all of my overseas news or international news and ABC never use scare tactics like the other channels except for SBS nor sensational news.

Mary S
NSW 3219

The ABC is very important to all Australians we rely on the moment by moment news during Bushfires, storms and our daily news. please don't tamper with our national broadcaster.

Mary S
VIC 2478

I depend on the ABC for well balanced and accurate news which has been and is particularly important in 2020. It provides a diverse range of programs which I find stimulating and entertaining and ABC radio has been a constant companion for me in the lockdowns we have been enduring in Melbourne. The ABC needs more funding and definitely NO CUTS!

Mary T
NSW 3134

I am continually floored by the imaginative ways that ABC do so much with an increasingly tight budget. Right from the start of the year, the Drum has been the perfect program to come home to, to keep me updated on the topics of the day. With a variety of guests, they certainly give a wide viewpoint of each topic. I was so impressed by the children's and educational programming when schools went online. Such a boon for parents with young children who couldn't concentrate on online learning platforms for too long a period, but enjoyed accessible educational programs on tv. The variety of quality children's programs, as well as comedy, drama, documentaries, and news shows has something for everyone. Both my husband and I listen to ABC radio when driving, he on AM and me on Triple J. The ABC has kept us informed, educated and entertained not just this year, but every year. Please restore the ABC funding that has been cut, and where money is to be invested in broadcasting, invest in our National broadcaster and not private enterprise. Regards,
Mary Winkler

Mary W
QLD 2207

The ABC has been my trusted friend for a long time but particularly during these troubled times of bushfires, extreme weather events and health pandemics. I have relied on the ABC radio and TV coverage for updates and warnings during last summer's bushfires. Although our property in S.E. QLD wasn't affected ultimately, we were at times inundated by smoke from surrounding blazes and able via the ABC coverage to monitor the safety of family members in other areas. The ABC offered a service to inform rather than simply reporting after the fact which was the case with the commercial media. ABC TV, radio and online media has been my constant companion during our Covid19 period. I use ABC Classic FM radio for my daily mental & physical exercise- the dance sessions are a brilliant concept. I'm alerted to news reports in real time via the ABC News app; I gained my knowledge of this latest corona virus from the Norman Swan reports via TV, radio & online depending which was more convenient to where & what I was doing; ABC Education has been a brilliant source of information & ideas to keep my grandchildren occupied during the school shutdown and I continue to turn to it at times on weekends even now; I usually start my day with the familiar faces of news breakfast - as much for the companionship as the news. When driving I oscillate between the Radio National and Classic FM radio channels to either feed or sooth my brain as needed. The ABC Charter gives me faith in the integrity of content produced and reliability of the service provided. No hidden agenda or shareholders to appease, it is simply our national broadcaster to serve all Australians. Integrous communication is at the heart of an harmonious society and Our ABC is a crucial cog in that wheel. Make it stronger and you make Australians stronger.

Mary-Ann B
SA 4178

The ABC has been there for me this year and for 40 years previously. I rely on the ABC for up to date and reliable news, current affairs and entertainment. In 2020 access to the ABC has been vitally important due to update re COVID via press conferences and broadcasts by the SA Chief Public Health Officer. Funding for the ABC should NOT be cut as it the Public Broadcaster. DO NOT CUT FUNDING to the ABC.

Maryann D
VIC 5041

Informative and educational news items, articles and heartfelt stories. The start of my day is the 7:45 news, the AM

Maryanne M
VIC 3149

The ABC local radio station is our main source of local news etc. Living in Gippsland, the ABC was critical to us during the bushfires of 2020. The local ABC kept us informed 24/7 - they did an amazing job! Of course this is not the first time we have relied on the ABC for such information as every bushfire season, there will be something happening in the local area which, whilst not necessarily impacting directly upon us, we do need to know about. It is the same in floods and now with Covid 19.

Now we have the local ABC keeping us informed on the latest Covid 19 updates re state matters, and also what is happening in our local area. A regional perspective ensures that what is relevant to the area is passed on to the public.

Living in the country often presents the challenges of fires and floods. We rely on the ABC to be there.

We always watch ABC News and 7.30 etc, and rely on those unbiased sources to keep us up-to-date with what is happening in our world.

The ABC 7.45 am news broadcast, followed by AM are essential listening for us.

ABC current affairs and documentary programs are very important to us - they are what keep us informed in a time of so much fake and superficial 'news'.

As for entertainment, we have long been fans of the broad range of offerings on the ABC.

We cannot imagine a world without our ABC and we do not want to see any further diminution of its services. We lament the cuts that have had to be made over recent years as conservative governments try to stifle the critical voice of the ABC in Australian lives.

Marylyn M
TAS 3850

The ABC is vital for providing my family with reliable information about our world, local, regional and global information. It is also vital for our education, our entertainment and our health. Isolation and loneliness are issues for our aging family. My 88yrs old father in law listens in at night when he cannot sleep and our breakfast conversations revolve around the interesting things he has heard. We all feel connected to the world outside our home by the ABC. We all attend to our health better with regular education from ABC programmes. Members of our family live in Victoria and when we can't reach them or feel we can't be ring them every 5mins, the ABC gives us a sense that we know what's going on at their places.(Fire reports and Covid 19 are perfect examples of this).

ABC weather reports help plan our everyday. Please don't cut this essential service which connects us, informs us, entertains us and keeps us sane. In fact a strengthening of this service would be welcomed by many.

Marylyn Mount M
NSW 7054

I rely on the ABC for unbiased and factual news. The world is becoming so divided, and I can't rely in information online as there is so many opinions, anti-scientific fake news and downright conspiratorial rubbish. The ABC needs ongoing funding and support like never before.

Other commercial media dynasties are failing us with their editorial direction. Fake news and distrust in media is at an all time high. But the ABC is a not for profit broadcaster - and we need it to ensure our democracy is balanced.

When we have another horror bushfire season, or mega floods, due to climate change - I want the ABC to report on these emergencies so lives can be saved.

Please, save the ABC.

Matt B
WA 2484

Like politicians of all colours and levels, when I want real, factual, no spin or bias news - important stories not advertorials, I tune into the ABC.

And like all right wing idealogues occupying this "anti news" position on "public" media - if there were no ABC (Guardian, NPR, SBS etc) then I would not watch the news either.

You see, the reason all the teles and radios in Parliament House are tuned to the ABC all day is that when it comes to news - they are the only ones that really matter. No one is tracking what that knucklehead Koch is saying to who on Sunrise as a priority.

Stop linking the funding of our public broadcaster to private failing media organisations. Start funding this great institution properly and own up to the facts regading your corrupted privately owned policy agenda. Lead.

matt

Matt D
ACT 6333

The ABC plays a crucial role in Australia as a reliable and trustworthy source of news and current affairs. It is vastly more sound than commercial news.

The ABC played a major role in my life during the 2019-20 bushfires. We live on the NSW south coast, had people stay overnight who were threatened by the fires, and we could see flames from our home. Contact updates on ABC helped us stay on top of the fire situation and threat.

Additionally, I have done radio and TV interviews on ABC over a number of years and have always found ABC staff courteous and professional.

ABC is a key Australian institution and should be fully funded. No more cuts will be tolerated by Australians concerned about the future of their country.

Matthew H
QLD 2602

ABC has kept us all informed about Covid Pandemic.

matthew h
NSW 4053

When the fires came near our property in the Hawkesbury, the first thing to go was the NBN, followed by the phone reception. Our landline had been shut down with the introduction of the fixed wireless NBN so the only way we could tell what was going on with the fires (apart from observing the smoke and listening for the direction the helicopters were flying) was to listen to the regular emergency warnings on the local ABC (702 Sydney). Our decision to stay or go depended on that coverage for about 23 hours while the other communication was out. Thankfully the wind was in our favour that day and we got to stay.

Now we are experiencing a very different kind of emergency.

The COVID-19 pandemic requires us all to stay up to date with accurate, reliable, non-sensationalised news so as we know if it is safe to move around in our area or in other areas. Every morning I make sure I catch the 7:45 news bulletin, which has enough detail to let us know where the latest outbreaks are. I guess I'll have to find an alternative when this bulletin is discontinued. It still seems to be running for now thankfully.

Every evening we tune in to the ABC television news. It gives the best coverage of the days events, covering the news items that are most important and with little chance that they will be promoting fake news stories or tabloid topics.

Matthew S
WA 2758

Maureen Adamson here,born 1960,with stating that,I am totally appalled at Our Government still cutting funds for our 1st+1+only ABC,for myself+friends they are the MOST RELIABLE CHANNEL, TV+Radio for their most Reliable News Channel out there,is I live Rural+ always have faith and information on critical news feeds,Fire especially they tell us where+ when,trust them highly with Corona Virus plus any news we/myself rely on for our lives protection trustworthyness,as every other channel, not me alone are Fearmungering us everyday Aussie's, Fair Go Come on,respect us the majority of normal average Aussie's, fair dinkum, people As we do Matter+ need a trusting ABC to get the real raw truthful news about our country our people with no nonsense,our livings,our theta our POOR SAD ENVIRONMENT HUMAN LIVES PROTECTION + MUCH MUCH MORE,IT IS ABC WE TRUST + OUR SECURITY whom we go to,Please stop Your conesending nonsense and think of all AUSTRALIAN PEOPLE BLACK WHITE + BETWEEN, out of RANGEpeople as so many of us all live, FAIR GO,GIVE ALL OUR PEOPLE THE RESPECT+ CONTACT WE YES ALL AUSSIE'S NEED,STOP YOUR BIG MONEY SELFISH GREED and Help us all Yours Sincerely Maureen 6566 WA KEEP THE ABC wake up plus much more ...

Maureen A
ACT 6566

Who could conceive of a life without the ABC? ABC Radio provide the only radio stations that we wish to listen to - for myself, Radio National, for my husband, the Classics station - 102.3. The majority of our TV viewing is via the ABC.

I firmly believe that the ABC does an amazing job for all communities, both suburban and rural in keeping them informed, especially when there are emergency situations. Where would we have been during the recent bushfires - not just for areas where fires were occurring, but with warnings about smoke hazards, etc. Now, during the worst health crisis of the past century, the ABC keeps us informed, providing an all-round coverage: from numbers of people affected, a wide range of advice and review by health professionals, and, of course, latest updates from Government leaders, both Federal and State. Any time, when travelling, that we have been exposed to other Australian news sources [other than SBS] we have found them unbelievably poor and often heavily biased in their reporting.

May the ABC grow and prosper - not be continually starved of funds as has been happening in recent years.

Maureen B

TAS 2607

This year more than ever before we have appreciated hearing radio national in the morning to get an up to date account on the coronavirus. In these troubling times it has been reassuring to hear the latest news and feel supported by a body - the ABC

Maureen E

WA 7021

How important is the ABC to me? It is my FIRST choice as a reliable resource regarding current and investigative news, both TV and radio. I find social media and many privately owned News outlets spread fake news and have self driven political views, many of which are unaccountable. The ABC remains open to Public scrutiny and is accountable. In this environment we need the ability to be able to debate and scrutinize events and policies from Australia and abroad. Money and power should not solely be the drivers of our decision makers. We need an INDEPENDENT source ...our ABC.

Maureen K

QLD 6281

During the horrific bushfires in Australia last year and now through the Covid Pandemic crisis, the ABC delivered excellent coverage on the facts and important information to me, so that I could take important steps to support my family and my friends and keep us safe. The ABC was the only broadcaster to deal effectively with the important issues as the others were lacking the in depth journalism and advice required. I would hate to see this Australian government undermine the ABC through budget cuts at a time when we need them to be as effective as they have been to date, in keeping Australians informed without propaganda and politics getting in the way of the truth.

Maureen K

NSW 4562

I've lived very happily and safely on rural acreage in the Southern Highlands for 30 Years. That all changed during the 2020 Wattle creek bushfire. All that saved lives and property was a change of wind direction. Throughout this ordeal I relied not on the 'fires near me' app but the minute by minute assessments of the threat and accurate advice given by the ABC reporters. This is an organisation we should be proud of and which should be generously funded by the Government of the day but I have been dismayed and angered to hear that our current government intend to slash their budget yet again...and this while a pandemic rages and we all need reporting and advice we can trust more than ever....ie Norman Swan's Caronacast, Government broadcasts, Podcast that help us endure the worry and stress of this dangerous time. The economic situation is difficult but a vaccine will be found the pandemic will be over and when it is I want a generously funded ABC still to be giving me news and interviewing the most knowledgeable people on the issues of the day. To me, it's a national treasure...;an organisation that tells the world this is a democracy with all the values and protection for its citizens that word stands for.

Maureen M

VIC 2575

The ABC radio (National, 774, and News24) and television services have been essential listening and viewing for me during the horrific bushfires of 2019-2020, and now during the time of the COVID-19 virus. During the bushfires, news of outbreaks of fires enabled me to assess the risk that I faced in Bendigo and whether to prepare to evacuate with my dog and two cats. ABC News enabled me to keep track of relatives in NSW, particularly a cousin in Lake Conjola who was unable to be contacted for some weeks. The fact that ABC reporters such as Virginia Trioli and Hamish McDonald provided on-the-spot information and commentary when they were supposed to be on holiday was extraordinarily impressive but demonstrates the commitment and integrity that characterises ABC presenters. In addition to the very serious issues at that time, ABC programs provided quality entertainment throughout that terrible time and I preferred to watch re-runs of programs such as "Doc Martin" than endure the commercial channels with their frequent and innane advertisements. However, the program repeats were a constant reminder of how the ABC is being defunded by the current Federal government and made me more determined to support the ABC and to discuss the issue with friends. Now, in the time of the COVID-19 virus, the ABC is as important to me as ever because I can rely on it to provide timely updates, news, health statistics and programs that examine the issues and controversies associated with the virus such "Q + A", "Insiders", "The Drum" and commentary by Dr Norman Swan. The ABC comedy channel and ABC iView have provided entertainment and light relief during the lockdowns, particularly important as those services are so easily accessible and cost nothing at a time when incomes are reduced. The ABC uniquely provides a platform for Australian stories and voices through support of Australian talent in many forms and through programs such as "Landline" and "Australian Story" which makes me wonder why, on earth, is a foreign conglomerate with a foreign citizen at its head, viz. NewsCorp, so favoured and funded by the current Federal government? I am also unable to understand why the dumbing-down evident in commercial media is regarded favourably while it is becoming clear that Australia needs to harness talent and intelligence if it is to maintain its place in the world. I would have thought that all aspects of our society need to contribute in as positive way as possible, such as the ABC providing soft diplomacy with broadcasts in the Pacific region. I don't believe that the Federal government is so foolish as to believe that only a section of society, those people fortunate enough to be educated in private schools, will be adequate to see us through.

Maureen P
NSW 3550

I live in southern Sydney and one of my children and her now married children and their families live on the South coast. Like everyone I was feeling very anxious about their welfare in late December. I was very reassured with the information from the ABC when the family's communication with me was, at the very best challenged and often non-existent. It made the difference for me and I will be forever grateful for that.

Maureen P
SA 2227

Hello, ABC is the only tv station And radio I watch and listen to. I like the quality of the shows and the breakfast news is amazing! I cannot watch the trash on the other stations. We need more education and informed content not less with the huge challenges we face over the coming decades. I don't agree with the recent cuts and the fact money was given to commercial stations. Hands off Aunty!

Maureen Q
WA 5049

The ABC has been the ONLY news media I have trusted over the last decade or so ..
The ABC tells it how it is . Cutting through the bull ... Ethical journalism at it's best ..
Four Corners ... The 7.30 Report ...
Insiders .. Foreign Correspondence ...
Just to name a few ...

Maureen Stephenson

Maureen S
VIC 6006

The A B C is vital in emergency situations such as fire, earthquakes, flood, pandemics etc. The extra communication tells us when we need to evacuate, check on family, neighbours or animals, ring fo help etc. It also gives us other information that is not influenced by big advertising companies. It is especially important to the elderly. It's importance is being demonstrated during this pandemic.

Maureen V
VIC 3818

I rely heavily on the ABC news online and on television for:

- emergency information for fires
- daily news (it's the only news service I trust)
- coronavirus information
- television programs for entertainment.

In fact, it is the only way I receive coronavirus information (apart from one email received today from my state MP).

Due to my cancer treatment and reduced immunity, I have relied even more heavily on the ABC over the past year as I have had to restrict my contact with other people. It has probably kept me from going completely bonkers!

Maureen W
QLD 3305

I am an 85 yr old who has always relied on the ABC radio for alerting me to floods, fires, and cyclones, and updating warnings. I also follow programs of interest, including health, science, and everyday discussions on all kinds of subjects. I really dislike the contents of modern day TV with all of those noisy, irritating ads. Without the ads, I can watch something at night without having to stay up late. Most elderly people feel the same as I do, and would be most upset if we lose our beloved ABC. Please do not deprive us of what we enjoy.

Maureen W
QLD 4884

We recently lived for 12 months in New Zealand. Whilst there we hungered for quality news. It brought home to us how vital our ABC News Outlets are to our nation. The ABC provides us, the people of Australia, with an invaluable service. Commercial outlets are far too shallow, biased and sensational in their reporting. We desperately need our ABC. Please do not diminish it by reducing funding. We will be a lesser nation, a poorer democracy, if you do.

Maureen & jim T
NSW 4066

Be realistic. The right wing of Australian politics hate the freedom of the ABC, hate the freedom of Universities, hate the freedom of Creative Industries and only value the idea of franchises. Initially Australian colonial endeavour was an imported UK franchise- whether it was government, defence, agriculture, mining, everything. Today our governments are slaves to overseas franchises, not just McDonalds, and but political ideas (What is LNP /IPA beliefs other than those of the US Tea Party movement?). They have no interest in any individual creativity. The ABC is hated because it is free to develop its own ideas and programs, whereas the commercial media, TV, Films, Radio music are all overseas based businesses, both actually and creatively. News Corp wants the ABC shut down because Murdoch has always said that he believes that government should control nothing, that he should be paid to run broadcasting, education, health and prisons. I have even seen documents that he should control our defence forces.

The mindset of the government is not really just about news balance its about the destruction of individual ideas in all aspects of news and entertainment.

Do you really imagine that the LNP/IPA wants to have Google etc to pay for news from News Corp?. Why would they pay for the racist/ right wing raves from from The Australian/ Telegraph etc? News Corp need the social media platforms far more than Facebook or Tic Tok need News Corp. That's why the government will not allow the ABC to earn any money from social media. Because the ABC's fact and fiction is worth far more to the social media sites than the lies of News Corp.

So. It's a waste of Get Up's resources to try to change the mindlessness of our government. It's the courts you will have to use. Our government is deliberately destroying the lives, sustenance and creative hope of its own people. There are laws to stop that mis-application of power.

Maurice M
NSW 2257

I am 85 years old and live alone. Each morning I listen to ABC Radio National to hear and understand what the latest news of the pandemic is and to have guidance for my safety. No other media gives me the same degree of knowledge and confidence to guide me for my safety through the day than does the ABC.

Maurice O
NSW 2040

It has been a source of unbiased reporting, holding politicians accountable, guiding us through deadly bushfires and kept us updated throughout the largest pandemic in our history all in recent times.

It's not just about the news though. It has provided my family and I with countless hours worth of entertainment of original shows. From the Doug Anthony All Stars to the Chaser to Spicks and Specks to Shaun Micallef's and Chris Lilley's programs.

The ABC supplies us with educational and original documentaries and most importantly with a plethora of Australian content.

Losing the ABC is akin to losing our identity and replacing it with a hollow Americanized version of ourselves.

It is distressing to see it slowly dismembered in front of our eyes and left bleeding to death.

No more cuts. Please.

Mauro C
NSW 2906

I am totally shocked about budget cuts that have already taken place and what looks like to me as a takeover of this reliable source of information and entertainment. The ABC gave us full coverage of everything that happened when we were going through drought, fire, floods and every other calamity that has struck not just my State of NSW but the whole of Australia. I love the ABC and trust them to give an honest account of what is happening in communities but more importantly within Government both State and Federal after all, I truly believe that the ABC give unbiased information and support to communities in times of need. I find it very difficult to believe anything that comes out in the generally accepted newspapers they are often totally wrong and give limited and very off beat accounts of what is happening especially in finance and what is happening with the budgets. I find it very difficult to find anything constructive or anywhere near the truth in any other newspaper. Budget Cuts to this ICON should never have happened and I for one will not be voting for any political party that advocates for any further cuts. To my mind what has happened puts me remind of what used to happen in other countries during the cold war where anything that could be seen as against the Government of the Day was completely wiped out. Governments both State and Federal need to remind themselves that they are employed by the taxpayers and cannot just take it upon themselves to instigate unnecessary and their own methods of silencing the truth as it is. I have never been disappointed with the ABC radio. I have listened to it as a child all the way to adulthood and now old age and I dare anyone to say that this source of information and truth should be slowly cut until there is nothing left. It is an insidious thing to do. When we were suffering from drought and then water shortage our dam was dry, and we had to buy water. Then came the fires that ravaged bushland within the whole of the Macleay Valley and across the Maria River to Port Macquarie. I would sit and listen to the ABC and watch TV news when it was working. Sometimes sitting in my car 4 paddocks away and listening to the ABC was the only way I could keep up to date with what was happening and if there was a chance that the fires were going to jump the river, which wasn't impossible as embers and ash were being blown across the river at the bottom of our property. As we were now connected to a Satellite that was next to useless it was hard to know what was happening. Plus the fact that my mobile phone does not work on my property I felt stranded and completely let down. Having to drive somewhere on my property where I might just pick up a radio signal was a prayer I kept praying and then being able to listen was probably the most comforting thing I experienced at the time. I am nearly 76 years old and I recommend to the Federal and State Government to support the ABC in the way they had been running their own station for years and years and instead of being frightened that the people of Australia want the ABC in its old form they should really support this not so strange idea, especially if they want votes at election time.

Mavis Jean S
VIC 2440

Please continue funding for this most precious news source . I rely on it for news in general and particularly for non sensational or biased information ,viz bushfires [I am rural] and coronavirus information . Programmes like Four Corners and 7.30 report are a must for ongoing critical reporting of subjects in a democracy .commercial media outlets cannot provide such unbiased and high quality programmes .

max w
WA 3747

The ABC is the most trustworthy and entertaining organisation in our country. I would be lost without it. Excellence in broadcasting and viewing is what all Australians deserve.

Thank you once again for all you provide "Aunty" ABC!!

Max R. Harris
Mt. Claremont.
WA 6010.

Max R. H
VIC 6010

During last summer's bushfires I relied on the ABC to give up to date and clear information regarding the fires when they surrounded our small community. Likewise, during the Covid 19 pandemic the ABC has reported with amazing depth and empathy on how the virus is impacting the Australian (and global) community. I have relied on the ABC's daily news and in particular, The Drum, to access intelligent debate and discussion on the many ways the virus continues to shake up and endanger lives and livelihoods, it is the best broadcaster we have and should be applauded for its uniquely excellent abilities, please do not deprive us of this asset by cutting funding for the ABC.

Maxine a
WA 3070

I have been living with reduced immunity due to cancer treatment for 17 years and the risk of COVID is very real for me. To be able to hear the Corona Cast pod cast each day with Dr Norman Swan and to access trustworthy news is critical. My life has many restrictions in normal times and not being allowed to drive due to cancer treatment makes me even more dependent upon my ABC.

On Saturday mornings I can list to local 720AM and Sabrina Hahn and laugh over garden dilemmas. Every evening at 530pm I hear the RN Health, Law, Religion and Ethics reports as well as more techie reports. Sunday evenings on 810AM I laugh over God Forbid!

During summer I can trust the ABC local radio for bush fire risks and plan my journey safely to visit rural areas. From my earliest life when the UK was considering joining the EU to now when I listen with interest to how their exit is affecting the fishing industry.

The ABC and SBS TV programs are wonderful and local productions are of excellent quality.

Please do not make more cuts to the ABC budget - even refusing to allow CPI increases is a real cut and hurts the ability of skilled good people to do their job.

Fund this agency properly to do their jobs please!

Maxine C
QLD 6023

To Whom it May Concern

As a rural firefighter it was essential for me to watch what was happening across the country during the catastrophic Black Summer firefronts. The lack of federal support when it was needed - watching people - plus my firefighter family - dying because of inaction of the most simple - but vital nature.

ABC TV and Radio gave me up-to-date information - plus news and stories directly from those affected....I dare not tune to any other station. The down to earth reporting and reliable Information is vital for me. I know the dangers of the social media - and I won't get involved with it.

Covid arrived....trying to understand what was happening - again I had to watch and listen to reliably find out what to do and where not to go etc.

I live alone without family around me. I am thoroughly reliant on ABC for quality, prompt and accurate information.

Please look after this wonderful institution for my future and all the generations following.

Thank you and regards
Maxine Godley
14 Thompson Court
Habana. Qld. 4740
07-49599699

Maxine G
WA 4740

During these extraordinary circumstances, it has been of absolute importance for me personally, but also many other people, to have a non-sensationalised, factual and reliable source of information. The devastating bush fires this summer have been seared in our memories forever. The ABC reported on this event in a way that didn't exacerbate the already heightened anxiety many of us were feeling, but also without diluting the calamitous impact it was having on so many Australians. And then we were hit by this Pandemic with a capital P. As an immunosuppressed person, this has been a particularly stressful time where getting accurate information is absolutely crucial. Norman Swan and Tegan Taylor's Coronacast podcast as well as ABC News and 7.30 have provided an invaluable service for people like me who need to reliably know what the relative risk is in our particular location. This can mean the difference between knowing whether we should isolate completely or whether doing crucial shopping for medication or food is safe enough where we are. I am so grateful for the existence of the ABC and strongly support its continued funding, which surely must be increased and not cut during these uncertain times. On another important note, the ABC has been instrumental in providing high quality, educational and entertaining programmes for my children throughout their childhood and into their current teens without the parents having to worry about brain-washing advertising urging innocent young children to be mindless consumers of junk food and fad toys. We simply cannot do without the ABC.

May A
NSW 6050

Everyone calls it "My ABC" because it is the only television and radio that truly covers everything, and in detail, and with care. I live in Springwood in the Blue Mountains and we all, myself, my family, friends, neighbours, turned to ABC every day, all day long, to stay ahead of news about the fires.

I also get most of my current affairs from various programs on ABC. There's no other media outlet I fully trust and turn to in any situation like I do ABC.

May-Brit A
NSW 2777

Dear MPs

The ABC is an Australian icon-- you the government needs to fund the ABC more.

During a crisis such as in the bush-fire times they were there for all Australians. We had the radio on all day to follow where the fires were in our region...so we could decide what to do.

The ABC are the only ones who give us educated, well researched, professional journalism and as the government of the day, you need to fund them all the more especially as we move into the bush-fire season and with the continuing Covid-19.

During these times of the Covid-19, the ABC has given us professional information which we all need to hear. Norman Swan's talks have been particularly helpful and educational.

Most of the other stations have been biased, do not cater to the multicultural society that we are and besides they do not provide educated information rather a take merely on beliefs and ideology rather than on evidence based research.

We appeal to you to keep the ABC as Australia needs it.. and we hope you do the right thing by all Australians especially in these unprecedented times and now the bush-fire-season approaching.

Thanking you

Jarvis and Family

meera j
VIC 2779

I trust and rely on the ABC in so many ways;

- in January when trying to decide on whether to go on our annual holidays firstly to Cape Conran in East Gippsland I totally relied on the ABC to keep me informed of bushfire risk, progress etc.

- throughout the pandemic I listen to the news bulletins and the health report for the accurate evidence based information; To RN Drive for news and analysis, to ABC am and pm for my daily dose of reporting, it keeps me connected and informed.

- I love the distraction of background briefing, the book report, Away, the law report the media report, life matters, the religion and ethics report- I could go on. They are interesting, informative, I can listen when my visual impairment makes any TV etc difficult for me; I trust that the interviewers will be honest, respectful and reasonable, I would be lost without the ABC and I feel devastated that the government does not understand the critical role independent broadcasting plays in a democracy.

Meg M
VIC 3070

The ABC is the largest waste of tax payers money and should axe all news programs until they stop kneeling to the leftist agenda! It is supposed to be a neutral source for Australia as the people from all backgrounds fund it! I do not watch the ABC because of the reason above and feel if people want it they have two options use advertising or pay for the network and all tax funds should be removed from the ABC and the SBS!!!

meg n
NSW 3228

We completely rely on the ABC for our news as we have found it so reliable over the past 60 years & could not do without it. Especially with the past years events of fire, flood, covid, drought etc, that has been so important to us all. I'm a retired person, nearly 80 yo, & I live in an isolated city community away from the rush & bustle, & the ABC is vital to us. In the 20-21 budget, there should be no cuts to the ABC!
With regards, Alan & Meg Peterson.

meg p
TAS 2230

ABC is who I constantly turn to for reliable news that I can trust. This was particularly true while we were getting information here in Tasmania about the threat of Corona Virus. The ABC is who I trust during emergencies, but also who I turn to for news that is not muddied by corporate interests - it is a crucial pillar of the Australian Democracy and as such should be funded to reflect this.

Kind regards,
Megan Tubb

Megan T
VIC 7018

I am writing to show my support to continue full funding of the ABC. The ABC provides the only complete and informed news for Tasmania. During the COVID-19 pandemic it has been critical to keeping me informed of local, state-wide, national and international developments, including information on restrictions, requirements and changes. No other media channel provides the detail and depth of analysis that the ABC does. It is vital to myself and for an informed public.

Meghan B
NSW 3055

As we are dual citizens, the ABC connects with the BBC and other broadcasters from Europe. Always have other interesting programs. We rely on the ABC for unbiased reporting, though certain detractors believe otherwise. A national broadcasting radio and TV is an imperative for any country and must be supported for the tax paying public.

Meheru B
NSW 2066

I was brought to enjoy , respect & love the ABC as the best & most honest news source in the country . It upsets me that every budget , Auntie's funding is causing her more anorexia . And everyone knows , anorexia can develop into a terminal illness .Please, we must not let this happen you our esteemed Auntie .

Melanie H
QLD 2043

I live in Brisbane. The ABC has been pivotal to all Australians in covering the coronavirus pandemic in a measured, objective way. I have appreciated access to all of the government briefings. They have been amazing at educating the public on what they need to do as well as clarifying all of the misinformation being floated around by other sources. We would be much worse off if their budgets are cut.

Melinda A
VIC 4053

The ABC was there for me this year when other more orthodox 'channels' failed to follow up accusations of medical misconduct, fatal clinical failures, avoidable perinatal deaths, serial misdiagnoses, falsified death certificates...the list goes on. I had made a number of reports to a number of government bodies about serious issues with doctors and senior executive staff at a regional hospital. The ABC was the only organisation to care and follow up these reports, uncovering even more horror stories than those of which I was aware. The ABC holds organisations to account when their appropriate governing bodies do not. The ABC must be protected from further budget cuts: they are often the only organisation that cares enough to hold people accountable and tell the truth.

Melinda C
VIC 3371

The ABC is my go-to source for reliable, unbiased and timely information about life in Australia and across the world. During the 2019-2020 bushfires, coverage was thorough and needed to keep the community informed. During COVID, the ABC has provided a much needed lifeline of information. The climate crisis, too, needs the honest work of the ABC. In this age of biased reporting and overwhelming influence of the Murdoch press in Australian life, we need the ABC for balance and truth.

Please stop cutting the ABC budget, lest we lose an integral part of Australian culture.

Melissa H
NSW 3000

Through out this most unusual and unpleasant year I have tuned into the ABC, radio and TV news. It is there that I know I am getting all the information I need to keep me up to date with important issues, alerts and information necessary to cope with what's happening, and what I should, and shouldn't be doing.
If only the US had a national news network that good? Maybe they would all be so much better informed, and the virus in their country would of not taken off like a wild, untamed, scary being, killing thousands!

Melissa M
NSW 2204

THANKFULLY i HAVE NOT RELIED ON THE ABC AT ALL

Melissa P
ACT 2485

I have relied on the freely available and accurate ABC information during the bushfires, floods and Covid. Access to the ABC helped reduce stress and worry during these disasters.

As a school teacher a rely on ABC articles and clips when teaching science.

Melissa P
NSW 2628

In these days of the 24 hr news cycle and social media being an unreliable source of information, able to be manipulated by special interest individuals and groups, even by hostile foreign governments, the ABC for me is vital to stay reliably informed about domestic and foreign happenings. This year in particular we needed up to the minute reporting on the bushfires, and since then Norman Swan and his team and podcast have daily updates to keep me informed as to current advice and sound information regarding covid 19. I want my media to be delivered in an unbiased fashion, not influenced by a media owner wishing to influence public opinion in their direction for personal motive. No hype, just honest information, as it has always been with the ABC. Beside me through life.

melissa u
QLD 2103

The ABC keeps us very well informed on issues that have been happening around the country, the bushfires and Covid - 19, are two examples. It has been an Australian institution for a long period of time that has been informative and supported various communities, the arts and especially with the Australian content in programs and series that reflect us and our country. Many of the other stations do not do this and it is vital that Australians have a voice.

It is a sad day when ABC funding cuts stifle Australian content and news reporting that is relied on both by city dwellers and rural communities. No advertising is also a great advantage.

It is known as 'our' ABC and is a vital service for all of us and which continues to be needed in these uncertain times.

Melissa W
VIC 4880

I listen to the ABC as I rely on them to give me unbiased reporting and gives me information on things from traffic in my city to weather to bush fire alerts and especially with the Corona Virus what the latest updates are. I listen all day, if there were adds I wouldn't listen and I wouldn't know where to get information on important things.

Mercedes S
VIC 3123

I rely on the abc for ongoing news from regional australia and of course particularly in times of bushfires and drought. No one else can do that and it's absolutely imperative we have that. The abc journalists are a cut above the average and this is well known. It's a pity the federal government cannot tolerate anything written about them by journalists.

meredith j
VIC 3163

The ABC has been the most important news and for our children, entertainment media, for many years but in the past year of crisis, even more so. Factual, current and accessible information on the coronavirus, so essential when there is so much confusion circulating, to help us understand what and why we need to do to keep ourselves and our community safe. When we got caught up in bushfires in January, ABC radio was a trusted source of information, when pollution from the smoke of the fires meant we could not access the internet!!! The ABC also houses the most suitable content for our young children. SAVE THE ABC

Meredith L
NSW 3070

I am taking this opportunity to explain why I e need a viable and well funded ABC broadcaster
Our property was surrounded by fire during the bush fires and the ABC provided the most reliable abc up to date information during those scary times. We tuned to channel 7 for 10 minutes when the internet was down and if this is bring compared in any manner to NEWS we should be ashamed
. The information was continuously interrupted with ' coming up' and relevant detail was completely lacking.
The content, entertainment provided by the ABC is second to none.
It should be seen as a crime if our politicians can be 'bought' by the Murdoch press. An intelligent broadcaster is vital to keeping all Australians informed whether politicians like it or not!

Meredith O
QLD 2570

I always depend on the ABC for accurate and timely news and discussions about current affairs. I also value the ABC for all the Australian content it supports and fosters.

Meredith Lane-Richardson L
QLD 4169

I rely on the ABC to keep me up to date about emergency warnings which impact me or members of my family.
Earlier this year my daughter and her family self evacuated from the southern suburbs of Canberra when the Namadgi bushfire came close to their home and the smoke became too much for their toddler.
One of my grandsons and his young family were also impacted - by the fire at Bateman's Bay.
During the pandemic, my husband has been concerned for his 92 year old sister's safety as she has recently moved into an aged care residence in Melbourne.
The ABC has always been an essential part of any emergency and we need to have it funded properly to keep carrying out this work.

Merilee M
QLD 4164

I can't imagine life without the ABC. They have the best Australian documentaries, drama and comedy as well as the best British drama and comedy programs.
When my children were tiny it was the ABC children's shows that I sat them down in front of (Playschool. Mr Squiggle & Sesame Street) knowing I could trust that they would be viewing the very best.
Now, when I'm babysitting my grandchildren, I can again put on the ABC, but this time it's a whole Children's Channel which is absolutely wonderful!
The 24 hour News channel was my go-to during the 2020 bushfire crisis for keeping up to date with which regions and towns were in danger. I have friends and relations in NSW and Victoria and the ABC was the best for up-to-date information when I thought the fires were getting close to their areas. I trusted the ABC and they didn't let me down.
I am a born and bred Australian so I own the ABC. Anyone who tries to destroy my ABC is a traitor to Australia and its values. The LNP has been defunding the ABC through its "death by a thousand cuts" campaign so they will definitely never get my vote while they continue down this path.

Merilyn T
WA 4504

I use the ABC radio as my source of reliable information throughout the year. I find the regular updates on all natural disasters are reassuring, timely and appropriate for my circumstances and where I live (high risk, fire danger country).

During the COVID crisis, as a business owner, I found the ABC in-depth news reporting and provision of critical information was my saviour. It allowed me to take all of the appropriate steps to support my employees and to keep my business functioning in a COVID safe way throughout the crisis.

I have no time to listen to commercial radio or TV to waste my time and energy sifting through commercially 'tainted' information.

The ABC is essential to me.

Merri H
QLD 6122

I watch the ABC everyday. I enjoy the Australian shows that don't get to commercial TV. I feel it is a backbone to all Australians. I can rely on the News to impartial and honest. We should be supporting the ABC not thinking of cutting their funding especially in this time of uncertainty. Regards

Meryl

Meryl P
SA 4873

Have relied on the ABC for the Corona virus and the news in general .it is vital for all Australians to have public broadcasting.

Michael B
ACT 5038

With the coronavirus pandemic particularly in the early phases before Scotty from Marketing could grasp the seriousness of the virus and there was so much mis information on it I could rely on the ABC and in particular Norman Swan for accurate and timely information. With out the ABC I don't know how anxious me and others would have become.

Michael B
NSW 2650

At a time when truth in news is more important than ever to cut through the spin, marketing slogans and misinformation, the ABC is critical.

The commercial media is far too concentrated in the hands of a few owners, each with commercial and political agendas that they seek to pursue. Every day, I rely on the ABC to provide facts produced by those with no commercial interest in the results.

The ABC, to me, has provided a source of clear accurate and unbiased information without sensationalism. In this year 2020, through bush fires and the coronavirus, it has allowed me to understand and process what is happening and assess the reality of events. In its absence, I would have to rely on untrustworthy sources.

Times have been anxiety provoking, but the ABC has been the steady calm source of information that counter-balances the panic.

It needs proper secure long term funding to allow it to continue its important role for all Australians.

Michael B
NSW 2031

Two points:

i) RN is the only radio station to go to for informed discussion,

ii) Norman Swan is the most reliable source of m information on Covid 19

Michael B
NSW 2447

ABC's coronacast is a beacon of sanity, it has helped me to properly learn about the pandemic. I have chronic health problems.
ABC provided vital help during the bushfires.
I knew where the fires were from ABC.
I know about the challenges people and animals face from other things too.
The ABC is nonpartisan and vital for a healthy democracy.

Michael B
VIC 2904

I rely on the ABC as everything else is so heavily weighted with Murdoch propoganda.

Michael C
NSW 3195

The ABC is the peoples media. It is the only fair and impartial news and information we can rely on. Please do not destroy it and render it helpless to survive.
Best regards, Michael.

Michael C
WA 2097

The Abc has been a valuable news source for me. Panel shows such as the drum and insiders give me valuable insight into the issues effecting Australians and their expert guests and journalists provide me with information I can trust. Especially during the current pandemic. I feel the commercial channels are now simply Murdoch owned propaganda machines for the LNP and do not trust any information provided by them, making the case for an independent ABC stronger than it has ever been.

michael e
VIC 6262

I am a healthcare worker, and army reservist. Throughout the bushfire crisis, ABC was essential in saving lives and homes. I thought I couldn't sing their praises more, and then COVID-19 came along.

ABC online and TV news is the most factual, least sensationalized news in Australia - and this is exactly what we should be paying for. Sure, some of the comedy is left wing, but the panel discussions and particularly coverage of Indigenous issues are imperative.

We should be funding the ABC further, not considering reductions.

Michael F
NSW 3910

Not to take away from all the serious stuff the ABC does but ABC kids is the only kid friendly channel without endless toy ads. My child is not a profit centre.

Michael F
NSW 2117

I found out through the ABC radio and TV that my brother in law was on a beach seeking shelter because his house was under threat from the fires. There was no mobile communication to the area. The fire had burnt it out.
Thanks to the ABC.Restore the funding.

michael g
VIC 2519

I am a retired lawyer living in Melbourne.

The ABC has been my major source of critical information about what is happening in Australia, and the world.

In recent times I have turned to watch ABC News to watch our political leaders give critical information about the pandemic and what they are doing to address the effect on us, the people. By watching these leaders directly, and answer questions from the assembled press, gives me an unbiased view of our political leaders. This is so much better than the antics of question time in parliament; a chance to hear questions, but never the answers to those questions which would satisfy me that they would ever want to give a proper response to the valid question.

Radio National morning radio raises so many current issues and allows both government and opposition members to present their views in a sensible discussion with the interviewer. It helps me understand the complex issues - the answers are usually complex and neither side has all the answers.

To cut costs (I do not accept the PM's view that there have not been any cost cuts) would leave us all in the dark about the background to key issues as good journalism is retired but shortage of proper funding of an essential and strong Fourth Estate.

One of the good promises made by Tony Abbot on behalf of the government was "There will be no cuts to the ABC or SBS". Please stick to that sound policy!

Michael G

QLD 3146

Don't have a particular story to relate but wish to note that I have been tuned to the ABC all my life. My father was a devotee and it simply became my habit to tune to the ABC

Michael H

VIC 4575

Of all the money that the government spends money on I think it's the money spent on the ABC that provides the most value for me. Where else can I get such reliable and impartial information, at a time when information has been so politicised. Please increase the funding of the ABC

Michael L

QLD 3184

The one source that isn't ruined by pesky advertisements. I'm very happy to pay for this high-quality outlet of information. I rely on the ABC for information about COVID-19, and consider it to be the most trustworthy source.

Michael M

NSW 4130

Last New Year's Eve my family and I were spending time together on the NSW South Coast. We're spread across Australia so we only all get together once every couple of years. There were about 15 of us - adults and kids - in an AirBnB in Mollymook. What a New Year's Eve that was! We had no power and no mobile phones. But we did have a transistor radio and we did have the ABC. Thank goodness for the ABC! The thing about the ABC is that you can rely on them. They give it to you straight. You know they're trustworthy. They were our sole source of news on the bushfires and they were wonderful. They really helped us in an uncertain and frightening time. I really don't think a commercial network would prioritise journalism and truth-telling like the ABC.

Michael P

NSW 2036

Why is the government trying to destroy the ABC and leave us with : channel moron, radio retard and the Muddledoc rags to spin climate change denial and big business lies that is destroying this country? Is it because our traitor governments do not want to be exposed and all their mass corruption exposed !!!!! They even report to radio retard first when our official media is the ABC ???!

Michael p

NSW 2040

I live rely and love the ABC...for so many reasons:

News, current affairs, expert journalism, culture ,music, podcasts etc.

It fills my every day with a rich and reliable professionalism , knowledge and music:

...a MUST for everyone, especially NOW!!!!

michael p

NSW 2576

The ABC was essential to me and my family during the bushfire crisis this past summer. It's staff worked tirelessly to provide up to date reporting on current conditions in my local area of Canberra. Without them we would not have felt secure in making our preparations for evacuation.

In the Covid crisis they are still there reporting and disseminating vital health information on a daily basis. I listen to Dr Norman Swan on Coronacast daily to keep abreast of the latest information.

The ABC is a vital part of the Australian community that needs to get it's funding increased, not decreased!

Michael R

SA 2905

As a volunteer Team Leader with the Australian Red Cross Emergency Services team during the recent SA bush fires we relied entirely on the regular updates provided by ABC Radio for news we could then pass to those evacuated from the fires. This was vitally important as we knew the information was accurate and reliable and, more important, timely. Everyone involved relied on our national broadcaster throughout the bushfire emergencies. It is absolutely vital that ABC remains fully funded and is not compromised by the commercial interests of other media organisations

Michael R

VIC 5169

I live in the bush in country Victoria and come fire season I rely on the ABC for their local comprehensive information on bush fires.

I also enjoy and rely on my local ABC to deliver local issues and topics which effect us directly. The ABC is our public asset that millions of Australians rely for various things, such as myself.

Kind regards

Michael Sayn

Michael S

VIC 3461

Just go to America to see how Democracy operates without an independent media.

When commercial interests are the only media voice, Democracy is eroded, corroded, and constantly under attack from nefarious forces.

When the public have no accurate point of reference to make informed decisions, all hell breaks through as we are witnessing in the USA, as we speak. Commercial media firstly cares about making more money, and have no shame. As we are also witnessing.

Don't take our model Democracy for granted.

The 2 main ingredients for our envied Democracy society,

is compulsory voting, and a strong ABC to educate the populous.

When unexpected crisis's explode into our lives, we turn to the ABC for clarity, and an honest assessment of the outcomes, so we can manage our own response to the crises. Best individual management practise, needs no Bullshit information to relay on.

Americans don't have this base to fall back on, so the result is a sicker, weaker, poorer society heading towards dog eat dog.

When Tronald Dump was elected, I thought, at least I can rely on the ABC to report a rational, science base assessment of world matters.

Michael Stephens

michael s

NSW 3916

The ABC is my primary source of news and entertainment and any reduction in funding which results in a Lowering of volume or quality or standards would be most unwelcome. A definite vote changer.

Michael S

QLD 2160

The ABC is the families channel of choice through TV and online through Iview. Across all program segments the ABC provide a diverse range of shows, many Australian productions and great investigative journalism and dialogue which also regularly looks at issues from multiple perspectives to enable viewers to critically think through issues and form their opinions with conviction.

On a world where truth is being hijacked by capitalist pursuits and political Agendas. The only channels my family watches (other then the Project) is the ABC and SBS.

It would be a wound to our social Consciousness has in these difficult if the ABC funding was reduced.

Michael W
WA 4105

The ABC is a national treasure, which has informed us and entertained us since 1929. No other organisation has come near to the breadth and diversity of its offerings. However, funding for the ABC - our ABC - has been cut year after year. Please reverse this shocking trend. Who will provide classical music? Who will provide bushfire coverage in rural Australia? Who will provide solid kids programming of the standard of PlaySchool, itself 49 years and still going strong? Please restore funding to OUR ABC!

Michael W
QLD 6008

The ABC is the ONLY source of information that is consistent in terms of reliability whether international, state or local content AND provides these choices for people anywhere in Australia (although it is better nearer major towns and cities).

Whether ensuring city folk are able to be onformed about rural matters via LANDLINE or news that is very specific via local radio,TV or its websites, it is ABC that remains as the (as in THE) source of information, news, weather, current affairs, and urgent warnings or advice whethrr of floods, storms or latest local traffic problems.

I well recall the warnings of the floods in Brisbane (esp 1974) and in particular, warnings of the weather conditions that led to the fatal floods in Toowoomba and the Lockyer and impacts well beyond.

News is news and while reporting may be slanted by perspectives, it is absolutely the case that the ABC does report the news, "warts and all".

Funding of the ABC must be increased annually if only in line with CPI and inflation ..!

michael y
QLD 4068

My wife and I only watch the ABC and have done that for the past 25 years.

We find the ABC is THE most reliable source of information and shows programs which most of the time don't insult our intelligence.

every night at 7 pm we switch on and it's like meeting friends. For Australia, losing the ABC would be a real cultural catastrophe. We need more than ever a strong antidote to the biased or idiotic avalanche of so called "information" from the social media platforms and the commercial TV networks.

We will never vote for a government which doesn't support and properly funds our "AUNTY"

michel E
NSW 4037

My ABC should be funded at a much higher level. It is vital to Australians for fair, unbiased, well researched and intelligent information. During the Bush Fire crisis and now Covid the ABC has been the "go to" source of accurate updates. If the Federal government continues to lower the funding for the ABC Australians will suffer greatly. ABC should also be at the forefront of documentaries, film and radio and should be funded to allow adequate scope to explore various issues in our country and beyond. I strongly object to the continued defunding of MY ABC

Michelle G
VIC 2800

Appropriate funding to the ABC is vital. In this era of misinformation and content created without critique or review or professional oversight is placing society at peril as evidenced by falsehoods surrounding the global pandemic crisis. Contamination by commercial agents will place integrity at risk and as such, must remain in the tax payers hands. Importantly, the ABC is crucial to rural communities and communities with diverse backgrounds as a balance to Melbourne/Sydney centric news and stories. Further, on a personal level, living in one of the most fire prone areas of the world, the ABC plays an immense role in accurate and timely dissemination of news in times of crisis.

Michelle K
VIC 3441

Over the last 12 months I have been recovering from an illness. An illness that has isolated me from close relationships. The ABC has been there for me during this time.

Over the New Year I was holidaying in east Gippsland. Of course our holiday was cut short due to the horrific bushfires. The ABC radio and television was the reliant information source for everyone in those areas during this time. We evacuated successfully because of the reliability of the information provided by the ABC.

Regional areas are dependant on the ABC for all news sources. As well as entertainment and education.

I listen to ABC radio from morning throughout the day. From Virginia Trioli to RAF Epstein. They are my connection to what is happening in our extended communities. They enrich my life immensely. Irreplaceable. Priceless. ABC radio and television are my news sources, my comedy sources and my entertainment sources.

I live in Melbourne. During this pandemic, the ABC is the main presenter of first hand information. EG. the addresses to the nation from the Prime Minister and daily updates from Daniel Andrews our Premier. Imperative broadcasts during this time. I have 100% relied on these.

I watch ABC programs such as Q&A, Landline, Four Corners, etc etc. religiously. They report the facts and information in an objective manner.

I don't read or watch commercial channels, which report subjectively pending their owners views (The Murdoch Press a classic example).

I have paid taxes my whole working life. I have a right in a democratic nation, to choose my news and information and entertainment sources.

The ABC is one of the best examples of my taxes at work. I can't watch our national parliament in action on any other channel.

I have a right to not subject myself to the limited versions of information that are projected from the privately owned media sources.

The ABC should be celebrated and preserved and protected. It is an integral part of our national fabric and makeup.

Michelle M

NSW 3089

Throughout the bushfires the ABC was there. Throughout Covid they have been there. I grew up in rural NSW with the ABC. I don't know what we would have done without them. From news broadcasts to radio, they have been a news source that we can trust. A voice for Australian people. The ABC belongs to all of us. Please fund it properly and stop the budget cuts. There has never been a more important time.

Michelle R

QLD 2121

My family and I rely on the ABC in times of crisis. We know the information the ABC provides is always accurate and up to date. During the current COVID-19 pandemic the ABC is the only news source we use. I view has also kept us all entertained during COVID 19. Please don't cut the ABCs funding.

Michelle T

VIC 4154

The ABC needs full financial support from this budget.

Living in rural Victoria I rely on the ABC radio and TV for vital information regarding everything from bushfires to Covid restrictions and information.

The entertainment provided has also given me so much pleasure over the years. The cuts have been noticed though with reruns of BBC shows being a great disappointment.

And who can dispute the great shows produced for children....from Playschool to shows like Around the Twist.

Support the wonderful journalists who do more than rehash newspaper headlines.

Recognise the ABC's value to so many people and fund it as it should be.

Michelle Ward

Michelle W

NSW 3996

The ABC is very important to me and getting more important as time goes on. I rely on the news programs and talkback shows for reliable factual content. Untruths and misinformation circulating the globe are very distressing. These mis truths are having real consequences as we see around the world. Elections being manipulated is a real concern. We need the ABC now more than ever. We need a very strong and stable national broadcaster on which we can rely. The world desperately needs many more balanced factual broadcasters like the ABC.

Mick G

VIC 2036

The ABC is my most trusted media to inform me esp. during emergencies such as bushfires and storms but with a pandemic, I couldn't do without it. Whether it's radio, TV, social media or their website, it's the only place to be sure that the news is reported correctly instead of for maximum saturation (ie click-bait). Reporters are not just "reading" the news, they are actively collecting it. That ensures probity instead of the headline writers and sub-editors leaving out important information when it doesn't suit their narrative. It should've been obvious during the 2009 bushfire emergency (as well as others) that ABC was the link that kept many communities informed of their danger level. It certainly was the only trusted media to access during the 2020 Black Summer bushfires. I admire the coverage of this COVID-19 pandemic in the face of such tragic news.

Mick O
NSW 3078

I would be absolutely lost without the ABC. Monday evening is the best night on the ABC for me personally. However, I like a number of other shows such as 'Mad As Hell' and the fantastic artist who paints celebrities portraits
The only negative comment is that the same news is repeated to frequently with film clips that can be weeks old and then used to enhance new news items.

Mick W
NSW 2564

What would we have done without the ABC during the dreadful bushfires? And the ABC continues to keep us up to date with what is happening now in the communities affected.
And where would we get such excellent updates on the COVID-19 spread?
How else to know what is happening in other parts of the world?
Where else would we find such high quality investigative journalism?
And where else would we find the diverse range of opinions from people of every political persuasion, from people of diverse religions and backgrounds?
Where else can we be so well informed?
The public broadcaster is essential to a functioning democracy
Sincerely
Margaret Bodie

Miggs B
VIC 2533

My name is Mignon Kemke, and I am a retired teacher. I am disabled and spend most of my life confined to my home. I listen to the ABC radio constantly and it is the major way I keep informed about the happenings in my state. Throughout the bushfire season and again through the covid 19 crisis and lock down, I have relied on the ABC to keep me informed about the changes happening in my state. It is a great comfort to me being able to keep in touch with the world around me.
The investigations of the 7.30 report, Four Corners and Foreign correspondent show that the ABC has worked hard to keep us up to date on all aspects of events, highlighting both sides of stories that help me to see the truth of what is happening.
ABC's Drama productions have kept me entertained and are of such a high quality, they are world wide successes. They should be funded more as they keep Australian content on our televisions. This means that our Australian Actors, film industry workers and all the others who contribute to the industry have work and keep our economy going.
The ABC is an Australian Public institution and needs to be protected and funded to ensure that we are given a broad view of all that happens without prejudice or the money of big business pushing their own agenda.
Please keep the ABC properly funded and supported as it is vital to maintain honesty and integrity in journalism in Australia

Mignon K
WA 3153

The ABC is Australia's champion radio and TV provider.

The range of products, from entertainment for all ages, informative documentaries and news is essential to our communities.

During the recent (2019/202) bushfires the constant up to date information not only kept the whole nation informed of the events but assisted enormously the communities directly affected.

It is our best TV station.

There is room for improvement in the news, where sometimes the information provided is too lengthy and perhaps even inconsequential.

And when it comes to the COVID-19, I appreciate the station can provide only what it is provided to them by the relevant authorities but find that "sensationalist" journalism takes over the best of them.

Example; "... 1,457 new cases of Covid-19 were detected yesterday, increasing the infections twofold from the day before..."

But; are those 1,457 cases all about to die or are they mostly asymptomatic and in perfect health? I wish the information provided was more "informative" rather than just feel we are "indoctrinated", or "force fed" stories with total lack of quite important detail. Journalism should be not the simple and free dissemination of somebody else's story but it should be researched and a complete view provided.

Thank you.

Miguel P

WA 6333

We live in a high fire-hazard zone in the South West of WA.

Without a properly funded ABC we would be without the amazing coverage and alerts they provide to keep us safe. This is life and death we're talking. We've already had to evacuate this property twice in the last 5 years.

The ABC is our lifeline.

Mike A

ACT 6253

We live on a farm in southern NSW in a high risk area for bushfires. The bushfire season last summer was horrendous. We relied on the ABC for up to date information. We do the same with COVID-19.

And of course there is a huge amount of quality local, national and international perspectives and programs on ABC Radio National, local ABC and ABC TV.

Mike B

SA 2621

I listen to the ABC news every weekday morning and the breakfast show on 891 Adelaide. At 6.30pm, my wife and I watch the Drum and the ABC news and most programs following the news every evening. We watch it to support Australian productions, some of which are outstanding. We watch so many brilliant ABC programs, the list is too long to write here. We find it always balanced, whereas Channel 7, 9 and 10 are just stupid. I know the Liberal Party is anti the ABC (I am a Liberal Party Voter), however I think this is very shortsighted. I also listen to the ABC radio as I travel around regional SA. It's important to here local issues. Regional programmes would not be supported by commercial stations. Not enough profit. Emergency reports and Australian educational programs provided by the ABC are world class. Please don't cut the ABC any more.

Mike G

QLD 5255

Cairns area had very heavy rain early in the year and throughout the episode the ABC local Radio kept us informed. It covered flooding areas, road closures and vehicle accident sites that had closed roads. I have a grazing property on the Atherton Tablelands and it allowed me to make "informed decisions" on travel.

I also have family in Townsville who were impacted by the floods and once again the ABC were terrific with detailed info on the developing situation and evacuations/road closures etc.

Over several decades Far North Queensland has relied on the ABC far North team to be on air 24/7 during disasters and it was vital in the major cyclones such as Larry and Yasi where wide spread damage was done to houses, power outages and flooding.

They greatly assisted in keeping up public morale and routinely did outside broadcasts from the disaster areas. Fortunately they had sufficient staff and capabilities but if Government cuts continue its ordinary Australians who will suffer BUT I suppose politicians are not ordinary Australians as they seem to be lacking in the attribute of COMPASSION AND CARING.

Mike P

VIC 4884

Dear Madam or Sir,

We need an adequately funded ABC to help respond to emergency situations. The ABC has done an excellent job informing me, my family, and my friends about the the 2019/2020 bushfire crisis or the Covid-19 pandemic. I have family that rely on Bushfire updates from the ABC. Further cuts to the ABC would be a disaster.

Mike T
NSW 3188

I like state TV and news, they are necessary for everybody But you should change the present style to cover the truth under neomarxists' ideology. I like freedom of expression and true information.

milena O
VIC 2170

DearSir/Madam,

For me, like millions of others, the ABC is the most trusted news sources in Australia. I rely on the ABC for delivery of quality news , current affairs & investigative reporting.

NO other Australian news source comes close to delivering what the ABC do in this regard. None.

During the 2019/2020 fires, all eyes and ears turned to the ABC for critical information- I too had my radio and TV permanently tuned to the ABC. I found it was the best way to keep abreast of the unfolding disaster.

Again, during Covid, I rely on the ABC to give me accurate & timely information.

I also rely on the ABC for the fantastic Australian drama it produces / screens/supports. The ABC is instrumental in supporting the talent in our film & TV industry. The ABC has been crucial in telling the stories of Australians, of allowing our artistic voice to be heard.

The ABC must be better supported, now and into the future; it benefits all Australians.

Sincerely,
Mimika Tsantis

Mimika T
NSW 3072

I rely on the ABC to deliver unbiased, relevant news.

To ask good and/or difficult questions on topics that truly concern australia and, the planet beyond.

To deliver satire with intellect, the latest music, the best kids shows, great stand up comedy on ncluding the mighty season of Aaron Chen, which prompted my first fan letter ever to the ABC.

To deliver tv with no ads!! ABC programmes have even more priority, for this reason.

I truly love the ABC.

Mintie R
NSW 2088

The ABC is basically the only TV station that I watch, as it does not have advertisements every few minutes and is a reliable source of information, since they still have some staff which try to report the true story in the media, warts and all.

They were the ones I watched and still do watch with regard to the Coronavirus issue and other national news. In addition, they are the only ones that show the original series from the BBC such as Call the Midwife, Endeavour, Grantchester, and programs such as Gardening Australia and Landline which make a person feel positive and not addled by negativity and rubbishy TV.

Please do not cut the funds for the ABC and please keep the ABC advert-free, do not let it get spoilt by being privatised.

Thank you in advance,

Miranda A
NSW 2089

With local papers closing down there are less and less sources of information for citizens. The ABC is the most trustworthy source of information on TV and radio, and one of the few on line.

I turned to the ABC for accurate and objective bushfire information and now I turn to the ABC for accurate and objective information about Covid 19 virus. I also watch ABC TV for entertainment, never the commercial channels. I listen to Radio National for interesting and well researched subjects to think about, like science, literature, music and moral dilemmas.

It is extremely important to provide accurate information to regional areas as well as cities. Regional areas do not generate enough money for commercial companies to be interested in providing this service. The ABC is for all Australians and tries to be inclusive. Commercial media companies thrive on contention, intolerance and division because this results in more money for them but is bad for Australian society.

The ABC has excellent children's programs that are educational and benefit children .

ABC journalists and researchers are hard working and talented. They have investigated significant problems and brought them to public attention.

Politicians with nothing to hide should not be afraid of the ABC but should be grateful.

Miranda J
WA 2125

It is unimaginable to me that the ABC could have further budget cuts. It has been squeezed enough, as is. My husband and I have been Australians since 1981; the ABC is part of our story, our history, our making this country our home. From the occasional glimpse of ABC news in a country town pub when we lived out bush, part of a geology exploration team, to acquiring our own television with two small children who grew up with PlaySchool. The ABC has been & is a bedrock of informed, balanced news and documentaries - the in-depth investigative journalism of 4 Corners and Foreign Correspondent, the deep intelligence of current affairs presenters - Kerry O'Brien, Leigh Sales, Laura Tingle , as well as presenters Annabel Crabb, Andrew Probyn, Stan Grant, Craig Reucassel ... and the science show , Catalyst, have all been essential sources of excellent information.

The high calibre ABC drama productions & the beloved Gardening Australia were the highlight of weekend family evenings, and now as we are retired, the ABC still provides us with information that we trust - from world news, relevant documentaries, good entertainment and a comforting well-informed presence through this Covid-19 pandemic. Australia will sadly be the poorer as a nation if financial cuts continue to erode away what the ABC gives - an intelligent, in-depth, compassionate, no bullshit view of what is happening. It has the capacity to raise the bar in public discussion and considered world views. So really, would the Liberal government render the ABC just another commercial-type TV station blasting viewers with facile hype, inanities and mistruths?

Miranda P
QLD 6330

I relied heavily on the ABC as a close friend lives on the edge of the fires zone and also for the daily report of the COVID-19 situation .

Mireille P
NSW 4032

The ABC is a vital lifeline for me. I am 83 & at this desperate, isolating time of Covid it is my way to the wider world, here in Australia & overseas. Isolated I maybe but never cut off, whether it be by fire, which threatened our property this year, or flood which is a consistent threat in the region around Maitland where I live. Our local radio & ABC tv is lifesaving . Then there are wonderful programs such as Land Line, Gardening Australia, Back Roads, series such as the War on Waste. And ABC CLASSIC is my constant companion in the good , & sometimes tragic times of my life, at home, in hospital, driving. Everywhere I go I can get sublime glorious music with presenters who care about what they do, care about their audience. It is always an uplifting experience. I am presently going through illness. ABC Classic gives me heart & strength. No appalling commercialism, no sneering talk back radio. It must be properly funded to bring even more Australian content to Australians.

Miriam P
VIC 2321

I rely on ABC for the honest news specially in these crisis who would be better then our local news.
I think ABC is better local news Channel then international ones

Mokhtar N
VIC 3977

At home in 2020, I depend on ABC Radio National for:
- important local and international news;
- thought-provoking discussions by well-informed presenters;
- trusted health advice and scientific information;
- book reviews;
- quality music concerts, both live and recorded

Mollie M
WA 3431

I only ever listen/ watch ABC news and for years now I have been listening to ABC Classic FM. Over the past 5 months during the Corona Virus Pandemic I have been listening on a daily basis finding the music inspiring, relaxing, comforting and enveloping. It has been my friend and has made it possible for me not to feel lonely or cut off from my community. I love the presenters. I will feel as if I have lost trustworthy friends should the ABC be in any way diminished.

Molly H
TAS 6286

For the post 10 years, I've relied on the ABC news. I'm fed up with the frenzied, biased, time wasting news that you get on other channels and much prefer to watch ABC, but more so I enjoy reading the news online and ABC provides this as a free service. I love listening to the ABC radio in the mornings. Staying abreast of current affairs is important and whilst all news programs hype issues, I still find that I get a more honest account of topics from ABC, certainly when compared to other media outlets.
It would be an absolute shame on the government to defund such an important public service. It provides so much work across industries - radio, tv, print, musicians, producers, journalists, gardeners.... and this is only to name a tiny handful! Not to mention that my children, even in their early teens now, still choose ABC shows over commercial tv which I'm so pleased about. Please FUND the ABC rather than defunding it.

Mon S
QLD 7000

I love the ABC and it is a new source that I trust more than any other in this country. I listen to it everyday to keep me informed and updated during all the crises that this year has brought us and I am so glad we have it. I am very worried however to hear of it being stripped of necessary funding and I worry that it will not be able to keep going. I know people who work there and they are all stretched and overworked already and expected to do more work for the same money, while programs and positions have been slashed. It is imperative that our government protect it and restore more funding so that programs can continue and more drama can be made which brings essential work to my industry of film and tv. Thank you in hope...

monette s
NSW 4219

Thanks to the ABC we have a good source without filters of current affairs, news and real opinions, based and given by educated and knowledgeable people.
Abc Tv always has interesting series and documentaries local & international.
Good music and kids programs and less American mainstream sensationalist content.
We love and support the ABC and it has been sad to feel & see how much Governments had cut out of it.

Monica F
NSW 2099

The ABC has been my go to station to help me keep up to date with especially during these difficult and taxing times when so much has been happening with bush fires, floods and now Covid 19 etc. It means so much to have accurate reporting during these difficult times. Most of my family, extended family and friends trusts the ABC and rely on it. Since the ABC is not commercial we are not bombarded with and wasting precious time with endless advertising etc. I believe Australians trust our ABC. Further cuts to the ABC will definitely not be popular with most Australians!

Monica M
NSW 2154

Fires, floods and factual. I've relied on the ABC during multiple natural emergencies in recent times. The fact that moderate people are citing the ABC as leftist, is testament to how "right" commercial media has become.

Is it possible funding cuts will assist in the further dumbing down of the population? Government should understand a dumbed down population may have its benefits, but it opens a plethora of conspiracy theorists sourcing their truth from their favourite social media platform.

I fear for journalism, but I fear more for freedom of the press.

Monique Lisa

Monique L
VIC 2775

The ABC has always been my preferred choice. This year I have found comfort in knowing that simply watching or listening to the ABC would keep me informed with reliable and trustworthy accounts on some very serious situations. The quality of the ABC's journalists is immense and I find them as people to very personable, which is probably why I start each day with the ABC. In knowing that I can turn on the ABC at anytime of the day gives me a sense of safety.

Monique P
VIC 3184

My city has gone into full lockdown and ABC 24 is always keeping me up to date on the restrictions, what they mean, and talking to relevant experts to put numbers into perspective. Thanks to the ABC, I feel up-to-date on Victorian lockdown rules and the latest from the Premier and Chief Health Officer. Of all of the coverage, ABC (and SBS) has been the least terrifying, most impartial and very thorough. Even when information and recommendations change very rapidly, the ABC keeps up and helps me understand so that I can comply with health directives and do my bit to stop the spread of Covid19.

I don't want to lose the safety of that information. I don't want to lose the tentative calm I have maintained throughout this pandemic from the succinct, professional way the ABC has handled their journalism. What I want is to be sure that if anything of this magnitude affects my life again in the future, I will have a reliable, impartial and accurate information source.

Mpumi M
NSW 3058

I rely on ABC both Radio and TV and have been educated in ALL aspects of my life over decades. For me, there is no other Radio like 2RN in the world. I get to hear all sides of stories and I can make my own decisions for any issue. I also feel that ABC needs to be in Asia Pacific with its quality for journalism that will help in soft power that many countries in Asia Pacific are crying for. Brilliant other programs on ABC should be share with other countries that will bring awareness in a number of social issues, that otherwise anathema in their culture. ABC funding must be increase year on year to make up for the cuts for at least a decade. I implore the Federal gov to provide ABC all the resources it needs for further Australia's interest in Asia Pacific

Mukul D
NSW 2110

Dear Prime Minister,

Throughout the COVID 19 Pandemic the ABC has proven why it needs to be funded beyond its current level.

The ABC has tirelessly informed all Australians of the state of play during this disaster. It has passed on many of your important messages. It has passed on your Governments requirements.

I hate to think how this could have gone if you did not have the ABC behind you.

Murray S

VIC 2106

I rely daily on ABC programming for my news and entertainment. I avoid all commercial TV as much as possible.

I'm glad my taxes keep the ABC alive but I'm deeply disappointed the liberal party are constantly defunding it because they have become puppets to whoever will lobby them, mainly the Murdoch media which has brought so much corruption and conspiracy to the public.

Scott Morrison from marketing, leave our ABC alone.!

N W

WA 3163

Without a public broadcaster and public journalists I would be at the whims of private news outlets and their agendas. Having a reliable source of news that I can trust is invaluable.

Nadia M

VIC 6005

I've been very glad for the ABC's comprehensive coverage of COVID-19, in particular Dr Swan's ability to convey complex information to lay people. The ABC is crucial in these times especially with so much misinformation, and worse, conspiracy theories running rampant (and even been given air time on some commercial stations).

Naji D

NSW 3184

I have always watched the ABC and trusted their coverage of news every morning and night. This service was especially appreciated when events moved so fast after March.

Pre Co-vid 19 I delighted in the Australian content of especially drama productions. My viewing increased during lockdown in WA then in quarantine in the NT. I especially enjoyed SBS World Movies, when cinemas closed. I also rely on Radio National for entertainment and information and am so grateful we have a national broadcaster of world class standard.

We were able to obtain up to date information during the bushfire crisis and hear of locations in danger with relatives close to the affected areas. Any more cuts to the ABC would be sheer stupidity in the present climate

Nan T

VIC 2500

I have written a one page submission but can't seem to add it here.

I will send it to Get Up as i have done a life story which will be different from others.

Nancy B

QLD 3550

As a 76 year old woman in the time of corona virus I am concerned for my family spread across Australia as well as myself. I can rely on information from the ABC to be accurate, informative and free from hype. We need our ABC in these fraught times more than ever. Please can our government fund it with more generosity than they have in the recent past.

Nancy G

NSW 4300

I live in an area that have been ravaged by fire twice in the last two years. Our only source of reliable information comes from our local ABC. The staff are totally dedicated and work 24/7 if need be. We have been devastated by fires in 2018 and 2020. During the fires in Bega/Tathra in February we were on alert to evacuate for 4-6 weeks. It was the ABC that kept us informed. We have had 2 floods since then and it was the ABC that kept us informed of road closures. I have NBN hardwire and recently had no phones or internet due to a system failure. Once again we rely on the ABC. I can not stress the importance enough that ABC funding be increased. Please remember that country life is very different to city living. We need the ABC for trustworthy reporting at all times but most importantly during disasters.

I have caravanned around Australia and it was the ABC that kept us in contact with the outside world.

Nancy H
NSW 2550

Never do I listen to any radio channel other than the ABC. It is informative, reliable and presented intelligently not like the hysteria of the commercial channels making everything a drama. It gives out vital information during times of natural disasters assuring listeners of what is happening in the problem areas. The ABC needs to be funded adequately to keep up their vital role to the Australian public. It is a very necessary resource for Australians of all walks of life

Mrs. Nancy Williams

Nancy W
NSW 2460

I rely on the ABC to keep me informed of local, state, national and world news.

The ABC presents non biased reporting as it does not rely on advertising and does not have private interests as its core motivation.

The ABC is for all Australians, always and is outside of the political scope. It needs priority funding and is loved and supported by citizens of our beautiful country.

During times of immense stress, uncertainty and disaster as we have witnessed very intensely over the last 12 months. I have felt even more that the ABC has been serving the community to its fullest and greatest potential.

We need our ABC. Please prioritise funding in the October budget.

Your sincerely

Naomi Dibble

Naomi D
WA 2483

We are avid ABC supporters and we rely on it to keep us informed on weather and fire information, here in the country. The ABC radio is constantly on in our house and we enjoy all the programmes and conversations. My Mum is always telling me stories and things she has learnt whilst listening to the radio. Please increase the funding and treat the ABC with the respect it deserves. It is a wonderful institution and we love it!

Naomi V
VIC 6507

I live in an area surrounded by bush, I depend on the ABC to bring me all the latest Information in regard to Bush fires. I listen to the ABC radio during the day & night. I only ever watch TV on the ABC & sometimes SBS. I live alone, the ABC provides me with reliable information, company & entertainment. I trust the information ABC provides. I support the ABC 100%. Narelle.

Narelle F
NSW 3860

Last Summer's bushfires were horrific and frightening. I have family who live in a fire prone and local ABC updates kept me at ease. Knowing what was going on was so very important.

On the upside, Radio National, Local ABC radio and Classic FM are such a big part of my everyday life.

And then there's TV....love it all.

Narelle J
VIC 2480

To whom it may concern

I write to tell you about the important role the ABC plays in my life and request that the Federal Government reverse budget cuts of the previous several years.

I rely on the ABC as my trusted news source everyday. I respect the journalists and enjoy much of the entertainment as well.

Please increase funding.

Sincerely

Natalie Cole

Natalie C

WA 3070

I am 50 years old, a mother of 3 primary aged children and part-time worker. I discovered ABC several years ago and no longer listen to many of the other radio stations. My favourite program is Conversations where while I busily look after my family it opens my mind to the many wonderful stories of people who have faced great adversity or led exciting lives. I have found that ABC Radio gives me not only current and thorough information in regards to general and world news but most importantly provides and invites discussion from the public and significant people on topical subjects. It helps me to form my view on these subjects encouraging me to be a participating community member, more informed parent and voter.

Particularly as we face the impact of COVID-19 the ABC has kept me informed and educated with regular specialist interviews and links such as Dr Norman Swan and Coronacast.

On many of the mainstream prime time radio stations they are only providing light nonsense.

Recently I encouraged two young shop assistants to tap into the ABC. They noticed that face masks were starting to fly out the door and wondered whether they should buy some. They weren't aware of the Victoria situation and I suggested they check in with local ABC radio and Coronacast.

Natalie F

TAS 6057

I am in the most vulnerable age group. I do not have any family and neighbours keep to themselves. I keep ABC News on all day and watch ABC current affairs in the evening. I have for decades. Without the ABC I would not know the actual facts. Murdoch is about money and control. Surely the Liberal government can see such power and autocracy causes great harm in a crisis.

Nathalie D

WA 7008

Hi,

Through ought the coronavirus pandemic i have found Norman Swan to be the most clear and concise communicator on all things coronavirus. His clear logical fact based advised has no doubt stopped much disinformation and probably saved lives, this alone should be enough to make the ABC's funding not subject to the political whims of the government.

During the bushfires it was the source of truth All our family went looked to to see if areas our friends and family on the east coast were safe.

The ABC has broken that many Australian bands that would have to be one of the biggest economic multipliers ever, from an unsigned band playing at a pub to playing sold out gigs just based on triple j radio play! a sound investment. pun intended.

The abc has broken some many comedians and actors careers it gives these talents and doorway a step up. Let alone the positive economic impacts of Eric Bana etc. etc. bring to our local film and television industry.

To national shows like macca in the morning, wich is a family tradition (which i hate) to listen to when we are camping on the south coast in the mornings.

Local shows like sabrina whatshernames gardening show that if you told me 5 years ago i would be listening to to get tips on my garden i would of laughed in your face. But now try and catch every weekend.

To the father inlaw going and listening to the footy on 720 in the car parked in the driveway so we dont hear him yelling at the tv about the "white maggots" when his beloved eagles are playing, we can still hear him from the car.....

The ABC is more enmeshed in Australian life, part of the cultural fabric of Australia and more emblematic of us as Australians than 100 captain cook replica ships built and a 1000 faux circus navigations of our continent.

The blind ideology behind the hollowing out of the abc is viewed with sadness and regret to all but the culture warriors leading the charge.

Just because something is politically to the left of you that does not mean it has a left bias. It may be simply where you find yourself on the political spectrum is not where you thought it would be. I find the ABC to the right of me on almost all things political. My opinion is that has come about from 7 years of board stacking, budget cuts and political interference. HOWEVER i am not so ideologically blind and arrogant as to rule out that it may simply be that I perceive the ABC to right leaning because they are not right wing media platform, they are simply to the right of me.....

Nathan C
QLD 6018

ABC Brisbane has kept me informed about what is happening in my local area, as a business owner this has been incredibly valuable. Without the ABC, the only way i would have been informed was through local social media channels that give unreliable and inaccurate information.

Nattasha M
VIC 4074

I have seen too much wrongs in the east when media becomes government's mouth piece and violates its objectivity in investigation and reporting.

If funding is more and push ABC to work for money, then its journalistic reporting and investigation can not be assured and no trust result and inviting manipulation or infiltration from unwanted sources.

Natural C
QLD 3031

to who it may concern.

I am living in FNQ and my daughter in the bushfire affected area close to Bega. It was vital for me to follow the news on ABC radio and TV to know what is going on. I was not able to visit her like planned neither she could come to me.

Right now with the corona virus crisis I again do rely on ABC's constant broadcasting, it is my life line, because I am convinced that it is factual and therefore I can trust it. While social media, google news etc. has lots of misleading information, which I find manipulative.

ABC is absolutely essential for Australia in this challenging times.

Nava W
VIC 4881

The ABC is essential for our household. They kept us informed through the bushfire crisis. Through corona virus they have helped to educate my son and keep him entertained whilst I work from home. They've also kept us abreast of changes to restrictions and what that means for us through BTN and News channels. We depend on the ABC please don't cut their funding.

neika H
QLD 3199

I depend on the ABC to get reliable NEWS and Weather reports that are not tainted with bias. They also provide reasonable entertainment with there programs. The commercial channels only serve up reality TV for the brain dead

Neil B
VIC 4132

1. Wide-ranging news beyond the narrow confines of Australia.
2. Programs based on scientific evidence, not on the ideologies of commercial radio and their sponsors, which means I can make good decisions about personal actions and take an informed part in the issues of the day
3. Provides careful evidence about institutional violence and other inhuman acts of governments and other organisations
- 4 Exposes corruption where it appears, from Unions to bushranger-SMEs, rogue operators to the excesses of large corporations, from local corrupt officials to disgraceful politicians
5. Calls me to be a better self by alerting me to changing ideas about our place in the world and our effect on our local world and the varieties of people in it, from Indigenous issues to a nuanced understanding of the assumptions I have not yet paid attention in the way I conduct my life
5. Makes me laugh at the mirror on our society presented by a range of comedians and comedic shows
6. Beautiful music and cultural immersion
7. Keeps me abreast of sports and issues in sports
8. iView: what a great service!

Neil C
VIC 3039

The ABC is the most trusted media organisation in the country by a country mile. It tells the stories without fear or favour or prejudice - and the conservatives just hate this

Neil H
VIC 3002

Once again, the ABC has been the reliable source for information about the summer bushfires and COVID-19 during 2020. It has been a crucial counter to the disinformation and distractions from news sources that are driven mostly by revenue, power and ideology.

It is essential that the ABC is fully funded to give all Australians the information they need to be informed and make the important decisions.

Neil P
QLD 3215

I am a single parent of three young adult children, I am the child and grandchild of farmers. I have watched country people struggling year after year through drought after drought. I have helped feed starving animals and I have picked up the corpses of those that grew too weak. Then, over this summer, as my father's dusty New England paddocks blew away, safe in Brisbane, I sat by the phone waiting for news as the bushfires whipped around the mountains of Tenterfield. I waited day after day for news that my father was still safe. Then I heard of the illness in China- and I had lived in Hong Kong during the SARS outbreak. I was afraid. Nobody was reacting around me, but I turned to my trusty ABC and there was information and soon I was advising friends who had never listened before, to tune into the ABC and listen to the steady, reasoned thought of Dr Norman Swann. At last some reliable information to inform me which helped me cope with the fear. And all through this terrible autumn and winter, I have listened to RN relaying news, leading people to safety, informing us of possible ways forward, of solutions to the worsening climate disasters. Here was a go-to place for me to find reliable information- I don't use social media, I want to be able to trust the information upon which I rely to help lead my family. I listen to podcasts- including Rear Vision, Big Ideas, Future Tense, RN Presents, Background Briefing, Science Friction, The Science Show, Science Friction, Ockham's Razor, All in the Mind, not to mention Geraldine Doogue on Saturday Extra and I can hold a conversation in any company. I feel equipped to start dealing with what the world is throwing at me because I have been informed by intelligent, well-researched, balanced reporting and research. I am less afraid of the future because I can prepare for it. I am able to talk to a wider community because I begin to have a greater understanding of them.

The ABC has not only kept us sane and safe during COVID, but until the last few years, had helped protect our nation. The ABC is the single most effective form of security we have. I am horrified that the government has reduced the ABC's budget and its ability to help protect us with soft diplomacy. We cannot hope to physically defend ourselves from a determined invader unless that invader is composed of peoples who already think of Aussies as friends, as good people, as fellow humans. Please increase funding to Australia's major form of defense!

I listen to RN for hours every day- while I go to the gym, while I hang out the washing, while I was trying to coax my dying dog to eat her last meals. RN keeps me connected to my fellow Australians, to the rest of the world, to the past and to the future. I am so proud of Auntie. It is my single most reliable source of information. Please increase the funding of Australia's most important resource.

Neridah M
VIC 4068

Comparing apples and oranges never works

Some outspoken media commentators try to denigrate the performance of our ABC arguing that Australia's public broadcaster should be privatised like banking, aviation and telecommunications. This is absurd. They are tools and services to enable people to get things done, whereas public broadcasting reflects and influences a nation's values, culture, and history. Privatisation puts a few people into powerful influential positions. As has occurred in other jurisdictions, it is predictable that if the ABC were to be privatised, we would all be at the mercy of owners whose embedded biases, world view and philosophy would be imposed on society. We need a truly independent well-funded public broadcaster responsible to the people.

Neville Craig, Burwood East

Neville C
NSW 3151

I listen to the ABC radio for several hours each and every day and have done so for decades.

Mr Murdoch, who, in my opinion has too much money already, should not be campaigning against the ABC. He should accept its ability to serve Australia in a particularly wonderful way - being widely multifaceted and multi-voiced. It's a way which could not be attempted by a private business, because the owners would never tolerate it.

Government should be "of the people" by building up the ABC, not ripping strips from it.

There are plenty of right wing people who will continue to support the privately owned media.

Let the ABC have a reasonable budget to reach Australians wherever they may be, telling stories which sometimes don't necessarily glorify private commerce.

Neville C
VIC 2032

I rely on the ABC for accurate and up to date news.

I also rely on the ABC to be free of political bias.

I appreciate the charter of the ABC to tell the truth.

Neville W
VIC 3355

I rely on and trust 774 ABC Melbourne to keep me informed on important local, national and international issues. Issues are presented clearly; differing views are sort and this allows a wider understanding of the topic to be gained. Being able to listen to the radio while doing other tasks is a great benefit .Reading newspapers to gain a similar understanding takes too long and does not provide the real-time interaction between broadcaster and guest which is so informative.

I also rely upon the ABC to provide detailed and accurate information during emergencies - fires, flood, accidents etc.

Please fund the ABC to keep these services functioning at a high level.

Ngair K

QLD 3130

In these times of COVID-19 we as family are relying on The abc - facts and and no sensational journalists just the facts-

We are a better Country for the abc! Across the world we need to have the best and reliable news coverage- we do!

We as a nation rely on the abc as a public service! I don't know where I would go for info if the abc were to be defunded! We as a nation need to have our abc!

Nicholas A

VIC 4053

The future of democracy is at stake. With Fairfax sold and the dumbing down and sacking of its journos accomplished and with Rupert Murdoch's foreign interference in Australia growing more brazen by the day, we need the ABC more than ever. More cuts to the ABC shows that PM Morrison is simply Abbott-lite. Using the cover of Covid-19 to further dismantle the public sector in Australia is no less than vandalism. NO MORE CUTS TO THE ABC! RESTORE ITS FUNDING.

Nicholas L

VIC 3199

Dear ministers,

I am writing to you in support of the ABC, imploring to you that times of economic crisis are the absolute worst time to cut funding to our national broadcaster.

More Australians than ever rely on the ABC during times of crisis. It is our point of contact for reliable emergency updates and has been throughout both the bushfires and COVID19 crisis.

The Australian public is more aware than ever of the importance of the ABC, as well as the current financial and operational strain that successive budget cuts have caused. Further budget cuts would be judged very poorly by the electorate.

Many thanks for taking the time to read this message

Kind regards,
Dr Nicholas Radcliffe,
Medical Practitioner

Nicholas R

VIC 3106

I need a news outlet that does not rely on click bait or sensationalism to stay in business. I need an impartial quality news service like the ABC. I use it every day and find the quality journalism an essential part of being Australian. Defunding the ABC or privatising it, is an attack on our democracy and our way of life.

Nick K

QLD 3044

What other media presenters give us Parliamentary question time? Does any other channel group give a total news service? 'Left' oriented? There is no other source of information which isn't 'right' oriented is there? It is called balance. Classic FM is the only radio station I can bear to listen to. And do not get me started on commercial TV. Moronic reality tv which merely interrupts their commercial breaks.

nick t

ACT 4500

My name is Nick Willis, I am a student in Canberra.

I relied on the ABC through the bushfire crisis for accurate and digestible information. I also currently rely on the ABC for information regarding the Covid pandemic.

I value the standard of reporting at the ABC, and I worry about the motivations of any government that seeks to weaken the influence the ABC has in Australian's lives. In times of crisis a democratic government should aim to provide more accurate and impartial information to the public, not less.

I ask that no additional cuts be made to the ABC in the 2020-21 budget, and that the government show its commitment to an informed public by restoring recent cuts.

Nick W
VIC 2601

The ABC network and its programming has not only been fundamental to keeping me informed of the daily updates regarding COVID and government protocols (eg. live-stream pop up videos on my Facebook feed and informative conversations via tv shows and podcasts) but is also a primary source of entertainment and encouragement, which has enriched my life during hard lockdowns in Melbourne where i live. Please continue to financially support this network and the excellent work that they have been doing for many years.

Nicky P
NSW 3056

My family are forever grateful for the up-to-date and constant coverage by the ABC on the terrible bushfires last summer. We live in Kings Point near Ulladulla on the NSW South Coast and our son was one of the many who lost homes at Conjola Park. We had our radios constantly tuned into the ABC for weeks over the summer, it was our only reliable and constant source of up to date information over that time.

Please recognise that there is no other news source that can come close to what the ABC does, they need to be properly funded as an essential service, particularly for our regional areas.

I watch and/or listen to the ABC most days, their news is the only source I trust to give a balanced and truthful opinion.

We need the ABC more than ever as our regional news providers are one by one being decimated by the big players.

Kind regards

Nicky R
VIC 2539

I can understand why the Murdoch press would like to see the ABC defunded: because the ABC gives the most balanced and truthful coverage of current events, often contradicting the self interested, prejudiced, partisan opinions promoted by Murdoch newspapers . And I can understand why the present government favors the Murdoch position, as it supports their own, financially by donation as well as ideologically.

However, the government should realize that the ABC fulfills real needs for the public, and is an essential pillar of the democratic system we purport to value so highly. We all know how much we needed and valued our national broadcaster during the emergency of the bushfires late last year and early this year, and how much we shall need it again this year when the bushfire season threatens us again. We needed it during the storms and floods that followed. And we need it now and for the foreseeable future while the pandemic takes its toll. I live in Melbourne, so I know only too well what I am talking about. I rely on the ABC for daily updates and to get the latest directions from both state and federal officials, to hear what our premier and the prime minister have to say.

I am an 84 year old woman, living alone, supported by family, but mostly isolated in a rented house. How would I manage without the ABC? The present government is in thrall to outdated, obsolete economic theories that promote big business at the expense of the real needs of the community. We need greater equity, even if this means that government must expand its funding of needed public services like housing for the poor in a lopsided economy, fairer education, better health services and so on. And we need our public broadcaster more than ever, for news, investigative journalism, analysis and entertainment. We'll never get what we need from media such as that pumped out in a self-interested way by the Murdoch press.

The LNP government needs to rethink its values from the bottom up if it is to remain relevant in the present changing circumstances, which are actually revealing the shortcomings and weaknesses of government policies and funding arrangements that have diminished public cohesion and wellbeing over preceding decades.

Sincerely

Nicola Coles
Pauline Elizabeth Nicola Coles
63 Collins St, Thornbury Vic 3071

Nicola C
QLD 3071

I rely on our ABC for the information I need to be a constructive member of Australian society, for fabulous educational resources and for entertainment that shares Australian stories and Australian music and an Australian sense of humour, as well as the best quality international drama.

2020 has been the hardest year I can remember and it would have been so much worse without the ABC. The ABC is like a kindly Aunty I can turn to for reassurance that Australia will be OK if we work together to fix this shit.

Nicole F
QLD 4101

I have relied on the ABC this year especially with news of the bushfires around the country as I have relatives all over. I know those family members living in regional areas have found ABC television and Radio have been a lifeline to them.

I have had to do a lot of driving and ABC radio has been a constant companion.

Nicole F
VIC 4068

We are regularly using the ABC television station and it would be very sad to see any cut backs occur to this station and effect its production.

We live close to where the fires were this year up in the North East, with my husband fighting to help defend and protect people and property as well.

Along with every Australian and Victorian, we are also worried and affected by the Caronavirus.

It has been and is still vital for us, to receive accurate, upto date and reliable information about these disasters. The station that we regularly turn to is the ABC. It would be a massive and devastating impact on all Australians to lose this excellent avenue of news (as well as great source of entertainment for our children). I really hope that this doesn't occur, it would be very sad on top of everything else that we have had to face this year.

Yours sincerely,
Nicole Hamilton

Nicole H
NSW 3691

I have been using the ABC as a preferred choice for news & information on a regular basis. During the bushfires I traveled from Syd to Eden for Xmas with family & listed to Radio & Watched TV Broadcasts providing much needed information. I find their impartial non commercial information my preferred source. I would like to ensure we have this choice, it's only fair for all Australians. Please don't cut funding!

Sincerely yours

Nicole Rainsford - Mosman NSW

Nicole S
QLD 2068

The ABC is the ONLY news source i watch, trust and rely on to give me the most up to date relevant and reliable information. Especially this year with the pandemic of Covid 19, it has been informative and kept me up to date with the facts. My family have grown up watching everything from the news to kids programs and everything in between.

Nicole S
QLD 4506

Wake every morning to the ABC

The only source of reliable journalism on tv and on line. The only channel I turn to for reliable truth telling.

Australia is the envy of the world to have a counter balance to the Murdoch empire.

The continuing erosion of the abc is a disgrace.

Nicole W
NSW 4552

During the bushfires TWICE my sister was in a house with catastrophic bushfires within a kilometre of her house. Where did she look to for accurate information ? The ABC. Totally trustworthy. During all dangerous times, Australia looks to independent media for accurate unbiased information. The ABC is and always has been our public broadcaster, with no agenda apart from reporting the news and providing truthful feed back to Australians who we are and where we sit on the global stage. Defund the ABC and you defund one of the only independent media in Australia and certainly the one we all rely on the most.

Nicolette B
NSW 2026

I listen to the ABC everyday and it's the only channel I watch and allow my children to watch.

No funding cuts to the ABC please

Nikki Timmermans

Nikki T
VIC 2260

We rely on the ABC as a fair, trusted and informative source of radio and TV news and emergency reports at times of fire and flood and disasters. And we rely on and enjoy ABC's excellent reports, series and dramas without commercial advertisements. The ABC is an essential service for our nation and must receive an increase in funding as such.

Nina and Brian E
QLD 3195

Im now in the older generation but have always relied on the ABC radio and television for everything. This continued cutting on funding by Conservative Govts over the decades annoys me greatly. It is one of the main reasons I will never vote for Conservative governments.

Noel H
VIC 4551

Every day my email folder fills up, some of it requested and welcome but much of it unsolicited and of dubious origins with worse than dubious motivations. As a former journalist I believe I have a pretty well formed bullshit detector, but sometimes I am left scratching my head, wondering if what I am reading is believable or not. The information comes in so thick and fast I acknowledge that on occasion I am almost inevitably misinformed on important issues, or at best, left in doubt.

If I am wondering, what then of the many Australians who do not even know what a bullshit detector is, let alone how to activate it. I see how lies and exaggerations, pandering to vested interests and the super rich (many of whom lack a moral compass), succumbing to greed and short term fixes when any fix at all is in the offing, can poison our political and social fabric.

If humanity is to have any sort of civilised future, with so many of our previously accepted norms such as safe homes (bushfires and floods) and health (viral pandemics) seemingly no longer the norm, we urgently need to be well informed if we are to take part in transitions that will get us back towards global stability.

And yet at this very moment, our quality written media is either shutting down or being dumbed down and our ABC, which we support with our taxes, is being brought to its knees with constant budget cuts and bad mouthing by reactionary voices.

I have always trusted most of what I hear and see on ABC media. It has always been my information security blanket.

Never have we been so dependent on information that is trustworthy.

I also have depended on the ABC for a large slice of my entertainment and never have we been in greater need of a good laugh and a good cry and a good outlet for our frustrations and fears.

If the ABC continues to be chopped and downgraded, Australia as a whole will be the poorer: worse informed, more prone to lies and misinformation, and duller.

At a time when government coffers are spilling resources into keeping the economy and the population afloat, arguments may be made for more cuts. The opposite is true. When we cannot go out for entertainment, when we are prone to all manner of fears and those fears are being stoked by social media misinformation and lies, never has it been more crucial to have media which we can rely upon.

Please, use this budget to return our ABC to vibrant good health. It will put new heart into all of us.

Noel M
VIC 3996

The ABC is the only news outlet give us an unbiased view of what is happening in Australia as well as overseas.

Thanks off

Support the ABC economically as well as verbally, it is in all Australians interest to keep it free and fair.

Noel Nicholls

Noel N
NSW 3381

The ABC is the only radio station I listen to. I hear the news knowing it's not fake news. I love waking up to Robbie and Wendy for breakfast and Sunday morning is Macca which I hate to miss. The ABC is always there to help us in flood, fire or famine and we cannot do without it.

Noela K
NSW 2073

How could we possibly have survived this terrible year without the input from our amazing public broadcaster, our ABC.

My husband and I are in our eighties, living in the Sydney Inner West, and are constantly relying on our ABC for all the latest news and most recent instructions from our Health Officers re this terrible Covid pandemic. The ABC was instrumental in getting information and advice to all Australians regarding the worst bush-fires we've ever witnessed and now we are facing this new catastrophe and need our public broadcaster so much more. Too much money has been cut from the ABC budget over the years of this Government, so many staff lost their jobs, programs cut and changes made that may never be reversed.

The long and proud history of our ABC has been diminished by the shortsightedness of this Government, and our community is losing so much of this trusted organisation, which will take years to build up again, and I therefore demand that no more cuts be made to the ABC in the October 2020/21 Budget and also that previously cut funds be restored. This pandemic, if nothing else has shown the Australian people how much they rely on this wonderful organisation which we have been able to trust through floods, horrific bush-fires and now Covid 19, we cannot see it diminished further....restore the cuts and stop any further cuts. Give us back our ABC.

from my heart,

Noela Vranich

Noela V

NSW 2046

I live in the Southern Highlands of NSW. During last summer's bush fires we relied on information from two outlets: ABC and RFS. These two supported one another, they were the voices of calm, reason information that helped us during that frightening period.

I'm in a wheelchair and the ABC is

the only TV outlet we listen to, TV and radio, it's been the same through our daughters lives. No commercial TV for us or for them, something our daughters resented but we were adamant. We wanted truthful, accurate information and that's where we got it. Now our daughters are older they totally understand and agree. They both have Communications degrees and their Digital and Print media tutors were often drawn from the people they saw nightly on TV.

I dread what other Australians get as accurate information from the commercial networks when the reporters have to push the line the proprietors want, look at Fox!

Thank you

Noella M

WA 2578

I will be 76 this year and I rely on the ABC for emotional support with news and especially music. The TV programs have provided much relief, impartial information and entertainment during times of stress and isolation. I would be feeling so deprived if some of the programs had to be cut due to lack of funding. I also find the ABC investigative programs like the 7.30 report and Foreign Correspondent incredibly valuable in giving us direct, accurate information, interviews and photos about the situations here and around the world.

Thank you

Noelle Johnston

noelle j

VIC 6157

The ABC (radio and television) has continued to be my primary source of information about the world this year, as it has for many of my 80 years of existence. Not only has it been the most trustworthy news source, but my major source of education outside of universities. It has, for years, been at the forefront of educating us about marginalized groups including, for example, females, indigenous Australians, the disabled, migrants and asylum seekers, the disadvantaged, the abused and the poor; the ABC also lifts representatives' public profiles through training and employment. It trains young people early in their careers to be effective communicators of their areas of study and knowledge. It employs talented young people to present arts programs related to their expertise and enables behind-the-scenes people such as producers to progress to presenting their own programs. The ABC practises what it preaches.

The ABC covers an astonishing array of subjects, including science, Australian history, current affairs, politics, climate change, natural history, music, literature, art, drama, philosophy, religion, economics, agriculture, ethics and health (Norman Swan's program is invaluable for teaching medical students) and, of course, the Minefield and Late Night Live. The interviewers are not carping polemicists, unlike in other media, but with incisive questioning let interviewees display their own qualities and allow listeners to form their own opinions. And it is entertaining, even though radio comedy programs have unfortunately disappeared. Despite this richness, I

have seen the disappearance of good programs as a consequence of funding cut-backs and the growth of repetition of the remaining ones.

I fear to imagine life without the ABC - less stimulated, more ignorant, less able to converse with grandchildren about their concerns, less capable of considering the best ways of shaping our futures.

Nola R

NSW 3065

Dear Federal Parliamentarians

You need, please, to realise the value of the ABC to us AT ALL TIMES.

But this year it has been ever more critical ... where our ineffective NBN service let people down, the ABC told them where the fires were.

Where News Ltd stories gave message counter to government instructions re COVID, the ABC gave us untainted, factual information. They assisted all of us, I dare say even parliamentarians, with the right information about the disease numbers, spread and methods to keep ourselves safe ... even you Parliamentarians.

During various lockdowns the ABC is critical to provide us with other things as well. Fabulous comedy on TV, radio and Podcast, fantastic music shows for old, young and very young - we are so lucky to have the ABC.

Country people rely on it for local news as ALL OTHER NEWS in regional areas is under threat.

News providers are scandalously under-resourced and yet you still threaten to cut our lifeblood of information, entertainment and local/regional news.

Shame on you. Do not take funds from the ABC, in fact you should provide more.

Thank you.

Norelle Feehan

Norelle F

ACT 2010

It was great to have the calm, balanced reports from the ABC during the bushfire crisis, then Dr Norman Swan's decryption of Pandemic Speak in the early days of COVID19, and now we are seeing mature and balanced reporting of the ongoing COVID crisis, the reach out to those isolated, the insight into related mental health issues, together with the economic impact and recovery prospects. We will continue to NEED the ABC to appraise us of Climate Change Action or Inaction, and the emerging global security tensions. Now is NOT the time to silence the messenger!

Norm S

VIC 2602

You only have to compare the news broadcasts and the content of the ABC to the Commercial broadcasts to see that the ABC is NOT subject to "Commercial" tainting with regard to what and how it presents such worthy, watchable and informative programs.

MAY IT EVER BE SO!

Norman B

VIC 3088

Integrity is what I want to hear from the ABC!

Why should the ABC receive funding when other platforms don't??

I would support the ABC if they didn't censor there information!

People of Australia only want to hear the truth!!!

Sorry, to lefty lefty, for me! :thumbsdown::type_1_2:

Nunziata K

VIC 3888

As a Victorian, during the COVID-19 pandemic, I listened to Triple J, ABC podcasts about the Coronavirus 'Coronacast', and live streamed important news updates from ABC. There are only 2 sources of news I watch and trust, ABC Australia and SBS. Keep funding the ABC!

Nyrelle B

VIC 3030

To Whom It May Concern,

I would be devastated if ABC's budget was cut down. ABC is one of my go to news agencies and I truly enjoy it's content and relevance of the content. We need to support ABC in these challenging times.

Please save ABC's future!

Your devoted reader,

Oksana

Oksana T
QLD 3000

My ABC is there for me from the time I awaken until I go to sleep at night. I rely on the ABC to keep me informed with a variety of opinions, perspectives, news we can trust from hard working journalists; it keeps me in touch through its music programs, excellent landline and gardening programs, multicultural and diverse groups and drama and childrens' programs. In the age of fake news through the various online social medias, the ABC is crucial for reliable information and our Australian way of life. Please support and protect this precious institution. Olive Marshall

Olive M
QLD 4551

I'm writing this in support of increasing funding for our ABC. My husband is a member of our local RFS. When bushfires were raging out of control last year he was amongst the teams called on to help with the huge blazes known as the Pechey fires.

My husband is approaching his 78th birthday.

I was terrified when he was away fighting those horrifying blazes. My only source of reliable information throughout that period was ABC radio updates and Television News.

Our ABC is just that OURS and must be adequately funded to continue to serve the People of Australia.

Olivia E
NSW 4352

In previous years I have looked to the ABC for factual scientific objective and inclusive information and relevant entertainment that affirms the fullness of my positive and expanding interaction in the world. Australian stories of all types of Australians are critical to our national identity and wellbeing, especially as so many types of stories are not represented or represented well by corporate media. The ABC helps me stay connected through its drama, music, comedy and commitment to Australian stories. Australian based children's programs were fundamental to my children and my friends children to. They built an appreciate of the unique Australian way of being and the diverse and inspiring landscape in which we exist. The challenges we face as a nation are fundamentally best considered by Australians free from corporate influence which is often in direct opposition to the national interest economically and socially. And of course, in times of catastrophe, the independence and coverage of ABC on all media types is crucial to sound information that is literally life saving and constructive to the wellbeing support and sustenance of the population.

Olivia F
TAS 2454

I rely on the ABC to report on current events with accuracy, depth, and independence. I relied on the ABC during 2019's drought, super-fires, and heavy rains. I rely in 2020 on ABC for COVID19. Please keep our ABC a sanctuary for talking truth to power, and truth to denial (as well as the easy reporting & entertainment).

Olivier L
NSW 7310

I'm gutted that the ABC has already received budget cuts, with potentially more to come. The ABC is more than just a TV channel - its been our saving grace throughout every crisis we've experienced. It's like a trusted friend that we depend on for unbiased and unpolluted news.

During the bushfire devastation, the ABC was our only news source as the coverage was expansive, compassionate and regular.

And again during isolation, surviving day after day with a five year old would've been nigh impossible if not for the ABC Kids Channel. The quality and educational value of the kids programming is unprecedented. There is literally no channel like it and its absence (and/or reduced presence) will have a hugely negative impact on my family and the families within our community. I have no interest in any other channel and will be outraged should I witness it being obliterated. I shall certainly vote in favour of a political group that protect it.

Orlena S
QLD 2204

I subscribe to eleven ABC Podcasts. They vary from current affairs to arts & science to philosophy. The ABC has long been my university away from university. It has been a constant in my daily at-home routine since COVID-19 restrictions were implemented. However i have seen the strength of programming through the ABC, especially free to air TV - story, documentary, current affairs in-depth investigation, and the arts, have markedly declined in content and quality over recent years and budget cuts. I don't find anything of a news or current affairs nature worthwhile watching on a routine or frequent fashion on any of the commercial media outlets. I have a strong view that the ABC as the Australian Independent Public broadcaster is the reliable source for information of all sorts, nationally and internationally. This information often challenges my understanding of the world and contributes to me being a better citizen of Australia and the planet. A vibrant ABC creates for me, confidence in that, whatever government is in power, at least they have are, in-principle, supporters of an ethical democracy with a knowledgeable body politic. As the ABC budget dwindles, so my confidence that I am living in a robust democracy.

Owen A
VIC 4883

Save our ABC. The most important news Outlet in Australia. If we lose our ABC it will be so hard to get back. It is the only news outlet that gives us the truth and hold all politicians to account. We can not let the extreme right wing politicians destroy our only independent outlet. The only outlet that is there when our country was on fire when the environment deniers were denying.It is mostly the only station I watch. Monday night is my favourite every program from the seven o clock news Please save our ABC. Thanks

Owen s
WA 3220

I rely on the ABC throughout every single day to bring me content that I value and which is almost totally absent from commercial channels. As their name suggests, the latter are primarily motivated by the profit motive, but also from indebtedness to vested interests. The ABC is my most trusted source of reliable news and comment on current affairs, valuable cultural enrichment and entertainment. The ABC provides a unique and essential national service. I am saddened and appalled by the way in which the ABC has been de-funded in recent years.

Owen s
NSW 6018

Norman!!!!!!!!!!!!!!

P B
QLD 2112

Truth in reporting protected from the bias that ownership brings is essential to the freedom of our citizens

I get my news from the ABC TV and radio and information on current events. The ABC is essential to our democracy and should be protected at all costs

p.a.grundy G
VIC 4350

I honestly - do not know how I would live - without the ABC.

This is so true. I rely on it all the time, not just this year although this year has been crucial, constantly. But everyday of my life I listen most of the time, the ABC is like my family.

And it needs help to continue and flourish, restore all of its funding requirements, it's the Voice of our Nation. Thank you so much.

Yours sincerely Pam Baragwanath

Pam B
QLD 3134

The ABC represents good journalistic and reliable information for me
Pls keep it that way

Pam B
VIC 4870

What a shocking state the ABC is in. I have listened all my life and never have I heard such biased and unprofessional reporting.
When I was a child, the ABC was the sound theme of family life. We sang and listened - and I am now disgusted.

I just cannot believe that the ABC is still funded. What on earth are you going to do about this ABC?

You are our national broadcaster yet you in no way represent the nation you serve. What a shocking mess.

Pam H
VIC 3222

Unless you'd like the level of intelligence and competence to deal with humanity in Australia to descend to the inane level of the majority of the US then CEASE ALL ABC CUTS NOW!
In order to maintain a harmonious and healthy population who are safe and filled with empathy, we must have NO more cuts to the ABC budget.
We rely on the ABC for so much of what defines us as Australians: our concern for each other, our help in times of disaster, our love of non-commercial music. The list is endless.
PLEASE. No more cuts to the ABC budget.

Pam J
NSW 3184

During the bush fires my sister who lives on the South Coast of NSW was totally dependent on the ABC for fire updates. The transmission towers were burnt and she couldn't receive any updates. I live in Newcastle NSW, 7 hours away by car and couldn't provide any support BUT Newcastle ABC relayed information to the South Coast so those who needed to know could still get the information they needed to make informed decisions. Only the ABC provided and was able to provide that service. It's not rocket science - we need a national broadcaster that does not have commercial interests dictating their priorities.

Pam L
QLD 2304

It is beyond belief that our Federal Govt does not understand the importance of our NATIONAL BROADCASTER. The coverage they gave during our catastrophic fires kept so many of us informed and as safe as possible. Watching their coverage brought me to tears on multiple occasions, for their compassion and sensibility. They don't sensationalise, they don't bully! They care for the Nation, they have our back. And their coverage of COVID-19 was calm, accurate, reassuring. Take away our ABC and our National Identity will be destroyed... possibly replaced with bigoted, hate filled stupidity that one sees today in the USA

Pam M
VIC 4560

In my isolated area in NE Victoria I rely on & have enjoyed the company of ABC radio particularly, for many years. I find the various hosts are informative broadcasters, have well researched their respective programs, they are passionate & proud & a joy to listen to, or watch on television.
The coverage of the fires last summer & of keeping the public informed in relation to Covid 19, has been excellent.
Long live the ABC.

Pam M
TAS 3673

I relied heavily on the ABC during the Dunalley bush fires, having lived in the area for years. The ABC are the only reliable media source for disasters such as that & the current coronavirus pandemic. No good relying on the sensational, factual incorrect commercial stations, just increases anxiety & distress. Weekend MUST keep the funding & increase it, for our auntie!

Pam M
NSW 7018

We live on a small property about two hours from Sydney. Traditionally a wet area, the land has seen a rise in temperatures and lack of rain that culminated in 2019's disastrous fire season. I never expected to be on patrol at night, looking for sparks and checking the fall of ash or ferrying food to friends in refuge at the showground. And we were some of the lucky ones who weren't directly impacted by the fires. They went around us. Morning, noon and night we relied on the ABC for accurate and honest reporting as we do now for information on Covid 19. Our national broadcaster must be adequately funded to provide the amazing service that it gives Australia's citizens. As the song says, we are one, we are many... and we need Aunty.

Pam M
VIC 2576

In December and January I had ABC radio on as usual and listened to the regular updates about the news of the bushfires.

As well as the reporters, I could hear the voices of residents and helpers who called in from Gippsland to relate their experiences. As I was born and grew up in Gippsland, I really appreciated that. My sister was staying in Mallacoota just after Christmas and later with her daughter near Bega, so I was personally involved as well as being very concerned for the communities and the flora and fauna in those regions.

Since the pandemic has started, I have kept up to date with the news every day, the restrictions and the analysis by health and medical experts. I'm extremely grateful to hear all this information directly from the radio, without having to look up news items on the internet, although I also check the ABC website too.

Thanks so much to the ABC.

Pam R
NSW 3094

A year ago a fire broke out on a remote area not that far from where I live on the mid north coast of NSW. It then continued on to cause devastation in the area in which I live on November 8th and beyond that date. We are also in an area prone to flooding and sometimes we can get "flooded in" by our mighty Macleay river unable to cross low level bridges. And now we have coronavirus. Throughout these trials and tribulations it's good to be able to switch on the ABC in the car or battery radio if without power or on my phone or TV if power is working and know I will get up to date news that is informative and not just to grab my attention and spin a yarn. From since I was a youngster watching Olympic Games on TV, the ABC has given me the whole news not just what it thinks I need to see and hear. It is for the people and not manipulated by moguls greedy with power. We need the ABC to "Keep the bastards honest".

Pam S
VIC 2440

The ABC, with the exception of SBS, is the only place where I can find trustworthy, unsensationalised news.

While Radio National keeps me educated, & local radio keeps me up to date with the world around me, Classic FM is balm for the soul, the station I turn to when the world is looking bleak, (& even when it's not). It never fails to lift my spirit.

Pam W
QLD 3103

I watch the ABC nearly all of my TV time, occasionally SBS. I have particularly watched it this year to keep "up to date" with the bushfire and Covid virus situations. I particularly like "Media Watch" which show up the inaccurate reporting of other groups often just lies. The media in general do not give accurate, unbiased information. I have had personal experience of newspapers telling lies!

KEEP OUR ABC re radio, I listen mostly to ABC classics and their on air staff are just marvellous.

Pamela Alick

pamela a
VIC 4059

I am in my 80th year and very concerned about the Coronavirus and how to avoid being infected. To ease stress and to get the facts from a reliable person I listen every morning to Dr Norman Swan's podcast, then I feel I can avoid all the waffle about it and listen to music on ABC classical.

The ABC is and always has been very important to me, please keep my taxes going to the ABC.

Pamela A
NSW 3122

2020 has been such a year and as usual it has been ABC radio and television that the nation turns to get get timely, reliable information. Bushfires and COVID-19 have challenged us all. Whilst the bushfires didn't overly impact me here in Sydney COVID-19 has like it has everyone. I know I can trust the ABC as no other media. Their coverage has been so extensive. I turn to radio National and ABC TV for information and serious comment/analysis. And for some relief from such depressing news some lovely music on ABC Classic or ABC Jazz to help with mental health. Thank you all at the ABC! You are doing a great job.

Pamela B
VIC 2031

The ABC has always been a reliable source of news, I trust the reporting, I appreciate the lack of sensationalism and the way different ethnic, religious and sexually oriented people are represented. I consider it very important to the country, Australia's standing in the World and particularly in the Asia Pacific region that ABC funding be increased.

Pamela N
QLD 3690

The ABC's impartial reporting is even more vital now than it has ever been. It is far too easy for misrepresentations of the facts to be disseminated through social media. This week I listened to a well-meaning person repeating false information she'd heard on one of those outlets. Without at least one trustworthy media outlet like the ABC I think our democratic way of life can be permanently damaged. The necessary funding to protect that democracy is a major government responsibility.

Pamela U
NSW 4121

I am feeling more and more concerned about Covid 19. I rely on the ABC for my information on the current situation. Why the ABC and not free to air or Sky? I TRUST the ABC. Please increase their ability to inform me - don't lessen it.

Pammus K
VIC 2120

I just want to say, that I have relied on the ABC to bring me all the necessary information I've needed particularly this year during the bushfires as I was away up bush on holidays here in Victoria, and they were who I relied on at every move, and now corona. It has been an invaluable source of information. Up to date, concise and reliable.

The ABC has always been a part of my extended family - the best news and critical thinking, the best comedies, and the best drama. It is a TV station that is "intelligent" and this sadly, is lacking on most commercial TV in this country - excluding SBS.

It is shameful that there have been, and continue to be cuts made to one of the only good things left that is worthwhile, and this government is ceaselessly attacking/slashing funding constantly.

Why is this?

Do you want us all to be drones. Seriously....this is serious!

Regards,
Paola Triado

Paola T
ACT 3101

My husband and I depend on the ABC for good and accurate news coverage and high quality programmes. We would have been lost without 666 radio during the terrible last season's bushfire and the same during 2003. ABC is our preferred TV and radio. Please do not cut funding to the ABC, you will definitely lose votes if you do.

Regards Pat and Murray

Pat B
NSW 2605

We need the ABC to keep us informed with up to date news in a direct correct manner with no bias. I always feel confident that their reporting is always accurate.

Pat D
QLD 2223

I live on the Darling Downs near the border with NSW. From November 2019 - February 2020 there were bushfires all along the Great Dividing Range, Main Range National Park and the Gondwana rainforest remnant. The road to Brisbane was closed for weeks and weeks at a time. We felt very cut off and isolated. Our connection to what was happening over the border and along the fire grounds was the ABC. Our little tranie was tuned 24 hours to our local ABC radio station, listening for the latest update on the fires, where they were, where they were headed, how bad the smoke would be, when to leave, what roads were open, which ones to avoid. The ABC is our local lifeline. Without a national broadcaster with a national overview of the country, we would not know what was happening to us over the border in NSW, even if it is only a few kilometres down the road. Local radio is good but lacks a national perspective. Likewise, private companies like Fox and Murdoch do not have a national heart like the ABC. Their interests stop at the boardroom. We need a national broadcaster like the ABC to link us all, tell us what is happening to us as a nation and keep us safe in times of national catastrophe, like covid, bushfire and flood.

Pat R
QLD 4012

To whom it may concern,

As an avid follower of the ABC living in Qld, the ABC news and radio for example gives me vital up to date info on what is happening in our country. It keeps me informed on up to date news, major disasters like the horrific bush fires with in-depth information. And now with the covid outbreak it has kept me informed with vital ongoing information on the status of how my state and the country is going economically.

This is not withstanding the programs like Australian Story, any documentaries ie Backroads, drama shows and the comedies, like Hardquiz, Micallef for example let alone the programs like Four Corners, Q&A to name a few. The ABC is a national channel that is Australian and should be protected and the thought of any further cuts should not even come into the equation.

Kind regards
P Brooks

Patricia B
NSW 4164

The ABC is crucial to my mental and emotional health. I rely on Radio National for stimulating programmes that inform and challenge me and I watch the ABC every evening for at least half an hour and usually more. It was when we had our first lockdown that I realised just how really important it actually was. I'd always known and loved it, but when we were in lockdown I felt that it was my connection to everyone else. I was in a community, in a supportive society. I live alone. But I wasn't alone. I have never felt so vulnerable. I was so grateful for the staff there- I personally was reaching out to support anyone I was in contact with at such a traumatic time, but I was surprised to find how much I felt that the ABC was supporting me.

I am shocked at the lack of respect shown by some politicians towards this remarkable institution. And I am very much disturbed by the present withdrawal of financial support, let alone the threat of even more cost cutting. It is as if the ABC is almost in the bones of our society- to weaken and destroy it, in all its usefulness, it is beyond comprehension. We will be a much weaker country without its support.

Patricia C
VIC 2045

SOME YEARS AGO i WAS BEING TREATED FOR CANCER.

I was having a series of strong Chemotherapy treatments which destroyed my white blood cells as well as the cancer.

As these were dying my immune system was very weak and as I became ill with another infection I was forced into solitary confinement in hospital for a fortnight. The ABC on my portable radio kept me sane and aware of local and world news. It provided both news and humour as my condition worsened and I needed a full blood transfusion.

Patricia C
WA 3196

i just want to say i rely on the A.B.C for news as bieng reliable .For Australian humour eg Gruen Hard quiz american humour on other channels is not ours

Patricia d
NSW 6330

My husband, Bill, and I, are devoted ABC people - we feel this way because over a very long time our ABC has informed us, warned us, comforted us, sustained us (could go on and on), and of course has entertained us, none less so than over the last year. There for us during fire and flood, and now, corona. Our dear ABC, the most trustworthy, reliable source of everything.

We are not happy with the deprivation of funds to this magnificent organisation - they will always get our vote.

Thank you.

Sincerely,
Patricia and Bill Hucker

Patricia H
VIC 2204

It would be extremely short-sighted of the Government to ignore the value the ABC adds to society and community. The ABC is essential, in all its forms: its reliable service to Australians; the unbiased and essential news and current affairs; disaster advice and support; non-commercial and independent programs and many more well-loved presentations - this country and its government would be much less respected without a fully supported ABC. Don't let this much needed and wanted corporation wither through lack of government support.

Patricia L
NSW 3187

I like like to ask this Coalition government to increase funding for the people's ABC.

For information on all things I trust the ABC.

During the bushfires it was the only up to the minute information keeping us informed and safe.

I listen every day and night using iView, Podcasts, news and views, music and much more.

The ABC is our intelligent friend, always available and reliable.

Please keep this icon of Australia well funded and independent of the Government of the day.

Yours sincerely

Trish Mann

Burringbar NSW.

Patricia M
VIC 2483

I rely on the ABC for the true account of all news items. I usually view the Media Watch Program and am amazed at how many times, false information or supposition is distributed by other reporters who do not work for the ABC. I watch the ABC and listen to the ABC more than any other media outlet. Please don't let anything happen to it.

Patricia M
TAS 3052

Please, I beg of you not to take any more funds from the ABC. I feel the ABC is one of my best friends and has been since I was 10 years old. For 70 years my ABC has entertained, informed and educated me. My life now that I am old revolves around what I listen to and watch on ABC. My world has changed but the ABC is still with me, please do not reduce funding.

Patricia P
ACT 7010

I rely on ABC radio and TV for local, national and international news as well as information about services and activities in my city.

This has been extremely important in 2020 as we suffered severe smoke pollution, fires threatening and now the COVID-19 virus. ABC radio especially gives people the feeling that they are not isolated and increases social cohesion. Other media sources are creating so much division and misinformation in society, it is imperative that an independent public broadcaster receives adequate funding to fulfil its services to the community.

Patricia R
VIC 2611

The ABC and SBS are the two only broadcasters I turn to to obtain accurate and unbiased news. The world news on the other commercial channels are not worth watching.

Patrick C
NSW 3802

Over Christmas and New Year we were marooned at Narrawallee on the south coast of NSW. No power, no phone, we also provided a temporary home for "fire refugees" from Manyana and Conjola with us. Listening to the ABC was the only way we knew what was happening. Reliable, timely advice and reporting on a critically dangerous situation. The Coronavirus pandemic has again proven that the ABC is the most truthful and reliable media institution, probably in the world. The ABC is the backbone of Australia. More funding NOT less, please.

Sincerely
Patrick McNamara

Patrick M
VIC 2015

Hi
My name is Patsy, I love my ABC and am devastated to see the cuts to ABC funding. All during the lockdown I have relied on the ABC for updates on what's happening in Victoria and the other States. We get a clear picture without any exaggeration about what's happening. My grandchildren can't wait each day for the wonderful programs they are producing for both pre school and school age children. It is so sad to see the cuts to the funding, these are the worst cuts since John Howard, it is operating on a smaller budget than then. Local news is not happening with the closure of many news stations. We need to know the truth about what is happening in our country and those who we have been elected to both State and Federal parliaments need to be accountable and ABC was doing a great job, making sure they were honest.
Please give them back the money you cut from their budget.
Many thanks

Patsy W
NSW 3226

I am 83, widowed with no children. I live alone in a very pleasant apartment in the inner city of Sydney. I'm very lucky to have marvellously thoughtful neighbours during the Sydney lockdown. Second to that is that being in self determined isolation my concerns about how do I manage the changes that lock down has caused. Well, no problem- I found that I have some of the kindest neighbours anyone could ask for - the offers of assistance from so many was overwhelming! The second saviour was the ABC which has allowed me to remain well-informed and entertained. Thank you ABC and great neighbours!!

Patti S
NSW 2011

As the result of a failed marriage I live here in Australia alone. I am a permanent resident originally from the United States. I am strong, determined, and independent....I am also 69 years of age. I have no immediate or extended family here and suffer from chronic lung disease so the past year has been more than challenging. ABC and the support of neighbours became my spine during the horrible bush fire season. ABC was a lifeline, providing up to the minute information in a collectively calming voice that helped me focus on my plan of action. A few months of respite and then COVID. ABC's coverage has again been brilliant, the COVID specials informative and possibly life saving for so many of us who are categorised as being "at risk." Dealing with the stress that has found a home in my life coupled the helplessness of not being able to assist my family and friends in the States means I rely on news that is honest and straightforward, compassionate and caring. We have plenty of examples of how death and suffering can and is exacerbated by "fake news" outlets. With all the challenges that are reshaping our "now" we need ABC more than ever. I need ABC more than ever. Democracy cannot survive without a free press and I cannot imagine how I could have survived this past year (and counting) without the brilliance that is the ABC. Thank you for the opportunity to demand that funding be guaranteed so that not one portion of all that is the ABC becomes lost to political bull sh*t!

Patti T
VIC 2782

Since the Covid-19 crisis began my partner and I moved back to the rural Victorian countryside to be closer to my parents. It is a nightly family ritual to sit around and watch the ABC 7pm news. This is a source of information that I feel I can trust. Please increase the funding for the ABC, people like us in the countryside rely on it.

Paul A
QLD 3056

Last summers bushfires were horrific but as they did during the QLD floods, the ABC radio announcers were there with accurate, up to date information.

The reporting of fire conditions and road closures no doubt saved many lives.

When covid 19 was looming as a threat there was so much speculation, fear and misinformation that no one knew what to believe. I told many friends to ignore the commercial media and the internet but listen to what's being said on the ABC.

We can trust the ABC because they are accountable to the Australian Parliament and must report the facts.

I understand that the coalition government doesn't like criticism and would prefer that many of their decisions avoided public scrutiny, but destroying the ABC will hurt this country like never before.

This government should be ashamed, you lot make me sick.

Thankyou Auntie and all the hard working staff.

Sincerely
Paul Bacon.

Paul B
QLD 4213

My ABC, YESi it is mine!

After viewing TV in various countries I cannot wait to get back to the incredible service Our ABC. In every way the passion quality & professionalism is outstanding. Now retired in every circumstance I turn to the ABC.

This service gives me hope information & inspiration.

The alternatives are a pathetic shadow.

Without Landline & Gardening Australia the News & current affairs programming I would not both with media at all.

The depletion of programming is a worry, despite the valiant indeed heroic endeavours of the dedicated staff.

Shame is the only term I can use to describe attempts to prune the budget & services. Selfish short sighted small minded.

My wife in dementia relies on ABC radio her constant companion other than myself. Commercial services leave her in despair, adds & triviality drive her to frustration.

Thank you Getup for providing this opportunity to express our view & needs.

Paul B
QLD 4223

The ABC like much of the main stream media is bias towards the left wing of politics and appears to endorse the WOKE crazy phenomenon that appears to be gripping MSM over the past few years. I agree the ABC needs to be defunded as it no longer represents the silent majority of this country.

Paul B
VIC 4121

We rely on the ABC for emergency news, medical updates and unbiased clearly delivered daily news.

This is our NATIONAL broadcaster and should be protected and have its funding expanded not contracted.

We need more capacity to have this ongoing balanced reporting.

Paul C
VIC 3444

During the last 5 to 6 months my partner and I have relied on the ABC to provide us with accurate and up-to-date information on the development of the Covid 19 pandemic in Australia and throughout the world.

We have been able to watch our Premier and Health Officer give daily reports and so have had information straight 'from the horse's mouth', not information via other channels such as social media or hearsay that often fail the accuracy test.

The result of this has been that we feel informed and included, and are able to make decisions in our daily lives that support the fight against this virus.

Paul C
VIC 3125

Hi,

I live with my partner and three children in the far south-west of Victoria. In late 2019 and early 2020 my family and I visited Melbourne to see family and friends over the Christmas/New Year period. During this period, our home was close to bushfires. Whilst our home was not directly impacted, we kept a close eye on the ABC South West Victoria facebook page for regular updates. We also regularly listened to ABC radio. We were concerned that we would have to leave Melbourne to return home and evacuate precious items. Or that we simply stay in Melbourne and "watch" our house burn from afar. We were able to stay in touch, via the ABC, with what was happening in our local area in order to make an informed decision. When we realized our home would not be affected, we were able to offer it to friends who had been told to leave their own homes. It was a very stressful time. We are indebted to the ABC for its coverage of the bushfires in our region as we were able to stay abreast of continuing developments and plan accordingly.

Paul D
QLD 3285

The ABC was crucial for us during the fires.
ABC information on Covid has been essential during the last few months.
Please increase funding for the ABC we love and rely on. Please, no more cuts to the ABC.

Paul H
VIC 4217

2020 has been a year that demonstrates the value of friends - from the way people banded together to fight devastating bushfires to the separation from each other in pandemic, we are undoubtedly all acutely aware of how we need friendship.

The ABC is more than just a broadcaster for Australians - it is a friend, to each and every one of us. It's a friend who looks after us with news and provides important information, who helps to take care of our children (especially valued by my family during lockdown) and who is there whenever needed.

Real friends don't need to always agree, but the ABC has always had the courage of its convictions, which is to serve the people of Australia. It's not perfect, but we need to value it as much as possible and understand that it does its best work when supported.

So many of us have been in need in 2020, and the ABC has been a friend indeed. Thank you ABC.

Paul K
VIC 3149

Don't you dare take more funds from this grand company, it is community contact in cases of disaster ie: Covid, bushfires, floods, etc and is the only avenue of contact for many country people. When the power is out always rely on the ABC to keep you informed

Paul M
QLD 3067

Living in the country I rely heavily on the ABC for up to date news and community information. It's comforting to know that the ABC is with us especially come fire season. We rely heavily on there updates regarding fires. Not to mention shows like landline, 7:30 report and Australian stories. You should be increasing funding not the opposite. The ABC is the only free to air TV worth watching and the ABC radio comes on when we're not watching. Leave Aunty alone Murdoch is not here for us when we need him.

Paul M
VIC 4059

During the bushfire crisis I was staying with my 98 year old mother in her house in the Southern Highlands in NSW. On 2 occasions we were given a Stage 2 alert, which is just short of 'too late to leave'.

The ABC kept us informed and up-to-date continually, including information relayed by Fire Authorities and first hand reports from people on the ground. It's hard to imagine any other organisation giving the same service to everyone in the country (3 states) who were affected.

I listen to ABC Classic all the time, both at home and in the car. It's like an extended family; they not only provide great music but insights and snippets from great artists and performers, plus they are the only station to play Australian-made classical music.

Australia is so lucky to have the ABC, and it would be very sad indeed if people only realised how lucky they were after it was gone.

Paul M
VIC 3079

I am an avowed fan of the ABC. I listen to R.N, 774, watch ABC T.V, iView, & engage with the many podcast too. The ABC is able to take risks that a commercial T.V / production company's cannot, as the commercial business model is driven by advertising dollars. I find the ABC invaluable for informing me about the world & what is going on. I appreciate then ABC's free access, that is inclusive & diverse. I worry about the current governments political ideology. Which is that the commercial media market can fulfill the same approach to reporting, as the publicly owned ABC. I draw their collective attention to the U.S.A. "God for bid" if Australia ends up with a skewed media like that! The cutbacks to the ABC has lessened our voice & presents in the South East Asia region. Thereby eradicated the potential of our soft diplomacy in those areas. What a shame!

Paul M
QLD 3350

My name is Paul Melverton known to all and sundry as Melvo.

I am Secretary of a local group formed at Pacific Haven to assist people on the Haven which has only one way in and out during the times of Disaster e.g.Flood and Bush Fires.

We as a Group Rely Totally on Information from the ABC to give us UP TO DATE Information about such Crises without which we would not have the necessary information to Make Decisions which are Vital to our Group.

We as a Group operate under the guidance of the Fraser Coast Regional Council Emergency Group.

We feel that if Funding is Downgraded it would Vitrally affect our Group and Therefore the People of Pacific Haven.

Please Do Not Decrease the Funding rather Increase same.

Our Group is called

PHEAG

which is translated to Pacific Haven Emergency Action Group.

Paul M
WA 4659

Without the ABC the Murdoch press and the right wing extremists would rain down even more hell on Australians.

Paul M
NSW 6069

In the absence of almost ANY genuine and unbiased and free news source I have always relied upon the ABC. End of story. #HandsOffOurABC

Paul N
NT 2049

Save the ABC

Paul P
VIC 820

My name is Paul Rose i enjoy the ABC cause of the contents it has in its current affairs programs that tell you how it is like it or not . I also enjoy the comedy they have on .I under stand why politicians don't like the ABC cause they don't favor ether side of politics and tell it as it is

Paul R
NSW 3198

Hi, I'm on the disability support pension and I have a fair bit of trouble getting around, so I spend a lot of time in front of the TV. I live alone and would go apoplectically crazy if I weren't to have ABC NEWS to watch. My anxiety during the bush fires last year was assuaged by the trustworthy information on the ABC.

Now with covid19 I find it so important for me to know what's going on in the areas around me.

That being said, if it weren't for ABC Classic and ABC National I would be in a constant state of agitation. One calms me and the other is totally interesting.

The ABC significantly contributes to my mental health. The worse my physical health becomes the more I rely on the ABC.

I really miss Gardening Australia.

The commercial stations seem to be very American. I have nothing against America or Americans but I am an Australian. My life experience is one predominantly informed by living in Australia. The constant adds for things I do not have the discretionary disposable income to ever entertain purchasing are irrelevant and irritating. So commercial TV does not get much of my time. Commercial radio even less.

Frankly, my quality of life is intrinsically enmeshed and so it is somewhat dependant on the ABC. The ABC is trustworthy. Even when I don't like what they report on, I have to accept it because over the past 60 odd years that I have been listening and watching the ABC has proven time and time again to be the source of substantive, trustworthy information delivered with integrity and it's authentically Australian.

I don't just love the ABC, I need it.

paul s

VIC 2175

Following on from the Bushfires, the Covid crisis has reinforced the need for Our public broadcaster to whom citizens can turn to for objective information.

While it is great for diversity to have a range of privately funded media it is always the case that the subtext of their reporting is their reliance on the good will of their funder. Is we can buy the Australian or the Age for example knowing full well we have to take into account the biases required by their owners. With the ABC it is different. Like other public agencies and services we expect them no to be beholden to private interests but to reflect the public interest and be in the best interests of citizens not private consumers.

At a time of crisis in trust in our public institutions and social services it is vital for our democracy and the common good that their funding be adequate and not cut with the aim of further promoting private over public interest in the evil belief that there is no such thing as society.

Paul Smyth

paul s

VIC 3101

ABC has been undermined by this government too much already, in response to Murdoch and Far-Right calls for it to be effectively disabled.

Almost every other media organisation is either right leaning or far right. without the ABC there is no balance.

It is the only reliable media reporter that is not servant to commerce affecting it's quality or reporting.

Commercial media has already become so full of advertisement and thin on content, that without the ABC to set a standard, the standard and service of commercial media could deteriorate to hopeless levels.

Stop this war on the ABC, and expose Murdoch (& cronies & Trump disciples) for restrictive trade practises.

If they want more market share they need to lift their standard rather than eliminate the competitor who exists to ensure they reach a minimum standard.

Paul S

NSW 3140

Last year my partner and I were caught traveling through fire country during the great fires.

The only information we had was through the ABC radio.Switching between different ABC stations as we went this got us out of trouble.

During cyclone Debbie they also greatly helped.

This is not just a broadcaster but part of us

Thank You Paul Stephen

Paul S

WA 2464

Hi, the worst bushfires ever, caused me concern. Looking at ABC News from UK, when I was with my dying Mum, was so reliable and trust worthy, looking out for Family and Friends I knew they were safe,

Paul S

NSW 6714

I'm writing this to keep our ABC! Tv or radio both a very important media broadcast , bipartisan and honest keeping Australians connected with Australians and the world for news weather economics trends fashion and sport ! Through this corona virus pandemic I've never listened so much to the ABC. Radio or watched the news more intently as I have this year and it has been comforting to know it's there to keep us informed and The govt Honest , I just wonder what the govt knows that it's not telling us ? And why the govts wants to reduce funding or get rid of the ABC completely? I'm sure they (the Govt) want it gone do they can mislead the people and lie or cover up the real issues and agendas! I as one of many Australians want to keep the ABC for not just our time but our future generations to come just like how important Medicare is to all of us we must keep both of these great assets of the Australian people !! It's not for someone to sell or be rid of !! They are both property of the people of Australia HANDS OFF THE ABC AND MEDICARE !!

Paul W
NSW 2460

I live at Mollymook south coast NSW. Without the ABC I would not have known what was happening with the fires. I'm 75 years old and live alone, so for me the ABC is essential. It kept many people informed on where to evacuate and updates on the fires. Now it's coronavirus ABC keeping people informed. I like many people have trust in the ABC only. What's also important ABC keeps me informed on other parts of the world.

Paula B
WA 2539

Full of rubbish, reporting the truth is no longer they are bought out and spread fear and lies good to see you and hopefully you take all other broadcasts down with

Paula C
VIC 6432

I rely on the ABC so much in my life. The information I get from the public broadcaster is fundamentally important to me and how I live my life. I can't imagine living without the services the ABC provides. It informs me, challenges me, educates me and entertains me. It helps me make choices that improve life for me and my family. I can't and don't want to imagine living in an Australia that doesn't have a well funded and robust public broadcaster. The ABC is more important than ever in the age of fake news and social media bubbles.

Paula M
ACT 3057

paula.morelli@icloud.com

I am a School Psychologist - living in Queanbeyan. During the bushfires this year, I relied on the ABC to let me know when it was safe to go to Cooma - where I was temporarily employed to assist w the bushfire response. Pls consider this during pre- budget discussions. Thank you.

Paula M
VIC 2620

Abc is closest to the truth. Freedom of speech.

Paula N
NSW 3216

This is not my story but for all those who listen and call in to local ABC from 10.00pm to 5.00am. I am an indifferent sleeper, sometimes I am awake for hours at a time and have found great entertainment, interesting information from informed guests and an awareness of my fellow night listeners. Some of these people are lonely, recently bereaved, fighting cancer or have mental health issues. Not all of them phone in but recently there seems to be more people phoning for the first time and thanking the ABC for being there for them, when they have been at a low point. The ABC hosts have been warm, sympathetic and caring, asking these people to phone in again. My sleep issues are nothing but it has opened a wonderful door for me. So thank you ABC nightlifers.

Pauline A
VIC 2903

I watch every day to keep up to date with the restrictions and numbers for the day of corona virus cases. I find it has the most comprehensive updates. I really depend on it.

Pauline B
ACT 3218

My family and I rely on the ABC for real news. Not the fake and biased news of the commercial news outlets who are funded by so many businesses who are also funding the LNP.

During the bush-fires earlier this year and over the holiday period my family and I relied on receiving up to the minute news about how close the bush-fires were to us in Canberra. WE knew that we could rely on the ABC to advise us what preparations we needed to make and when we needed to evacuate. It was honest, undiluted, realistic, relevant and timely advice available 24 hours per day. Without the ABC we would have been completely at the mercy of inadequate and untimely information. Without the guidance of ABC reporting we could so easily have made disastrous decisions. Thank goodness for the ABC who tell it as it is - no political influence and no commercial pressure.

Pauline M
NSW 2602

I am unlucky in being deaf. I am lucky that the news service I have trusted all my life is provided with captions by the ABC, and the quality programs I enjoy without the irritating advertising are also courtesy of the ABC. I love Aunty!

Pauline S
NSW 2088

I am shocked at the budget cuts to the ABC. I rely on the ABC for daily updates on the corona virus and have done so through out the bushfire crisis. Every night I watch the ABC News to land the 7:30 report to keep informed of News, weather reports and financial reports. I have done this for as long as I can remember.

The ABC is a vital source of information. The public needs a reliable source of information about current affairs so that they can think about participate in the society we live in.

The ABC also has a role in entertainment and creativity which is vital keeping the public mentally healthy. In the post COVID period we will need an unbiased press to keep us informed of how the nation will regenerate the economy and get the public actively involved in the new industries we good to make a good society and an economy that vitalises this nation.

Peggy C
NSW 3068

I was on Kangaroo Island at my late brother's house in a very remote bush area, on New year's Eve 2019/20.

We had no house phone and no mobile reception. The only way of knowing that the fire had started in Flinder's Chase was to listen to the local ABC radio.

It told us which direction the fire was heading and which roads were suitable to get out.

In the day's following, as we tried to fight spot fires and prevent flare ups more fires were starting in other directions. Again the only way of knowing if we were safe or should evacuate again was local ABC radio.

As I was interstate it is fortunate that ABC radio is my preferred source of listening, otherwise I may not have even known the local frequency.

The ABC is essential to all my sources of news and current affairs.

It is one government expenditure I am very happy to pay taxes to keep functioning at a high level. I would not only like to see present funding assured, I would like to see past cuts reinstated. I sorely miss the local current affairs programs that have been axed due to cuts

kind regards

Peggy Fisher

Peggy F
VIC 2071

I am writing, not only from the heart, but from 94 years of living and experience. I have travelled and watched TV in other lands, always confronted by long and repetitive commercials. And, here we are in 2020 and so lucky to have the ABC. Most of the people I have had the pleasure to have friendships with agree with me, it is a jewel, which we accept and not appreciate enough. Need I add, that it helped me through the most difficult times we have had to face this year...need I mention, the dreadful fires, the drought, the floods and now the corona virus...all of it reported in a responsible and helpful way. Please, please, fund it more, keep it going for all Australians, we need it! Thanks for listening.....

Peggy Gertraut B
WA 3124

I just know, that in a world where people and myself are worried and confused and being bombarded with all sorts of conspiracy theories, that at least I can trust the ABC to give me the truth. For that reason I get all my news from them - be it TV or radio. Without the ABC I would not know where to go.

Penelope M
WA 6302

ABC is our lifeline living on a farm in an isolated community wherein we have the opportunity to listen to informed opinions, above all a free press able to express the Injustices within our societies for the betterment of all. Please keep exposing the bullies and discuss how we can keep educating all people to listen to others and be able to mediate with respect. Keep teaching us, educating us to be better informed and above all how to act towards the betterment of our society by learning to respect women more and looking after the poor. We don't want homelessness in Australia, no one can be a successful citizen without a home. Please keep exposing these issues and interviewing the people who can act on the resolution of such, thank you

Penelope O
NSW 6333

During this year I have had a number of health problems. I had to go to hospital twice to have an aneurism "de activated" . Apparently it was growing and could have burst which would have been fatal.

When I came home I also had a very bad diverticulitis attack and was on antibiotics {two types} to cure it. As you can imagine, I was very wary of catching any other illnesses. I have therefore been at home 24/7 for the last six months, only seeing my husband and, after they were cleared of Covid, my children. Stuck at home, the ABC has been invaluable in keeping me company and up to date with what is going on in the world. I am a devotee of the ABC and am concerned that a government now or in the future will want to "punish" the ABC for not being a government propaganda service. It is because the ABC tells us about the world warts and all that we love it and trust it. More power to this wonderful organisation!

Penelope T
NSW 2015

I have relied entirely on the ABC to keep me informed about the progress of the coronavirus this year and of the progress of the fires at the end of last year and the beginning of this year. The ABC is very important to me

Penelope T
NSW 2560

I'm over 80. I've watched the conservatives eat away at the funding of the ABC for years. I've watched the overall programming deteriorate. I'm not as active as I was and depend more and more on ABC radio and TV. Sometimes I watch SBS but I find the commercial stations a complete waste of time for me . I live in fear of deteriorating ability and being left with only a gutted ABC to tune into. I'm well educated but old age pension bound. ABC keeps me informed, entertained and it'd authenticity helps preserve the modicum of hope I have for the future of my grandchildren. We need ABC for information we can trust. I'm appalled at this government's attitude to it. What about the fires floods the climate change disaster heading our way. And where did radio Australia go?
God help us!

Penny C
VIC 2478

I use the ABC for the latest in National and Victorian information. Especially relating to Bushfires as in January this year and Covid updates as I live in Darebin. It is a vital communication tool.

Penny G
TAS 3073

My radio dial is stuck it seems. It will not move past ABC RN. But that's alright by me because it is a constant source of interesting information AND I trust that information, especially in times of crisis!!! While bushfires dropped ash on my rural home the ABC emergency service was my ONLY source of information along with the TFS website!!! I love my ABC for keeping me in touch with the world, reliable info, bias free editorial and good entertainment.
Penny Jerrim

Penny J
NSW 7112

The ABC is very important in my life generally but even more so this year. I have appreciated the unbiased , non- sensationalist information that I have received both during the Bushfires and during Covid 19 crisis. Without that trustworthy information I would be a much more anxious person as the commercial stations just provide fuel for fear. I would be happy for them all to close down and just allow ABC and SBS to be available. In addition, in order to forget my fears I have also enjoyed the entertainment provided both by the ABC and ABCiview. The stuff provided by the commercial stations is just mindless pap, bread and circuses. Please keep generously funding my ABC

Penny J
WA 2576

As a rural and remote Australian I daily rely on the ABC to keep me informed with unbiased local and international news, fire and weather warnings, quality TV and drama, sport broadcasts. The ABC is a dynamic and essential feature of Australian society which needs continued support and funding.

Penny L
NSW 6330

the abc has kept me accurately informed regarding the corona virus pandemic all year,: accurate, trustworthy, scientific news

Penny M
NSW 2042

Have you relied on the ABC during the coronavirus crisis?

We have relied on the ABC for entertainment and news. During the virus crisis I would only trust the ABC for accurate medical info and the premier's daily state reports.

Have you relied on the ABC in times of bushfires, floods or other disasters?

Just been through the bushfire season in the Bega Valley, where we have been impacted severely. The ABC's regular fire warnings and news coverage was great.

Have you or someone you know trusted the ABC to keep their kids engaged and informed when schools were closed?

Our local ABC radio station does a great job keeping us informed.

Have you depended on the ABC to hold those in power accountable at a time when deception is easily overlooked?

Yes, the ABC is a great firewall against social media and I believe they are still reliable when other organisations don't fact check. I have been involved in many petitions and protest activity as a result of the ABC's factual info concerning activities of politicians and govt departments.

Has the ABC helped you stay connected through its drama, music, comedy and commitment to Australian stories?

I always look forward to ABC programs because they are always first with Australian content. Their standards are high too, unlike free to air commercial television, which only provides second rate material. We need more Aust. content.

Penny M
NSW 2550

Why have we not gone down the path of the USA - with a fractured polity and a divided society? it is largely because we have the ABC, which one can turn to whenever facts matter. Protect the ABC if we wish to protect Australian democracy and create and maintain a fair society.

Perminder S
NSW 2031

We so need the ABC in the country and the city too of course: But particularly in the country. The ABC news updates on the progress of the fires was critical in East Gippsland during the bushfires, yet no extra funding was provided for this. We needed these updates hour by hour, and we needed them from the country and local perspective. Those in the city have no idea what we go through at times of disaster, though perhaps now with Covid they too will get an idea. But the ABC is central to our survival. Technology has improved over the generations, but not the funding to the ABC. So reverse all the cuts, and properly fund us. Our lives depend on it.

peta c
VIC 2257

I live in a regional area that has been affected by bushfire on more than one occasion. ABC radio provides up to date and emergency broadcasts that keeps my family and community safe.

The coronavirus updates provided by the ABC, Dr Norman Swan and the essential coronavirus live blog is accurate, direct and trustworthy. I can rely on information to be relevant, safe and evidence based, rather than being influenced by uneducated opinions and indignant, self-centred outrage.

ABC Kids provides quality entertainment and education for my child. He has access to quality Australian content - he adores Bluey, Little J and Big Cuz - seeing his world reflected on the screen. BTN allows him to understand current affairs and what is happening in his community, nation and around the world.

The Australian Government should be proud of supporting the quality and diversity of programming delivered by our ABC.

peta f

VIC 3763

Every morning I watch the ABC news. Every night I do the same. It's the only one I rely on! It's the only one I can trust! Along with Australian Story, Q & A, Foreign Correspondent. I watch them all, as now do my children in their early teens. This is to be informed and I expect their funding to return. Surely you do not wish for a population to be raised purely on accessible Bachelor, Home and Away, Biased and simplified news and reruns of Friends. Please give Australians a true alternative that is informative, educational and reliable.

Peta H

VIC 3187

For over 70 years the ABC has been part of my life – from the old days when Dad listened to news of the War and union disputes at 7 pm every night. I was an avid listener to The Argonauts (Gadara 48, I'm not sure of the spelling). Now of course it includes Television and it is my channel of choice as is the Radio National and 774. I can't stand the hyped up style inane chatter of the commercial stations. SBS is my second choice.

These days the ABC helps me to sleep as I listen to my phone until I drift off. Many old people have insomnia and I wish they knew this comforting way of dropping off.

Peta H

NSW 3089

I am 70 years old and throughout my life I have always found the ABC provides unbiased, accurate and valuable news broadcasts. For example their covering of the recent bushfires and COVID-19 has been beyond compare.

The ABC's analysis of complex world issues is superior to all others. Their journalism, documentaries, drama and comedy are top quality. Their children's programs are great! They have been an integral part of my own childhood (on radio), and my daughter's and grandchildren's too.

I beg you please don't cut the ABC budget. That is short term thinking at its worst.

Yours sincerely,

Peta James

Peta J

VIC 2203

Place - remote region farm

Necessity - abc 24, abc2

Constant flow of info and analysis which can be relied on...generally, and a level of intelligence that does not doubt Science.

However, obsession with minority voices to the detriment of majority reality the main negative.

Unrealistic over representation of so called aboriginal culture to the detriment of real aboriginal needs eg compulsory p-12 education being the classic problem.

Otherwise, outstanding current affairs analysis.

Balanced against this,

Degradation of in depth aust drama to cliched historical fallback.

ABC imperfect but necessary, especially in the face of total commercial TRIPE.

pete g

NSW 3238

Whether it's TV, Radio, iView, or ABC Listen app, ABC is my preferred source of news, comment or opinion, as well as SBS. During the bushfires and Covid, especially so, in times of up-to-date information from people who REPORT the news, as opposed to the commercial networks, who are more interested in "being" the news.

Favourites are: Insiders, Offsiders, The Drum, ABC News, 7.30, Corners, Media Watch, Q & A, Foreign Correspondent, The Road to Now, Putin, On the Sauce, etc., matched only by SBS.

I rely totally on ABC for MY information and entertainment and I implore you to restore all of my 8 cents/day and more.

The ABC deserves nothing less!

Thank you in advance for your cooperation in this matter.

Peter A

NT 2130

The ABC are the only radio stations I listen to day and night .I am not saying I like all programs however I cannot stand commercials and living in the South West we get 3 ABC channels 720,News and RN .I'm a bit confused as to why ABC news uses the BBC however being a Pom I enjoy their content .I really enjoy podcasts ,Richard and Sarah are wonderful interviewers .As I'm a poor sleeper ,I listen nearly all night changing from one to the other . I also like programmes from Canada .I would be very disappointed if any of this changed because of budget cuts .

Peter A

VIC 6280

Living in a bush fire prone area, we totally rely on the accurate, timely and non-sensationalizing of bush fire news/updates. No matter what they are reporting on, this is how they operate....presenting the facts in a straight-forward manner. The quality of shows over all categories is exemplary, in particular ABC Kids and overseas information e.g. Foreign Correspondent. Don't cut the ABC any further, they've been slashed enough over the years. Australians need a broadcaster they can completely trust and rely on. thank you

Peter B

VIC 3782

The ABC is the Heart and Soul of Australians everywhere

No ABC

No Australian Community

Essential Communications

Health

Education

Emergency Response and Reporting

Comedy Film Drama Reviews

Of our own Making

Supporting local artists

It's a No Brainer

There must be Our ABC

Peter B

WA 3233

I am retired and a pensioner, and I rely every day on the ABC Radio, ABC TV and iView. During this COVID pandemic especially, I rely on the ABC to stay connected, to feel I am still a part of the Australian and World communities.

Mostly I rely on the ABC for news, especially for AM, PM, Insiders, and Four Corners. But I also rely on the ABC for other shows, especially comedy to provide some relief from the sad news that we need to deal with each day.

Regards,

Peter Burges

Peter B

NSW 6162

All I can say is that everyday I turn to the ABC News and Current, all day long, to get the whole and full story of everything that is happening Australia wide, unfiltered by any vested interest. If I did not have this service I would not in any way be able to feel the national psyche; i would not able to know what is happening to my compatriots; to be a part of a community you must know that community and the more intimately you know those lives, the more you bond.

peter c

NSW 2034

First I was caught unawares in the beginning of last year's bushfire season at Peregian Beach in Qld. The only reliable information about where to go and especially where not to go was the ABC. They had reporters on the ground locally.

Second, how else can we get Australian news as opposed to opinion? Did I just say why a certain part of the head in the sand government doesn't like the ABC, a bit too much reality.

Peter C

VIC 2024

The ABC continues to be the most trustworthy and reliable source of news and information that I depend upon. Throughout times of crisis like recent bush fires or the Covid pandemic the role of the ABC is even more important as the community needs accurate and balanced reporting.

A poorly funded ABC means a less informed community and therefore a less safe community. A poorly funded ABC also threatens our democracy as reliable balanced reporting is vital to ensure an informed population.

Peter E

NSW 3350

Hi, I personally rely on the accurate and impartial news and other programs that the ABC and SBS provide. They also provide other News and topics that commercial channels don't cover that the general public need to know about. It is a great asset to all Australians, covering most needed subjects, such as the earlier bushfires, drought, and other important subjects. There is a great need for much more "additional" funding, not a reduction.

Thanks, Peter Emerson.

Peter E
NSW 2360

So calming to enjoy ad-free programming in a world of constant noise and clamour. ABC keeps me sane.

Keeps me in touch with Australian music, with really high-quality presentations - both classical music and contemporary (ClassicFM, JJJ). ABC looks after our country.

Peter E
VIC 3051

With fake news (like 5G causes coronavirus) corroding our democracy by making truth a matter of personal choice, the ABC is needed more than ever.

Also, until the defamation laws are changed, investigative journalism is impossibly expensive and risky. Please do not add to the corrosion by cutting the ABC budget even further.

Peter G
QLD 3250

The ABC is simply essential and too important to neglect. It must be properly funded.

Peter H
VIC 4502

My wife and I live in rural Victoria. We rely on the ABC for reliable, balanced and independent news, plus a significant proportion of our TV entertainment. Along with SBS, the ABC underpins our retirement.

Peter and Ronda Hall

Peter H
NSW 3458

I have depended on reliable and timely ABC reporting and analysis of facts pertaining to the US-China strategic competition and the Australian Government's response to that relationship and associated Australian strategic policy developments. Developments during the time of the Morison Government has been of particular importance to me in my role as a Defence Industry analyst and security policy professional.

I have been unable to source reliable and timely content from any other source in Australia or overseas.

The ABC must be funded to continue delivery of these services.

Peter H
NSW 2067

Please, please consider the common good and fund richly the organisation that is the heart and the conscience of Australia. We listen daily to the ABC and watch many programs at night. We consider the ABC to be central to the health of our democracy.

Funding truth tellers lets us know what it is to be a citizen because the truth of our nation is news of what happens in people's lives.

Please lavishly fund the people who inform and inspire us. We are lost without them.

Please.

Peter Howe

Peter H
WA 2550

We just moved from Sydney to Broome and found that we could rely on the ABC to keep us reliably informed of the Australian and the world wide scene. We are watching the ABC for an average of 5 hours each day and find it an irreplaceable source of objective information and pleasant entertainment. Any reduction in funding would inevitably need to a reduction in quality and quantity of the service, leaving Australians poorer for it.

Peter K
VIC 6725

The ABC News channel was invaluable in keeping me up to date with the progress, effects and results of the Covid-19 virus throughout Australia and the world. Excellent updates, reports, interviews, graphs and statistics were provided which were extremely informative. Explanations of the numerous and confusing lock-down and isolation provisions were given to provide clarity. During these anxious times the ABC Comedy channel provided very good light relief.

Peter K
VIC 3338

I Was born in this country in the 1950, s I grew up listening to the ABC News on the Radio before we had Television, My Father used to say the ABC News is the best, and most Accurate, And as for myself, I also find the ABC News and it's other programs the most Accurate and Informative in out Country', It is essential the ABC gets the Funding it needs for our people in this Country, and for me personally.
Yours Truly .P.Kuchan.

Peter K
NSW 3074

I watch ABC everyday, especially for its excellent news coverage. It's our ABC but it's funding keeps getting cut. Losing resources and Australia wide coverage. I live in regional Australia and we rely on the ABC more than any other media. Please increase the ABC budget rather than cut it.

Peter L
NSW 2479

We listen the ABC daily - it is our primary news resource, our entertainment, our window into current affairs and our cultural touchstone. As a nation, we would be impoverished without it - it has been a mainstay through much of my childhood and youth and in my latter years remains a constant presence to this day. We rely on it completely for updates on the pandemic and the only-too recent bushfires - as Blue Mountains residents, the ABC's broadcast were crucial for receiving up to date information on where the fire front was at any given time. Commercial broadcasters DO NOT have the broad coverage pf the ABC nor the purpose or impartiality to provide this kind of information. To be wholly dependent on commercial interests for information would be a both colossal loss and a gross disservice to the nation - we NEED the ABC in these times of crisis, now more than ever. To cut further funding to the nation's broadcaster would be nothing short of a criminal act.

Peter L
QLD 2780

The ABC is my main window on the world, starting with Breakfast on TV (headphones on one ear, the other ear tuned to my immediate environment). Walking my dogs after Breakfast I chose to listen to a variety of ABC podcasts. After my evening meal the ABCTV News brings me up to date on the days events and then some entertainment or informative docos before retiring. The ABC is not my only source of media but it is reliable and respected. My day is incomplete without the ABC.

Peter M
TAS 4305

I listen to the ABC daily for accurate and impartial information in this year to turmoil in Australia. My ABC gives vital life saving information during natural disasters and epidemics, not sensational rubbish pandered by some media outlets and their funding should be sustained and increased. It is my tax and that is where i want it to be allocated!!

Peter M
NSW 7306

Over the last 6 years the LNP government has cut the funding to the ABC to a level where the content is poor and replayed constantly. The NEWS is completely devoid of any Government accountability. The Government has installed LNP simpertiser to the Board so that the Sunday morning show, Insiders, is now unwatchable. Please help restore independent reporting to the ABC.

Peter M
ACT 2428

The ABC is my personal greatest source of information. It is an essential resource which I implicitly trust and depend on for research and advice. it is an essential and highly trusted resource for Australia and I am extremely pissed off that the present government is deliberately damaging and constricting its finances to the detriment of our society simply because it cannot handle the ABC's truth telling. Return the funding those vandals have stripped from this essential community resource.

Peter M
QLD 2600

The ABC provides excellent classical music, abundantly.
The ABC has explores the meaning that other people find in life, in profound interviews.
The ABC has fearlessly sought justice in exposing corruption, whether among police, politicians, banks, or churches.

It is doubtful that commercial broadcast media, dependent on advertisers, could do this with such freedom and impartiality.

Peter M
VIC 3124

Throughout the bushfires and now the covid19 pandemic we have tried on the ABC for the best reporting.

Peter O
NSW 3030

I am Senior Deputy Captain of the Narooma RFS.

During the bushfire emergency in January our brigade relied on the ABC local radio for information in our larger area about the fires, traffic, road closures. At the height of the crisis we were without mobile phones, television, Internet for about a week and all roads in and out of our town were closed.

ABC radio was our only source of accurate information.

For the last six months I have relied on the ABC for ongoing information that I can trust about the covid 19 crisis

Peter P
VIC 2546

What a strange time we are living in. The bushfires, the floods and then the pandemic. Besides the natural disasters there is another disaster that is entirely man made. Fake news. Anyone with access to a computer can now make a contribution on any topic, or a state player can set up Bots to flood the various electronic channels with what they want people to believe. The ABC is the only source I use for real news. The ABC is available everywhere in Australia which means that australians are aware about natural disasters and what to do. The ABC has a reputation for accuracy and good journalism. The ABC is staffed by real journalists who actually investigate stories. The ABC investigated Aged Care in 2018 and exposed an industry that was in crisis. Now as part of the Pandemic we realise what a great piece of journalism that was. There are many other examples so I won't bore you. The government seems to think that the ABC is out to get it because of ideological reasons. No, the ABC just tells the truth. Because the LNP are in power they are being held to account. Just as Labor will be when they are next in power. We are all starting to realise the problems with sourcing cheap things and the problems that can arise with a global supply chain. In journalism the power of the media is in the hands of a few powerful people, it's the same thing really, we need truth, not a truth that is favoured by a power elite. On top of this lots of good comedy, Australian content, Australian culture. Since 2017 the government has given \$40M of OUR money to Fox to continue its support of coverage of women's, niche and other under-represented sports. Why when we have the ABC being starved of funds should we give support to a company owned by a man who was willing to give up his Australian citizenship to expand his empire. Why did not that and a lot more money go to the ABC. You know in your hearts and minds that this is wrong. The ABC is one of our most trusted institutions. Do not destroy an institution like this. Increase the funding to the ABC.

Peter R
VIC 3015

TheABC helps keep me sane and balanced In these mad times. Honest news and great variety of entertainment
Peter rynia 0417322839

Peter R
NSW 3097

Dear Sir / Madam,

In our daily lives we rely on the ABC news for what is going on around us and what is happening in the world.

In our last summer holiday's down south of Burrill Lake we had made the decision to travel on the 3rd January before the southerly change that was forecast for the 4th January. I made this decision solely on what I could hear on the ABC radio and on the ABC weather forecast which comes from the Australian Government Bureau of Meteorology. The Princess Highway had been closed and was now open. Thanks to the ABC we knew this. On the one hundred and twenty acre property where we were staying everything was destroyed and I mean everything, not a single living thing survived the inferno.

We are just a small family that say thanks to the ABC. During our last summer there are thousands and thousands of people like us who only had the ABC to rely on.

Being someone who pays attention to international affairs. In the early 90's and I think 1993, I paid attention to the ABC. Then it was called Australian Television International and around that same time they also started Radio Australia.

Within a year of these two innovations our relationship with the Pacific Islands and closest Asian neighbors had never been better.

In the late 90's, i think 1997, the government bought in funding cuts. What had proved to be the best international asset Australia had at bring the countries around us to share the same thinking was destroyed.

I feel the government is on the wrong path when it even considers funding cuts to the ABC. To cut funds to the ABC is to leave us, one, with no communication which in our hour of need saves lives and two, does not show the countries around us our multicultural society and who we are.

In our time of need, we need the ABC TO BE AS STRONG AS IF POSSIBLE CAN.

Funding cuts should not be considered. What should be considered is, how can we provide more funds to the ABC so it can be better resourced.

Yours faithfully
Peter Shoobert.

Peter S
WA 2508

We rely on the ABC programs for entertainment and particularly the unbiased reporting from local and around the world. In this era of fake news the ABC is one of the few reliable news services.

We also spend time in the country and keep an ear open regarding the threat of bushfire.

Peter Shugg

Peter S
NSW 6157

In 2020, I have relied on the ABC for balanced and accurate information on local and international topics from adventure to zoos. Between the A and the Z are political issues such as Chinese Communist Party interventions in world affairs, bushfires and wildfires, Covid-19 information, political corruption both local and international, and community-building through its talk-back radio programs. This list is far from complete. While I do listen to commercial newscasts from time to time, I find them short on facts and long on opinions that are narrow, biased and poorly based on facts.

I am aware of the way that Coalition MPs misrepresent the cuts to ABC funding as increases, and am appalled that while our national broadcaster has to drop really important news broadcasts such as that at 7:45am across Australia for lack of funding, the Coalition has this year provided funding to commercial broadcasters. Supporting commercial broadcasting is not the responsibility of the public purse, whereas properly funding the ABC is our national responsibility.

I ask that the ABC be funded at a per capita level comparable to the funding of the BBC. Independent public broadcasters play an essential role in protecting democracy through quality journalism and holding public behaviour to account. While this may be and should be uncomfortable for those who hold the purse strings, our nation cannot afford not to fund the ABC properly. Its funding needs to be restored, not cut further, in the Federal Budget.

Peter S
ACT 2880

ABC source of information during fires and smoke; helping to know what was going on.

Covid: Norman Swan clarifying the often confusing information flows.

And they are important for reporting on the government's responses and have a role in the public scrutinising government, even if government doesn't like that.

Peter T
NSW 2602

Hi

I find that the ABC is the only trustworthy news outlet, and can be accessed everywhere. It gave me bushfire news for my family's safety and now it gives me reliable non hysterical advice on Covid19 on what are the latest advices, regional and national figures with detailed graphical presentations and also in depth analyses of the news, something beyond the capabilities of other organisations.

My sole reliable news and analysis source is the ABC and i cannot do without it.

Peter T
VIC 2156

I get my news and exposure to national debate from abc radio and tv, al jizeerah, american pbs - the other local outlets, to quote a london journalist friend of mine are not much chop

peter t
NSW 3056

During the bushfires around my home town of Bellbrook in November , 2019 there was a power outage and no phone reception for ten days. My only access for information was from the ABC to keep me informed regarding the fires in my local area, weather forecasts and national news.

The fires are behind us now but I still depend on the ABC for unbiased reporting , keeping me updated on the corona crisis, world news, music and entertainment . The ABC is a lifeline, especially for communities in rural and regional areas. It is of the utmost importance that the ABC is protected and funded.

Peter V
VIC 2440

Apart from relying upon the ABC's unbiased News and commentary such as The Drum, 7:30,Q&A etc, it is wonderful to escape and balance these turbulent times with such great light entertainment; Tom Gleeson, Sean Mcauliffe,(sic) etc together with quality Australian and British drama/comedies. The standard of ABC reporting and writing is to be commended; a far reach from the general drivel of the commercial channels.

Peter W
VIC 3192

On December 30 our farm in Sarsfield was devastated by the bushfires. Our whole area was wiped out but, there was no loss of life. This is because we all knew when to get out by listening to ABC radio.

Peter W
SA 3147

ABC funding should be increased as it provides an excellent service with a wide range of programmes not available elsewhere. The vast majority of the media is privately owned as the owners will say, they look to their own interests first. This means that their news is all for money and filtered through a mesh that ignores the news the owners think will damage their profits, a good example is news corp's coverage of their phone hacking and their hacking of a murdered school girl's phone, this received scant coverage by news corp. The ABC reports even on its own shortcomings, something no news of cash service would dream of. On top of all that, the ABC is not a tax cheat unlike the major media organisations.

Peter W
VIC 5173

I am disillusioned with the sensational news coming from commercial stations on radio, TV and newspapers. In some cases the commercial media is creating news not reporting the facts. Thank goodness we have the ABC without the commercial hype and distorting the facts. The ABC does not have to focus on sensationalism and I distorting the facts to attract viewers and listeners. Dwelling on negatives attract audiences. The Commercial media is no doubt very right of centre politically which is very evident in ALL aspects. The ABC although called politically left my many gives a balance and compensates right wing bias. Conservative Governments dislike the balance of reporting and try to destroy our treasured ABC. We will turn into another US with distorted views of the world without independent analysis free from commercial bias. Keep and increase funding of the ABC for the future of democracy and decency which is unfortunately failing in too many countries. Please make sure Australia remains independent through the ABC.

Peter W
NSW 3032

I am a 70+ retired engineer, living in a townhouse with my spouse in the NW suburbs of Sydney at Epping. I have been an ABC user, through all available channels, for as long as I can remember, and of the SBS since its introduction. We watch very little commercial TV (apart from SBS, when the sound of the advertisements are muted), and never listen to commercial radio. We rely on the ABC for entertainment of all kinds, but particularly for news and current affairs. Commercial offerings are just that – their output is aimed at supporting their broadcaster's commercial interests, and their equivalent output cannot be trusted except in a few isolated instances, which are not worth the effort to find when the ABC is available. It is very obvious that both major parties take the opportunity to punish the ABC for embarrassing their governments by telling the truth. Examples abound – the one that immediately comes to mind is the “Afghan Files” affair, which caused the government acute discomfort by exposing a matter that was clearly in the public interest. The content of this story is being confirmed by another “independent” investigation, yet the reporter is still being threatened with criminal prosecution by the Attorney General's lack of action. There can be no doubt that the funding cuts imposed by the current government are intended to discourage such reporting, or make it economically impossible in the future. There must be no more cuts to the ABC budget - it MUST be must be increased to at least what it would have been to compensate for inflation, and further increased every year sufficiently to provide the services that their loyal community expect. The self-interested bleating from News Corp and their acolytes must be treat for what they are – an attempt to nobble their competition.

Peter Y
VIC 2121

The most trustworthy informative news service in Australia. It must be noted the ABC has been in service to the Aus: public and long before many others where most of their content is based on advertisements. Communities including remote rely on this valued news and program content.

Peter James w
NSW 3465

Not only does the ABC cover important information to Australians - across the country - such as in times of disasters like bushfires, floods, COVID-19 - but it does so consistently/repeatedly (of late we have come to rely on the messages of Norman Swan). And beyond the daily news we get important programs such as Four Corners investigative (not sensational) journalism and Foreign Correspondence giving us insights into other peoples lives in a way that makes us understand the world (from an Australian perspective), Insight giving us/the melting pot a better idea of who we (also) are... ABC is essential and needs to remain essential to old and new Australians. And probably needs to keep reinventing itself to become as essential to young Australians.

Petra B
NSW 2040

I am 80 and have recently had surgery leading to a lot of ongoing pain and depression. What lifts my heart and cheers me up is the wonderful music played on Classic Fm and the cheerful voices of the great presenters. Thank you all for the lift in my spirits every day when I wake up and turn it on!

Petrina S
VIC 2065

I currently rely on the ABC during the coronavirus crisis. Previously, I have relied on the ABC's emergency broadcasts over three different times of bushfire events. My kids grew up with ABC. When they asked how long something would be - the answer was: it's one Play School or two Play School episodes long. I rely on the ABC to hold those in power accountable at a time when deception is easily overlooked. The ABC helps me to stay connected through its drama, music, comedy and commitment to Australian stories. The ABC have personally impacted my life and changed it irrevocably. My autism diagnosis came after a radio interview on RN. With my diagnosis, I have found joy, professional success and a completely new and positive outlook on life.

Pheona A
NSW 3011

I am writing again to support the ABC which seems to be continually attacked by those who prefer the public to be uninformed or misinformed. As someone who has travelled extensively internationally and within Australia over several decades, and as someone who has friends and family in different parts of the world, one of the greatest things we have in Australia is the ABC. It is difficult to explain how important it has been in developing a national connection within Australia when we were a young nation, and how it continues to connect us near and far to this day. If it is a gold plated service it is not through excessive funding, it is the gold of the integrity and warm-heartedness of its staff and audience. This year I listed to fire updates regularly to help warn others of the status of nearby fires where they have poor radio and internet connections. I am continually depending on the ABC's various platforms for accurate and balanced reporting of COVID-19 for my work (I work with Aboriginal people, who are more vulnerable), for my charitable work (I go to Nepal and India at least once a year to help projects there), and in my private life (my parents are in a retirement village across a border and my father has been recently diagnosed with terminal cancer and I am trying to visit as often and as safely as possible). With due respect to other news sources for those individuals who do the right thing, but it is so much harder to get accurate news because the ethic of other agencies is 'ratings and sensation first, accuracy second'. There is so much misinformation. Whereas the public service ethic of necessitating and wanting to deliver the most accurate and relevant information remains with the ABC. It is beyond time that governments use our tax money to support and enhance the services of the ABC, not carry out more costly and time-consuming reviews. Put back the funding, make the ABC viable and give the staff the support they need so that they can give all Australians the information that we vitally need.
yours sincerely
Phil Hunt

Phil H
WA 2112

philmhutton@hotmail.com. I have listened to and watched the abc since i was a teen. In all those years I have found them to be the most honest accurate news supplier in Australia. I also admire there integrity. We need to keep the public broadcaster to counteract the miss leading Murdoch press. Any thing I can do to help please e.mail me cheers Phil Hutton

Phil H
VIC 6157

Without the ABC Australia is not a country I want to live in. In these times of fake news and fringe groups getting too much air time on social media I rely more and more on the ABC to keep me informed and have a balanced view. It is the government's role to support an independent media to ensure the maintenance of Australia's vibrant democracy. Please do not let ideology destroy our critical 4th estate.

Phil J
NSW 3130

The ABC has always been a part of my life, growing up in the 1950's through all the turbulent times and it has always been there. The ABC tells the news as it is, unembellished and what you need to know. This is really the only News/television worth listening to and viewing especially with all the hype on Reality shows and FM radio which is great for teenagers but the real crux of this nation is the ABC.

Phil S
NSW 2285

The ABC is my "go to" program, for practical advice and reliable news. It deserves MORE money, not less!

Phil W
VIC 2210

As an independent professional musician/entertainer, I have been blessed to have the ABC as an essential support to people like myself, who offer artistic contributions to society outside that of the mainstream commercial world.

The ABC offers a truly wide exposure of creativity in all fields and should have their resources and budget greatly increased.

Phil Manning M

VIC 3012

I am 77 years old. I don't have a dramatic story. But I tune into the ABC every day to hear how Daniel Andrews is leading us in this horrific time of COVID 19. And through the ABC I also get to hear about how the other states and the rest of the world is faring. This is invaluable to me.

Of course before COVID 19 it was the bushfires and before that the drought. And so on. The ABC has always been my source for accurate information.

It was through the ABC that I learned that Rio Tinto had blown up a 46,000 year old site of priceless artefacts and history of my country. I was devastated. How could these money hungry monsters be so insensitive to my country's history?

And through the ABC I learn that there are many more sites that these vultures will destroy if I don't do something to stop them.

The ABC also keeps me alerted to the actions that I can take to stop this world destroying government from continuing its policies of climate destruction.

I also have learned of the inhumane treatment meted out to those who seek asylum. I am ashamed of their treatment in my name.

So thank you to the ABC. With out you we would all be walked over and taken advantage of by big business and the government that it owns.

Philip E

VIC 3777

I'm feeling very anxious about the funding pressure on our independent national broadcaster.

I believe that for democracy to function properly, citizens need information about a wide range of issues from an independent non aligned or commercially oriented source.

Hopefully the politically misguided will see the grave error in defunding our excellent broadcasting service. The ABC is a guardian of accountability in government and commercial life, it is also plays a critical role in times of national and global crisis.

I hope that I never witness the demise of the ABC

Philip H

WA 3226

I rely on the ABC for accurate, balanced reporting of the news and for vital public information about emergencies such as bushfires and the pandemic. It is an essential public service as it provides information that no other outlet will carry. The impending loss of the 15 minute radio news bulletin at 7.45am will be a national tragedy as it is the only comprehensive radio news bulletin available. I listen to it every day and have done so for the past 60 years. Please restore the ABC's funding so that this radio news bulletin can continue.

Philip J

TAS 6150

Dear Sir/Madam,

I relied on the ABC for their coverage of the bushfires during last seasons bushfires.

I rely on the the ABC for information about the current Covid-19 pandemic.

I have relied on the ABC for many many years for their independent reporting of current affairs news unlike so many sources which have their own bias from which they report.

Please protect the ABC's funding and increase their funding levels so that they can continue to report news stories to all Australians without bias or favour to anyone.

Philip Overton.

Philip O

NSW 7250

The ABC is indispensable to people like us who live in the country. ABC local radio maintained the highest possible level of information about the fires as they destroyed vast areas as close as 15 kms from our land. Calmly presented updates about COVID-19 with a special acknowledgement of Norman Swan's daily Q & A presents the issues in a manner which reassure listeners, in particular older people like me.

But it's not just at time of crisis that the ABC plays such a role in our lives. Background stories, investigative journalism, Australian made drama and those programs like Landline, Backroads etc which bring Australians together. The list goes on.

Conservative politicians have always sought to diminish the ABC's viability - it's not just a fiscal position but fear that an unbiased national broadcaster will hold them to account

I've asked friends to join this action

Philip Thorniley

Philip T
WA 2535

Dear Sir/Madam

I am a psychologist working in private practice in WA. I'm writing to express my concern of proposed budget cuts to the ABC.

The ABC is an Australian institution and has repaid the merge and dwindling funding it has received over the years tenfold.

I personally rely on the ABC for the (most) objective news available today, especially in the recent times of CV19 and during the bushfire emergency. Perth, even though a capital city, is quite isolated and the ABC has personally helped me stay connected with the heartbeat of the country and the happenings over east. I couldn't even imagine what it must be like for everyday Australians who live even more remotely. The ABC serves a vital function in this regard, do not hand this over to for-profit empires of faux news coming out of the US. Fund the ABC like it matters to Australia, because it does.

Your Sincerely
Philipp

Philipp S
TAS 6000

Australia needs much more and a greater ABC. It's essential to keep us up to date with every type of news, events, weather and entertainment without any commercial rubbish and unnecessary crap.

I love our ABC and most of what it's productions.

I don't like the way it's been hit with financial cut backs.

Phillip C
NSW 7000

The ABC reports and news can always be relied on to be free of commercial bias.

Phillip S
VIC 2479

Local ABC FM is the only radio station I receive and so I rely on it for news, emergency warnings, current affairs and entertainment. In January, I was forced to evacuate my property and the ABC kept me informed of the situation. As I have off-grid solar power, I don't regularly watch television and my battery operated radio is my one source of company.

The ABC must be securely funded by the Federal Government as so many country people rely upon its integrity and absolute honesty. Without the ABC, I would not have received indications that my property was in the direct line of an approaching bushfire. The emergency warnings broadcast allowed me sufficient time to pack my most treasured items and escape.

Phillipa H
WA 3304

While we haven't had any personal tragedies this year. We know the ABC is reliable for its accurate reporting of any substantial news worth reporting. The bushfires in the eastern seaboard were horrific yet reporters risked their lives to get news into every home. The flooding was just as bad but the ABC didn't falter the news came through as reliable as ever. We hope the ABC doesn't suffer any cuts in funding at the federal budget later this year. It would be a shame to have programs axed as we as a family support the ABC and all the programmes for viewing as the reporting is hard hitting unpolitical, truthful and most of all reliable. We watch many programmes on television and radio and hope you envisage the ABC important enough to keep funding to a maximum for the next budget.

Phyllis L
VIC 6054

ABC stands for Australian Broadcasting Corporation, and that's what it is, first and foremost: Australian.

Whether we are listening to it to be informed and survive during the bush fires, or watching the cricket or made aware of what goes on, or entertained by shows or programs with unique home contents, it's always about Australia and it proves it day in and day out.

When I read that a newspaper which dares call itself The Australian (while it is owned by an American and only echoes the views of big American corporations), smear the ABC, I would find it funny if it was not so disgraceful.

Without the ABC, I would not watch TV no more and I would only listen to community radios ... and read.

pierre q
NSW 3057

I was stuck in a house with a few other families for weeks on end during the 'black summer' bushfires, and the ABC was the crucial source of information and connection to the world for us. In fact the ABC (and SBS) is crucial to the identity of Australia, as the only alternative is bogged Americana beat up entertainment misinformation 'news' on the B grade commercial channels. Indeed these gutter channels were next to useless in a crisis like the fires.

Pol O
VIC 2550

This year the ABC has been my primary source of news. The journalism is of an excellent standard and I find it to be highly reliable. It has also provided entertainment through iView, which has been great in the lockdowns. Cutting funding to journalism undermines the strength of our democracy. Don't do it!

Polly R
VIC 3442

The only news services I trust implicitly are the ABC and SBS, as their obligations are to the Australian public and not to their shareholders. Additionally, their entertainment and arts sections are carefully cultivated to provide something for all Australians to be able to access at any time. In a thinning, competitive media market, this is more important now more than ever.

Praetrix N
VIC 3207

PLEASE DO NOT CUT ANY MORE FUNDING FROM THE ABC.

The ABC is always the main source of information I rely on. Throughout this pandemic I have been able to listen to the Prime Minister, Treasurer, Health Minister, the Premiers and Health Officers directly and not rely on reported accounts or on a journalist's interpretation of what they've said.

I live in rural Far North Qld and our local paper has been terminated. It is vital that we continue to receive reliable information, quality drama, comedy and debate from our national broadcaster.

I am begging you to maintain this valuable national asset.

Priscilla C
QLD 4888

The ABC has been my go-to trusted source of news, information and entertainment for my entire adult life. I listen to ABC Radio National every day, and usually watch ABC TV at night. This year the ABC been absolutely essential to keep me sane throughout some very testing times.

I've been grateful to those wonderful reporters who have braved the bushfires, who have sent reports back from dangerous places overseas, and who have ensured that we hear updates about the coronavirus.

I'm also grateful to presenters like Leigh Sales, who works hard to ensure that difficult questions are answered by those she interviews.

I have been grateful to Dr Norman Swan, who has consistently provided very clear information and advice about Covid-19.

I have really enjoyed the many wonderful and entertaining ABC TV shows and ABC radio programs I've consumed, especially in recent months while I've been staying at home.

I can't imagine how I would have managed this without the ABC, and I can't believe that further cuts to its funding are being considered.

Pru C

WA 4005

I'm a 67 yr old widow. I am always alone, so this isolation is nothing new to me.

If I didn't have the ABC I would only have social media to see and hear plausible news of this pandemic

The commercial channels are useless. Contradicting and biased.

I rely on people like Dr Norman Swan for balanced and useful information

My life would be unbearable without the ABC

Pru O

VIC 6312

This is a year everyone could do without, but a year when reliable, unbiased news is essential. The ABC has provided this throughout the bushfires, Covid 19 crisis, and general everyday communication of other news. It is, along with SBS, the only media which I trust to inform me promptly, honestly and clearly with essential information. Especially during these times, distraction and entertainment is essential. The ABC has excelled too in areas (as much as its budget allows) bringing us drama, music, humor and commentary to keep us sane. My grandchildren have benefitted greatly from programs like BTN, and extra information and activities during online schooling.

I cannot imagine life without a strong ABC, It gives so much that commercial channels have no hope ever of matching!

Prue O

VIC 3241

The ABC was a companion to my parents as I was growing up and it has continued to be a companion to me in my adult life. As a retired teacher I remember, gratefully, the issues that were discussed on the ABC which I then took into my classrooms for further discussion with my students or for stimulus for extended learning. I well remember sitting with my children watching children's television (notably, Play School) and the delight they received from absorbing the high standard of programming. Now, as I age, the ABC is my constant companion - radio during the day, and sometimes well into the night, as well as stimulating current affairs, news and even comedy! I listen to and watch nothing else. I depend on the ABC as a friend and as a way of keeping informed of national and international affairs.

Prue S

VIC 3550

If I write from the heart you may not be happy with what I say but in short I do not like news stations that openly lie on air and misleading reporting as the ABC has been involved in

R C

VIC 3850

The ABC is the ONLY news outlet I go to and feel I can trust.

It is a national treasure... the budget needs to be increased not decreased. In these super uncertain times, every Australian needs more of what the ABC produces not less!

Rachael C

VIC 3113

The AbC is a big part of our everyday life in our family, and a crucial one.

If you take away our ABC, you steal from us. With the world in tatters, give us our right to the truth.

You will cut funds but lose an election for it.

Rachel R

QLD 3184

The ABC is our primary source of news and current affairs. We get most of our news via ABC Radio broadcasts, 612 Brisbane, News Radio and Radio National. We also use the ABC Website when we want to read further details on a particular story, and to find more local news.

With all of our relatives living in NSW and Victoria and Tasmania, while we are in Queensland, access to accurate and up-to-date news has been particularly important this year. All our boys cousins live in Jindabyne and were threatened by bushfires, with the grown-ups fighting fires in their roles with NSW NPWS. We couldn't keep in regular contact, but we knew what was happening because of the ABC.

The ABC programs Q&I, Insight, The Drum etc, and the documentaries, are really important to us for their airing of a large range of views, deeper exploration of issues, and researched information. Without these it would be much more difficult to understand the complexity of the world and educate our children to always analyse the information they are being fed and keep an open mind to the evidence.

Of course in the past, when the children were young, we relied on the ABC as well for their quality Australian Children's programming including Playschool and Bananas in Pyjamas (before it became animated). We would be lost without the ABC.

Rachel v
TAS 4035

The ABC has always been a primary source of information for us, offering unbiased news free from commercials. Cutting monies is not the right step forward - why not look to develop its outstanding reputation and exporting quality material to the external sources? Severing monies just seems like such a short-term solution. Compare it to the BBC, for example: English citizens pay a set sum each year to ensure their access to the quality of the programs it produces; perhaps Australians would be happy to do the same?? Would it not be worth investigating, at the very least??

Rachelle F
QLD 7109

I worked for the ABC for 6 years. Best bloody broadcaster in Oz.

Rafe S
NSW 4030

Dear Prime Minister,

Our ABC has been an authoritative source of information and has been a producer of significant amount of Australian content for entertainment.

Our public broadcaster ABC is not held captive to vested interests. Unlike Murdoch media which is filled with biased reporting and corrosive opinions against democratic norms, ABC continues to be a beacon of truth for the Australian public, a trusted source during emergency disaster and holding the powerful to account against corrupt interests.

Hence I request you to increase funding for our ABC and restore indexation cuts.

Yours sincerely,
Rajesh Menon

Rajesh M
VIC 2227

I cannot imagine life without ABC news. I begin in the morning catching up on the latest international as well as local news on Covid 19. I watch 24 news channel at midday and I watch ABC2 for evening updates. I absolutely trust what I see and hear. The use of FACT Checks clarifies the current situation. I think The Drum has the best discussions on current issues all conducted in an intelligent and civilised manner. Being elderly I have been in lockdown now twice so knowing what is happening helps me cope. The hideous bush fires brought home how devastating global warming has become that must surely lead to a future without fossil fuels. The importance of Foreign Correspondent and 4 Corners play an important role in exposing malpractice and corruption.

Ralda A
NSW 3162

I strongly relied on the ABC to get updated reports on the devastating bushfires without which I could have made a wrong decision to stay & save my 53 year collection of 106 old motorbikes & been burnt to death.

Again with the Covid 19 I heavily rely on updated information from the ABC to avoid hotspots while free camping.

The ABC might annoy politicians by giving the facts that go against their policies. One example being when they reported Scott Morrison ignored the warnings from fire chiefs about the predicted fires & he wouldn't even meet with them.

The ABC is the only true unbiased reporter as it doesn't have to please any commercial clients & doesn't even try to please its main funder, the Government.

Remember it is only keeping you guys honest whether you like it or not. People will have less respect for politicians if funding cuts go ahead especially when you are spending so much on defence.

Ralph G
QLD 2571

For over 70 years the ABC has been my source of news you can trust. Much of that time was in country areas and for most of the day the only source, until sunset when Sydney radio stations' signals could finally get through, mostly games quizzes etc. While growing ABC radio covered football, cricket tennis, Today with most media outlets being controlled by the one company, with commentators towing the company line of climate change deniers and slanting "news" to favour one political agenda it is even more important to support the ABC by returning government grants to previous percentages. We need ABC to fill the gap left by the closure of some 100 news papers. We want to listen without ads and read a paper.

Ralph M
NSW 4127

I have relied 100 percent on the ABC for updates on the bushfires, Covid abc news corona cast on rn, and also for my mental health. The abc radio has been a lifeline for the radio information and the podcasts like Conversations and music on double j and classic fm to sooth the heart, uplift my spirits and to feel less alone. I was able to play some of the beautiful conversations with Richard Fidler and Sarah K to my poor mum who is unable to use technology and is declining mentally and physically in an aged care home in our brief visits before lockdown. We watch abc iview to catch the news and also catch a comedy or garden show to help take our minds off the terrible world situation. Abc I love you so much! Like a beloved family member. If the abc goes I will be devastated. So important for keeping us up to date with the facts and also for our mental, physical, soulful well being.

Rani S
NSW 2050

To whom it may concern

The ABC is for me a vital community connection both local and state wide. During the fires I was able to access up to date news and listened to shared stories of others experiences. This enabled me to feel less fearful and isolated. I also highly value the ABC TV channel and cannot compare the documentaries and stories of interest with any other channel. Without this channel our population would surely 'dumb down' or in fact stop watching TV altogether. Please ensure the ABC is funded to continue to provide intelligent viewing and up to date critical information and discussion.

Regards
Ranjana Whall

Ranjana W
VIC 2482

ABC is the only reliable source of news in Australia. It has helped throughout, in bushfires, COVID first wave and even more now. While other news media outlets are busy fear mongering or diverting people's attention away from

Reality, trying to propagate a politically motivated wave driven by commercial agenda, ABC stood its ground firm.

It needs further funding, not cuts. Only outlets that should be held accountable and cut in funding are private outlets that frisk away from their job of honest journalism.

Rav S
NSW 3030

It's support and information for all, and me personally, during floods, drought, the recent infernos and now the Covid crisis has been grossly underestimated by your Govt while you've continued to starve it, while it's done so much for us for which you should reward it. You should be thankful it's doing so much for us all.

Currently I find it comforting to listen, for almost the first time to its talkback while in our shutdown as company whereas before, ABC Classic FM has been a major healing factor for 3 major operations and a place of calm. Please, instead of claiming you're increasing its funding, actually do so, and generously.

Ray C
VIC 2041

Due to the authoritative coverage of the bushfires which the ABC achieved I was able to gauge the sheer magnitude of the fires and the utter sadness of the people that were going through this horrific ordeal This coverage was in my opinion the top coverage of all television channels I would ask the powers that be when deciding the future of the ABC that they take note of the incredible job they do in bringing these stories to the general public.

Ray G
VIC 3136

Some years ago we were involved in a bushfire with no power the only reliable source of news in our situation was via a battery powered transistor as is the many current programs produced by our ABC Which are not only entertaining but an honest and enjoyable source of entertainment.

Ray H
VIC 3550

The only news services I still trust are the ABC and SBS.

The commercial channels do not have any content I want to watch or listen to. Their politics are controlled by captains of industry with no inherent checks and balances, and it shows! Their gaslighting of political figures, especially Labor governments like Dan Andrews in Victoria, has been an unedifying spectacle of half truths, sensationalism and lies. I will no longer consume their products.

The ABC has kept us informed through the fires, and I wouldn't go anywhere else for COVID19 information.

In my humble opinion, losing the ABC will be the end of the last hope for our society. With the current crop of politicians at the Federal level (orrupt and controlled by capital), the danger is very real that Australia will sink into a corrupt, nepotistic mess where justice will depend on whether you can pay for it.

SAVE THE ABC!!

Ray M
WA 3094

I rely on the ABC to inform me each and every day for weather, emergency announcements, general news and a good laugh! Human stories through Conversations and talk back radio. This is something I have grown up with my Mothers influence from an early age. The best non-commercial and local programming chose for me.

Ray M
NSW 6255

I have virtually grown up with the ABC the only broadcaster that provides honest, impartial news and commentary on vital subjects. Our ABC has won numerous awards for presentations of drama, comedy, children's entertainment, documentaries and many other entertaining and interesting programs. Our ABC is the only broadcaster capable of providing information and advice during periods of calamity such as fire, flooding, cyclones and other hazardous situations. I have no doubt that the ABC is an important and essential service to all Australian citizens and should be fully funded so that it can continue to provide this service

Ray N
NSW 2319

I live in South East NSW where the bushfires raged at the beginning of 2020.

I relied on the ABC,s Emergency broadcasts to ascertain the level of danger my family could face.

Ray S
VIC 2537

Living in country Victoria I rely on the ABC every summer for up to date & accurate information relating to the weather conditions and bush fire progress.

During the 2009 fires it was the only source I counted on for information in Bendigo.

Also the ABC is one of the few news sources that tells the truth, if the ABC's budget is cut again how are Australians to hear news that they know is true. There are very few news sources that are accurate if not outright telling lies.

If it wasn't for the ABC there would have been no Banking or Aged Care Royal Commissions, that's probably why the government & especially the conservatives want the ABC gone.

The Nationals state how much they appreciate the ABC for regional coverage but they are the biggest critics & also voted for the budget cuts.

Also they are a great source of information during this virus crises we facing at the moment.

Ray T

NSW 3551

What could we do without the ABC?

During the floods I monitored the reports and I'm sure it saves lives.

During the recent bushfires I monitored the ABC reports and it help people get out of their homes quicker and prepare for the bushfires.

No commercial channel would bother they're more interested in commercials.

Who would we go to for rational well-informed news and current affairs?

Please Keep the ABC funded

Regards Ray Thorpe

Ray T

QLD 2484

The ABC is Australia's reliable news broadcaster. I've relied each morning on breakfast news to keep me up to date and accurate news stories about Townsville floods which directly impacted my family, COVID-19 and the many phases. I also enjoy many of their shows connecting me to Australia and what we produce TV series wise but really enjoy Four Corners, Insight those types of shows. Do not reduce funding to ABC they need to be supported so that Australians have access to unbiased accounting of our Government. If there is nothing to hide they should not be feared.

Rayarna R

VIC 4817

I'm a working mum, living in central Victoria. Every summer, I rely on the ABC for bushfire updates, to stay safe. In the current Coronavirus crisis, I'm using the ABC News app several times a day and ABC iView is helping me cope with the challenge of lonely lockdown evenings. I stream ABC radio to keep me informed, inspired and connected with Australian affairs, world news and big ideas. My daughters have been educated and entertained by the ABC throughout their childhoods.

The ABC is like family, central to Australian history and critical to our uncertain future. I have trusted and enjoyed the ABC for over 40 years and I want the Australian Government to keep it going strong for the next 40+ years.

So please: restore the ABC's funding and make NO MORE ABC BUDGET CUTS!

Rebecca C

QLD 3442

The material broadcast on the ABC is informative, fact-checked, it follows journalistic ethics and it is our gold standard for news in Australia. This is because it is funded by us, the taxpayer, not by advertising, unlike many other media sources.

Moreover, the ABC is where we go in times of emergency. It's where we get local and national information on terrible fires (these will only increase), on floods, on vents that affect all of us. When Brisbane flooded I lost all power, but with my trusty battery radio and the ABC, I knew where to go, and which of my friends were in trouble. In contrast, I remember walking past a Sunrise crew broadcasting live from the river, with Melissa Doyle pointing at a small crowd of us and calling us "rubbernecks" and to go home. I lived 3 minutes away and had walked down to see the damage to the freeway (which turned out to be closed) so I could get over to help those friends. I'll never forget that difference.

As well, the ABC is where we go for education content for our kids, it's where we go for great Aussie drama, comedy and everything else that highlights our wonderful way of life. I plead with the government to spend our taxpayer dollars on funding the ABC, on giving them what they need to continue the wonderful work they do. I call on the government to do the right thing this time, and not pander to media barons who don't pay any tax in Australia at all, and who are closing regional papers all over Australia. Stand up, and show us strong leadership.

Rebecca G
VIC 4068

I truly believe that on top of their role as community broadcasters the ABC is truly our only national 'conscious'. Even just over the past 12 months we have seen salary scandals exposed, St Kevin's abuse scandal, Victorian super-charged branch stacking, the awful Horse Racing shame of mass horse killings, more aged care scandals and just this week the Arcare scandal where yet again another CEO has abused their position. Without the excellent work of their journalists we would not have had Royal Commissions into Aged Care, Banking and Institutional Abuse. Without their journalists we would have little, if nearly none, journalism that holds us, our institutions and our politicians to account. And without ABC we would not know who our heroes either. The attacks on the ABC come from people who have something to lose and that something is generally scrutiny. Our society cannot afford to have a media that has to play ball with those they should scrutinize to make a buck. If we only have that we will only get press releases dressed up as news and we will be no better than a communist state.

Rebecca H
NT 3056

The ABC has always been my chosen news source and a popular entertainment option. Stuck in lockdown with limited financial support and no TV set, I relied on ABC iview to keep me updated and informed.

From Bananas in Panama's as a child to Q&A now, the ABC has and always will be an important part of my life.

Rebecca M
NSW 810

I am devastated by the continued cuts to the ABC. In 2020, I have turned to the ABC to view their first class programs such as Landline, Back Roads, Four Corners, News, Australian drama and documentaries.

While the commercial channels offer mind numbing reality shows, the ABC informs and inspires. When I go to bed I listen to my local ABC radio station and am never disappointed in the programs and content.

My children grew up watching Play School and many other quality programs. The ABC was the ONLY channel I trusted to entertain and inform their young minds.

The ABC belongs to the Australian people and for many rural countries it provides a critical service, reporting on the weather, the bushfires and other emergencies.

Please restore the funding to ABC; it is an advertisement free station and, unlike FOXTEL which has been handed millions of tax payers money every one can watch the ABC for FREE! The people of Australia DESERVE to have an unbiased, well funded national broadcaster.

Yours sincerely
Rebecca Stevens.

Rebecca S
NSW 2289

There has been so much misinformation during the last year, so I rely on ABC to cut through all the noise and give my family & I the facts. Also - ABC Kids is the best!

Rebecca W
QLD 2042

ABC has been imperative for me this year as an Australian Citizen. It is the only news look to when looking for information about Covid-19 and other disasters. Currently abroad, I was able to find the information I needed on their social media streams and found it really useful, and felt I could trust them.

Rebecca Ellen V
VIC 4164

The ABC has been pivotal in informing us about what has been happening during the COVID lockdown. Other commercial organizations do not have the subject matter expertise (Dr Norman Swan) to really cover the complexities of these stories properly.

Also the educational resources that the ABC provides are extremely helpful at a time like this while you are meant to be working and home schooling at the same time.

Red Dickhead G
TAS 3121

I refer to abc news every single day. Agatha Christie got me through lockdown and media bites when im bored. Australians would be in deficit with out it. Abc is both iconic and present.

Reegan W
WA 7250

I'm a retired educator with a keen interest in our Australian identity, geography and history. I've written textbooks and library series for Australian school students and currently volunteer my time creating Positive Citizenship programs for school students through the UN Association of Australia (WA Division).

To me the ABC plays a central role in Australia's culture and civic engagement. As the national broadcaster it is essential that it retains its independence from any commercial interests. To do that it must be properly funded by our Government.

The following examples highlight the value of the ABC's role in a vibrant Australian society:

1. Even though I was not directly affected by the catastrophic bush fires this summer I relied on the ABC's total focus on reporting latest developments and devoting uninterrupted time to emergency leader briefings. This was vital to building the sense that we are all in this together. That sense of Australian community, regardless of where we live, is essential for our community cohesion.
2. Throughout the COVID-19 pandemic I have watched the morning briefings and been kept informed of the latest developments. It has been a consistent reminder of the community solidarity referred to above but also to the need for vigilance in protecting the health of myself, my family, my community. Sure, the other TV stations have provided information, but understandably they also have other commitments which impact on the consistency and reliability of the information provided. An unedited, live emergency briefing may not make for the most entertaining TV or radio broadcast, but it does make the ABC the GO TO broadcaster for any such information.
3. For entertainment, the ABC is at the cutting edge and plays a vital role in fostering creativity and building Australian cultural capital. The clear evidence of this role is the number of performers and programs that start with a small budget on the ABC and go on to become a commercial success.
4. The ABC is assiduous in seeking to present a range of perspectives on any current issue or event. This is critically important to our democracy. Often the ABC makes me rethink my own position on an issue. The most recent case in point relates to the two Brisbane women who allegedly misled authorities in order to attend a Victorian party and then avoid COVID-19 quarantine. Like most, I was totally down on these two people - until I watched Media Watch on 3/8. That show made me realise that community anger towards the two women was getting 'over the top' and leading to discriminatory behaviour towards them. Media Watch even criticises the ABC when it is warranted - vital for accountability and media transparency.

An independent, publicly well-funded ABC is vital for public accountability, transparency and a sustainable democracy in our nation. For this reason I request that no further cuts be made to the ABC and that cuts already made be reversed.

Rees B
NSW 6018

My family and I depend on the ABC for Information and connection and this has never been more appreciated as it has through COVID. My children feel so reassured from ABC News breakfast right through to the end of the day.

Regan H
VIC 2486

My name is Regina Bos, I live in rural Victoria and I rely on the ABC's emergency broadcasts in times of bushfire and flooding but more than that, I've been relying on the ABC to give me up to date information about the COVID 19 pandemic.

The ABC has helped me to stay connected through its great TV drama, comedy and current affairs program, not to mention wonderful music to keep the spirits up (from Classic fm).

And I count on the ABC to hold those in power to account, especially at a time when fraud and deception can be so easily overlooked.

I am sick of the ABC being targeted again and again for budget cuts and I demand that no cuts be made to the ABC in the October 2020-21 budget, in fact I want to see funding cuts restored.

I want a free, fearless and funded ABC as a public broadcaster, now and in the future!

Regina B

QLD 3515

The ABC, especially RN is and has been for most of my life, my main source of news and information on all sorts of topics, especially what is important in Australia but also in the world. I also tune in to 774 from time to time. In periods of ill health in my childhood and in adulthood, it has been my lifesaver.

This year, I tuned into News24 as well, first for the bushfires' updates and again, all through Covid19 to get factual information in a time of anxiety.

As a retired 77yo, I often tune into RN at different times of the day as I go about my tasks and since getting a hearing aid, I can now listen through it using Bluetooth - what a bonus!

What has shocked me in the past few years and more so this year, is that the Federal government cuts to the ABC have meant so many good journalists have lost their jobs or left because they can see no future at few seem to crop up all over the place, filling holes. Is the organisation still hiring young journalists and allied skilled workers and who is mentoring them.

For ABC2, apart from the 7.00 news, 7.30 and Insiders, I mainly watch for relaxation. I hate that we see so little of Foreign Correspondent at the moment when so much important stuff is happening in the world and not just Covid19.

I do watch SBS but rarely watch commercial television as its news and information is so shallow and I never listen to commercial radio.

I look forward to when we can travel within Australia again, when ABC radio will be my companion.

Please, members of the Federal Government, when you see what is happening with populist leaders around the world, we need the ABC with its reporting and analysis. You must restore funding to far more than the shoestring budget it now has.

Thank you ABC.

Rena P

QLD 3068

When Australia started 2020 with BUshfires....the ABC was there..... when COVID 19 started globally the ABC was there..... when politics, health, wellbeing, opinion and fact is told it comes from the ABC. The ABC is the least controversial, biased and greed-driven broadcasting entity of Australia. It has been there for myself and my family every year and 2020 has not been different. The ABC shows children's programs to ease the stress of COVID on my grandchildren, it showed us the face of community in Australia during the bushfires, it provides vital global news stories untainted by sponsorship, the real world that I have needed to keep me sane during a very stressful year for myself and my family. This icon eases families stress and informs them on how to stay safe.

Rena L

NSW 4216

ABC is the most trusted and reliable news source for our household and the household of my parents. In this time, 2020, It has been absolutely crucial for us to listen and know what is going on and the decisionS to be made.

We don't trust the other dramatic/ bias Murdoch news, we know where it comes from and we know their agenda. It makes me sick how they spin things around and bring Even more fear Into the news. People are frightened enough. News is neutral, it's unbiased and tells what is happening. If it wasn't for the ABC news, australia would not have come out so strong after the 1st wave of the coronavirus or the bushfires. It was life or death situations for many spread across NSW and everyday we would turn on the news to dictate Our next actions, what and where to Go from here. The government must fund the Abc, for its people's safety, information and culture. It is the basic right to Australians.

Renata C

NSW 2047

During the Summer Bush Fires I was watching the ABC News Channel every day, watching ABC reporters at all the affected hot spots reporting on the latest developments and the news ribbon at the bottom of the news showing warning levels in affected areas.

In the covid-19 crisis I have kept up to date with ABC news, again with ABC reporters at the affected areas reporting on the latest developments.

+Dr Norman Swan presents as a professional and well informed expert during the crisis.

+ABC analyst Casey Briggs brings a unique perspective to the effects of the virus in his visual presentations.

+Every day I watch Patricia Karvelas interview politicians and health experts to inform viewers on a variety topics and perspectives related to the virus.

Renato S
QLD 2219

We are aged pensioners and enjoy listening to the ABC. It keeps us company overnight and we always look forward to Macca on Sunday mornings.

Rene F
NSW 4507

Dear Treasurer,

I watch the ABC EVERY night. I watch the news, the current affairs programs, the comedy.

I know MANY people who never watch ANY commercial channels.

The fact that the ABC is missing out on increased funding every year is bad enough - so why all the talk of de-funding the ABC?

It is now operating with the smallest budget since the Howard Government's extraordinary 2% funding cut in its first budget, and over one thousand jobs have gone since 2014.

When the organisation's emergency broadcasting policy was created in 2011, the emergency division ran for six months of the year – now it runs for the entire year.

The ABC is the only media outlet that we can trust totally!

I demand no cuts be made to the ABC in the October 2020-21 budget.

Yours sincerely

Renee E
QLD 2479

The ABC is part of the Australian national identity. For me it has been part of my 42 years of life, starting with playschool and now informs me of important political, social and environmental issues and debates. Retracting funding is silencing impartial reporting of facts of our society and allows biased news to dominate. In times where truth is critical to the maintenance of democracy and transparency, I strongly oppose funding cuts to the ABC. Represent the views of the broader Australian community by committing to ongoing and increased funding for the ABC.

renee g
NSW 4573

For me the ABC is a reliable and quality news source I turn to every day. I know when I watch it that I will just get a truthful, honest broadcast without any mind numbing pointless stories. I also rely on it for intelligent discussion shows such as Q&A and the Drum which encourages critical thinking and showcases amazing speakers, artists and scientists. Australian Comedy and drama are also my faves and Playschool and other educational kids programs were a life saver as a parent with young children. By far the channel I mostly watch.

Renee O
VIC 2540

The ABC is my only source of information.

As soon as advertising enters any forum, the credibility of that forum is destroyed. Advertising says, " pay us, we will say anything".

The existence of gambling advertisements comes first to mind.

How could the Australian government reward Murdoch, the defector with 40 million and deprive its loyal secretary's trusted voice of 80 million?

My old mate, blind Freddy might be out there soon, with his shot gun.

Blow a few heads off.

Freddy has a very generalised perception.

He knows that the rich get richer and that power corrupts.

Fine print is difficult to read in Braille, he's not side tracked by that.

Blind Freddy only trusts the ABC.

The blind have sensitivities that others have not developed.

I am allergic to bullshit, so follow his lead.

The ABC is the voice of Australia.

The ABC presents fact without bias.

The ABC is free from commercial interest.

Naturally, commercial interests will seek its castration.

I'm breaking for blind Freddy.

Will do what I can to load his gun. Xx

Revell P

NSW 3145

Credible news reporting - a balanced perspective

Aussie stories

rex w

NSW 2026

My family and I have had a very heavy reliance on the ABC for many years. This extends from accurate, reliable news and current affairs feeds to Australian made drama and comedy series. The ABC has always been viewed by us as a nursery for a wide range of Australian talent as well as giving us the best of international entertainment. I can only say that any further cut to funding for the ABC will be very detrimental to our hope for ongoing Australian content of high quality and we urge the government to seriously consider this, in what has turned into a very difficult year for us all.

Yours faithfully,

Rhett B Yeats

Rhett Y

NSW 2040

The ABC is important to me on many levels. I live alone and I work from home. It would be very easy to feel anxious and isolated. I have ABC Classic FM on while I work and I tune into the ABC TV and radio news bulletins for regular updates that I can trust to be accurate. This was especially important during the fire season and is equally important now during the time of COVID. ABC investigative journalists must be among the best in the world, exposing corruption and keeping the government to account - reporting accurately and without bias. ABC kids keep it real for my grandchildren too. The ABC has been here for me and my family for many years, particularly in 2020 and it means a lot to us.

Rhoda F

WA 2074

The ABC is an integral part of life for all Australians as it's a media form that focuses on Australia.

For those who live in country Australia it's a vital source of news. Discriminating against Australian citizens who live in the country is not Australian & it's not fair.

Local news is important not just that centred on Sydney, Melbourne or worse still the United States of America.

The ABC represents a fair go for all & as such it's crucial that no funding be cut from the ABC budget.

Rhonda A

NSW 6061

The ABC is essential for news, documentaries and entertainment. I find the ABC provides a public service and community updates with integrity and sound research. During the bushfires when we were impacted the most reliable support was the ABC in contrast to government and bushfire Info from head quarters. We get quality information from the ABC and I urge the coalition to restore funding. If it's good enough to donate millions to Foxtel it should be the same for the ABC.

Rhonda A
VIC 2480

I have listened to the ABC for most of my life. As a youngster it was heard for much of the day, with news, music and dramas. This year, with its challenges, I have relied on the ABC for factual, well presented news and a range of interesting programs to enjoy during lockdown.

Rhonda D
VIC 3977

This year the ABC has been my constant source of honest reliable, timely information in regard to the Bush fire, CORVID19, local news All news items daily. As a carer for a three and a half year old I find ABC Kids channel innovative, stimulating and a good resource for ideas to use in the care of my grandson. Landline is valuable to give me a perspective of current trends in rural life. The E-mail ABC daily news and SBS news keep me in the loop daily. Documentaries keep the Government and others honest. Garden shows are instructional and factual. Films and crime series balance my viewing material but it is distressing to see how often programs have to be repeated because the ABC can't afford new material. I rely completely on the ABC for my information as I trust the content

Rhonda F
VIC 3844

I feel compelled to write a submission because I believe the ABC's funding is way too low. It has steadily decreased over the last 10 years, yet it's role has never been more important.

Generally I watch ABC for relaxation, general information, news and in depth current affairs analysis. I really value that it does not have advertising.

However, this year with the huge bushfires we had and now the Covid-10 pandemic, I have never been more grateful that the ABC is here to keep everyone informed to help make sense of what is happening and how we, as citizens, can help to keep everyone as safe as possible.

It has done an outstanding job and it has brought home to me how important the ABC is.

It is also very important that it is the place where local art and music can be fostered which is so important for our Australian Identity.

Rhonda M
VIC 3101

The ABC deserves increased funding, not budget cuts.

As a resident of East Gippsland, I depended on the ABC for an up to date and accurate information feed during the recent horrific bush fires and now with covid 19 pandemic.

It is our TRUSTED news channel and any budget cuts to the ABC would be detrimental to any person living in Australia who relies on getting an unbiased view of information reported.

Rhonda W
NSW 3909

As a 67 year old living on my own I rely on the ABC for all my NEWS and entertainment. I rely on all NEWS bulletins and programs related to local and international news so that I am completely informed about what is happening regarding the pandemic. Previous to this time I was constantly watching and listening to the reports about fires as I had family directly impacted on the far south coast of NSW.

Having family in Tasmania, I am constantly watching weather reports about their island and looking at their local news on ABC online daily. I trust only the ABC for news bulletins.

As I am alone the television helps to fill my hours and keep me company during this terrible time. The ABC is my go to station for entertainment. The ABC RADIO programs, particularly RADIO National, are my companions during much of the day. I listen to their many podcasts when out walking and gardening.

So please increase the funding for the ABC to keep so many of people in my age group, and of course all age groups, with a place to go for all reliable news and wonderful entertainment.

Yours truly,
Maria Pegg

Ria P
NSW 2517

I am writing to you about the ABC and it's wide and deep function in Australian life.

The ABC has been a mainstay of reliable and relevant news in Australian and world politics, Arts, sport, weather and environmental matters, Health issues, multi-cultural dynamics and controversies with fresh relevance. I have for decades felt more closely part of my nation's interests and cultural health because of the pool of talent and commitment to Australian life. In recent years, especially recently, watching this corporation being targeted for cuts to its funding has been particularly troubling, even depressing.

NO OTHER MEDIA ORGANISATION ACHIEVES SO MUCH FOR SO MANY FOR SO LITTLE.

Richard Ball.

richard b

QLD 2880

I do not watch much commercial TV. I have not had my RADIO on anything but ABC COAST FM for more than 25 years, including in my car. I get good daily surf and weather reports, traffic conditions, emergency alerts, Covid news (currently), all sorts of human interest and comedy with great DJs, not to mention Macca whose show I have listened to for 30 years. Proper news reports without the numbing dumbing down by commercial radio and television stations with their associated constant BANGING and CRASHING advertising coupled with STUPID MUSIC that I call NOISIC. It is obvious to anyone that the commercial stations are not interested in providing real NEWS, it's just all about mainly trivia (reality TV) and ratings, as usual. I do subscribe to FOX TV mainly for the History Channel, Football and Surf Comps (none this year), but they are just as bad with rubbish advertising and I will be cancelling it come the football Finals. The ABC provides an invaluable service to the community and IT MUST REMAIN FULLY FUNDED. Whilst in this Covid crisis, the Federal Govt. hands out \$BILLIONS to people to do virtually nothing, then penny-pinches from the ABC. WEAK POLICY! A vote grab from the "quiet people" is how I see it.

Richard B

QLD 4560

As a Master mariner working for the Australian National line for 54 years (from Cadet to Captain to Torres Strait pilot and to Marine Consultant (before most our jobs were given away by this government to 457 visa cheap labor) we relied heavily on the ABC for not only news but also for weather reports and alerts both of which the commercial radio stations only give a scant summary to in between advertisements as well as not having the reception range and Australian wide coverage the ABC has. (also served in the (Royal Australian Navy for my conscription service) where the ABC was also used as very valuable source of information). DONT LET THIS GOVERNMENT DEFUND THIS VERY IMPORTANT ORGANISATION.

Richard D

NSW 4215

The ABC is intrinsic to my understanding of contemporary events and culture. As we thankfully live in a free society I expect our press to be as free as possible. Only a healthy publicly funded press in the form of the ABC can provide that. I wholeheartedly support the ABC.

Richard G

NSW 2037

I live in the Blue Mountains on the edge of the National Park. The summer we just lived through was both horrendous and traumatic - 3 very intense weeks of being sandwiched between 2 advancing fires - one from the north the other from the south. Without the ABC providing up-to-date news I could rely on our days would have been far more traumatic - I do not know how we would have handled the day-in day-out uncertainty without the ABC as a news source that provided us reliable information. The television was on the whole day and whenever we were not on the roof spotting, or running through our fire plans, checking the pumps and hoses, checking our mobile apps for wind speed and direction, fires near me, flight radar etc, we were in front of the tv.

To be able to "relax" - though exhausted - at the end of the day with a cuppa in front of the tv watching the regular nightly updates was a real source of comfort. Our nightly mantra was "Shane for PM" and "Long Live The ABC"

Please, restore the ABC's funding - it is an essential service for many, many Australians

Richard m

NSW 2782

I don't want to over react, nor be ignorant

Every few days, I check the data provided, together with the analysis.

We really need fact checks in these days of so many weird voices

Richard M

NSW 2299

There is only the ABC that tries to give balanced news without the sensationalism of commercial news services.
Not having to rely on selling the news has meant having confidence in their reports.
From bushfires to pandemics I want to have my news from the ABC.

Richard N
NSW 2026

At a time when 'news' is becoming merely opinion, or an attempt to profit or push ideological agendas, it is vital that the ABC allowed to continue to provide informed, unbiased reporting of news and events that affect all Australians.

Events of the last 6-12 months have demonstrated this need, and the unique ability of the ABC to fill it.

It has been doing so for the past 88 years.

To weaken the ABC with budget cuts is to deprive Australians of a news source we can trust, and one on which any government can rely to provide us all with truthful information.

For Australia's future, value and preserve the ABC.

Sincerely,
Richard Noonan
Springwood NSW

Don't allow Australia to be dumbed down for short term political gain at the expense of an aware,

Richard N
NSW 2777

I leave the radio dial on the ABC for impartial opinions and quality journalism leaving me to form my own opinions and as a platform to hear a balance of opinions from others. As media with adherence to truth and integrity that binds us with a sense of national identity it is invaluable.

Richard W
TAS 2515

We have found the ABC news and other reporting to be far more objective, accurate and reliable than any other commercial news source. We also find their open discussions on current affairs informative and their programs overall interesting and often stimulating.

Richard W
NSW 7004

I write to support increases in the budget allocation for the ABC. It is very important to keep an independent and reliable news source for Australia. Especially in the current situation with Covid19, when the news provided by the ABC has kept the community up to date on the latest requirements for movement restrictions and other safety measures.

Also, the bushfire emergency last spring/summer made the ABC radio service vital to alert people and keep them informed as to the situation with fires in their area.

The loss of Radio Australia was also of concern as many countries around Australia listened to this for warnings on cyclones and other news.

Therefore, I think we should increase the allowance in the budget for the ABC, it is a very important element of our democracy as it provides us with reliable and factual news.

Richard W
NSW 2250

My experience with the ABC is absolutely positive. Their news is fair, with no bias towards any political party or any businesses. Their current affairs give equal time to all sides, for the listeners to make up their own minds.

The only thing lacking on the ABC is biased reporting, especially concerning political parties. We just hear the facts.

Richard and Penny S
QLD 2031

At the time the bush fires started I had to leave Australia and go to Japan to help my wife take care of her old father leaving my two Young sons in Oz, the only way I could stay informed was listening to the ABC radio app every day, then I had to go to South Africa for 3 months, which was pretty stressful to say the least, but again having the Abc with me I always felt really connected to home, now still back in Japan the ABC with TripleJ and Double J keeps me sane, in touch and feeling at home, my boys put music on Triple J Unearthed, and it helps us feel connected. The ABC is the best radio in the world, I know from lived experience.

Rick B
ACT 4220

The ABC has been critical in 2020 first the bushfires then the hail storms then covid19 then local flooding then covid again. Timely accurate local news is essential in regional areas. Please restore funding to the ABC to ensure that we are all in this together. Without local ABC bulletin for disaster warnings and services we will be lost. Thank you

rissie m
VIC 2619

I am in my early sixties and live alone. My children have moved out and I have retired from a career of more than thirty five years as a teacher in Secondary Education. During the last Five months of COVID restrictions (that also included the added bonus of living in a hotspot!)

I have found sustenance and relief from both ABC Radio, (the Classics in particular). Listening to the Beethoven 250 Anniversary Special Programs was pure joy. And I was able to replay each program, over and over! Not only that but I also experienced great relief from programs such as Margaret Throsby's Special 3 Episodes on Johan Sebastian Bach, which was so uplifting and joyous during these very long and isolating times. The ABC has provided rich and varied podcasts and has been great company. It is everything! Language, storytelling, the arts, culture, identity, it is all that is beautiful! And then let's not forget ABC iView. It too has become my companion and provided relief with intelligent content, with quality programming. I dearly and sincerely hope I have made my point!

Culture and Art, Language and knowledge should not be cut back but cultivated, encouraged, nourished and protected.

Commercial television does not meet the same standards or quality, nor diversity nor the equity, that the ABC represents and delivers. Cutting back funding is like vandalism!

Please protect the ABC. Do not make further cuts to the ABC.

The ABC is fundamental to Australian identity and culture just like the BBC is to Britain.

Sincerely and respectfully
Rita Sciacca

Rita S
WA 3012

Throughout all the tragedies that has occurred during 2020 I have always relied on the up to date and unbiased reporting of events the ABC in my opinion can always be relied on

Rita T
NSW 6163

In a world compromised by economic and political influence the ABC stands alone as a media outlet for balanced news. I need the ABC.

Rob A
ACT 2041

The ABC is my most trusted source of information. This has been especially critical in 2020 as one disaster has merged into the next. Radio National is my preferred source of cerebral entertainment. If there was no ABC I'd have to ditch my TV. I'm astounded that our government seems to favour a media empire owned by a foreigner who interferes with our political process.

Rob B
VIC 2605

The ABC is the most important reliable news source in this Country. My wife and I rely heavily on it to keep up to date with current affairs and news. esp Morning Breakfast, 4 Corners, Media Watch. It has been a stalwart in these covid times, likewise in the bushfire times. They are the emergency broadcaster and I wouldn't have it any other way, both radio and tv. Re light entertainment and local content abc is second to none, satire is so important and the likes of Shaun Macauliff ,The Weekly all help to keep things in perspective. Backroads, Australian Story Landline The Arts programmes we love them. Their locally produced drama is 2nd to none. We also use I view catch up a lot and more could be spent in this area. I think the ABC should be given budget boosts not cuts and its should be regarded as criminal behaviour that they have been used as a political football which is so obviously the case. seems to me that murdoch and his cronies are behind a lot of this. We need the ABC now more than ever. Yours sincerely Rob Harwood.

Rob h
NSW 3094

Please, don't cut funding to the ABC. The ABC is one of, if not the last, of TV broadcasters that seems to have any journalistic integrity left. This integrity is needed by Australians and isn't provided and the same level by commercial tv Stations.

Many people I know, myself included, have found the ABC to be the most reliable and honest source of information through the crisis that has been 2020 so far.

Please, please keep ABC funded. It'd be bloody un-Australian no to.

Thanks for reading,

Rob Kay

Rob K

VIC 2204

As a long-term listener to various segments of the ABC's broadcasts, I am disappointed with the ongoing funding cuts by the present government for a number of reasons. 1. The role of the ABC in crisis (eg bushfire or pandemic) management seems to me irreplaceable. 2. News and current affairs reporting is generally very accurate and reliable. 3. The ABC's music broadcasts, especially ABC FM, are for me indispensable. Rob Mathew

Rob M

SA 3013

While living overseas but remaining an Australian citizen, the ABC keeps me connected with Australian life- political, domestic, artistic, environmental- in an unbiased, factual, accessible manner. In 2020 of all years, this was absolutely something that I needed. Australians deserve nothing less, and it is abundantly clear that commercial media cannot, and has no desire to, substitute for it. It is blatantly obvious that the Liberal government's undermining of the ABC is an attempt to wean Australians off of a reliable, ethical source of media that does not insult our intelligence, and onto the Murdoch supply of fearmongering, conservatively-biased, torrent of misinformation broken up only by 4 minute ad breaks in order to keep us dumb, afraid, and compliant..

Rob P

SA 5067

I live in a regional area and the local ABC is a vital source of information ranging from local news and emergencies through to warnings about the development of major disasters including the destructive bushfires which recently ravaged Australia, and impending threats such as storms and floods.

They are the go to station for this information.

They are also a vital element of our democracy much to the displeasure of political parties and who are currently trying to strangle "Auntie" by starving it of funds, and other devious means such as the recent police raids. This arises from the fact that the ABC is not frightened to shine a light into the dark corners of politics. If politicians could discard the "Spin doctoring" and speak truthfully then examinations by the ABC would be much less frequent.

Of course, the diversity of programs is of vital importance in providing stimulating, informative and entertaining radio and TV.

ABC is sorely needed to balance the rubbish, misinformation, and mind numbing program content pumped out by the commercial networks.

As a regional dweller we especially need the ABC.

Rob T

VIC 5345

I read news feeds from a very wide range of local and internet sources on my phone. However when I feel I need information and opinion I can trust to be balanced, authoritative and timely, I watch, or listen or read the ABC. I can count on it for local bushfire or flood updates, cultural perspectives wider than footballers injuries, and considered reflections on international affairs.

Particularly during the Covid19 crisis it is a sane sensible voice against a lot of lesser self serving hysterical voices.

If the LNP can find a lazy \$20 mil to hand the Murdoch empire to promote women's sport, why do they need to cut the ABC that has been promoting authentic women's activities for years? This is just another "Sports Rort", with lipstick on the Murdoch pig.

As Covid19 has shown it is not swayed by partisan rhetoric, it will only be beaten by clear thinking and a scientific approach. Compare Dr Norman Swan on the ABC, to Andrew Bolt in the Herald Sun. I know who I would choose for reliable information to save my own life.

I hope you will support the ABC philosophy with appropriate funding. Not to do so, and leave us to the commercial distortions of the private news providers, is a definition of your duty, and you won't get my vote of any of my friends if I have anything to do with it.

Rob Ward.

Rob W
TAS 3909

I attest the ABC is the only creditable source for real news, real documentaries that matter to me as a senior Citizen, I think it is deplorable that the Government is cutting its funding !!!
Robbie Rowlands.

Robbie R
NSW 7321

I do not wish to be without the ABC. Conservative governments have obviously had a plan for some time to destroy honest news promulgation in Australia. This cannot be allowed to continue. I have often heard people saying lately that the ABC is compromised & they have stoppped watching & listening. This is exactly what the federal government wants. Weaken the ABC then get rid of it. The plan is continuing apace. I am utterly disgusted The ABC has over the years given me confidence that I have a handle on what is going on in Australia. Robert Barnier

Robert B
NSW 2035

The ABC is the most unique and impartial media outlet now as it has been since its inception. All facets of its coverage, be it television, radio and online would diminish our lives irreparably if these savage funding cuts go ahead.

How can you justify gutting the life saving broadcasts during the bush fires, and now the pandemic.

The entertainment value of ABC TV encompasses both the broadcasting and promotion of Australians in many fields, and will affect not only the providers but all the people who rely on OUR ABC for its excellence. Let it Live On.

Robert B
QLD 2448

Well i'd trust the ABC a lot more than i'd trust the Coalition!

robert b
NSW 4059

My name is Robert (Bob) Cashman, resident of Sandgate, Newcastle NSW.

I totally rely on the ABC for all my news, warnings and most of my music as well as some entertainment.

I am currently finding the ABC extremely helpful in keeping me informed regarding the current covid pandemic and, following on from the excellent coverage of the recent fire disasters, I find it doing a magnificent job of informing the populace in current affairs, especially in world affairs.

Under the circumstances, I earnestly implore you to NOT reduce the ABC's income in the Commonwealth budget for 2020-2021.

Thank you.

R J Cashman

Robert C
NSW 2304

Every week day I must commute for 45 minutes each way to and from work. The ABC provides measured accurate news and current affairs, as well as informative programs like LNL with Phillip Adams and the Health Report by Norman Swan.

Without the National Broadcaster I would be forced to listen to the incessant babbling nothingness of the commercial programs punctuated by equally mindless advertising.

The ABC should be treated as the national treasure that it is, rather than being unfairly punished for maintaining an unbiased, non-partisan viewpoint in its reporting

Robert C
VIC 2086

The ABC has always been a source of fair and impartial news, that is important in the current situation.

Cuts to the budget of the ABC would not be appropriate, after all this is taxpayers money, I am happy to see my taxes spent on a fully funded ABC.

Robert D
VIC 3962

I always rely on OUR ABC both Radio and TV. It is the only place I get news that I can rely on and to be current and truthful. It is not sensationalised or politically motivated. They do not have presenters that make ridiculous claims and distort the news to support others ambitions

OUR ABC is there for all of us in times of need. Pandemics, Bush Fires, Floods and other emergencies. I can rely on the ABC where ever I go across Australia or the world now with their excellent Digital presence. Our ABC should be funded far better than it is. It also have separate funding during emergencies to help support effected communities. This should not be seen as a cost but a necessity.

Robert H
VIC 3228

I live in regional Victoria and throughout the bushfire disasters and the current pandemic crisis I have watched the ABC morning breakfast show every day for informative, accurate, unbiased reporting without the bias and plethora of adds and financial inducements to watch that the commercial channels use (such as money prizes money and sensationalism)to attract viewers because unlike the ABC, they are quite cavalier with the truth.

Unlike the funding of politician's "educational field trips" or rorts overseas, the ABC is an example of taxpayer's money well spent.

Robert H
QLD 3500

The abc is more trustworthy than the other capitalist media outlets not perfect as they do follow the government line but better than the rest!

Robert J
NSW 4031

As a regional Australian the ABC is the only station that has information about markets, or actually any country information at all. The country hour gives me a clearer snapshot of the nation than any of the commercial stations and even though it is controlled by right wing liberals it still gives me a less bias account of world events than do the other stations.
During the bushfires, when my house burned down, it was clear that the ABC needed more money. How else can you explain my entire region not being given one warning before my house was destroyed?
Fund this crucial service for the part of Australia that elects liberal governance or suffer the consequences of visiting a 3rd world region whenever you leave your metropolitan areas.
The ABC does a different job to commercial stations and it's funding should be regardless of what happens in the commercial sector.

Robert J
WA 2446

Like so so many of fellow Australians I rely upon the public broadcaster to keep us informed current events without fear or favour. I have lost faith in the commercial media and look upon them as advertising revenue income seekers with little regard for the news of the day other than packing between their advertising spreads.
ABC is not free, we the public pay the costs in the various taxes we pay to the treasury.
Robert Lambkin

Robert L
VIC 6051

I first encountered the ABC (3LO) as a child when visiting my great uncles farm in the early 1950's; he had no power and used a car battery to power his radio. Each morning at 7:45am the radio was turned on for the news. Since then I have always listened to the ABC for news that I can trust. Over the years as I grew up I used to go to Channel 2 for 6oclock Rock and later Countdown, and even got a couple of walk on parts in productions. The importance of the ABC cannot be over estimated. From its production of news and the training of reporters through to the introduction of new talent in critical areas that are often overlooked by commercial interests due to their pursuit of the holy Dollar. 2020 is the year that highlights the real importance of the ABC. Firstly the Fires and the continuing Drought and now the Pandemic. Throw in the Agricultural issues with China and American Politics. It seems that the ABC is the only organisation covering all of these. Again with the commercial organisations pulling out of rural Australia it is essential that both those residents and us City people have a voice that can report Australia wide. Give more money to the ABC, Fund it with Bonds that offer a tax concession if held. that way it is by Australians for Australians.

Robert L
WA 3178

The ABC is a glorious, vital aspect of our country's public service. The Coalition's instinct to punish the service because it dislikes criticism is one of bleakest aspects of our politics. Shame on you.
The ABC provides me, my friends and family with a reliably balanced and accurate news and analysis. Without the ABC the last bushfire season would have seen far more death and destruction. Without the ABC we would not have such a clear-eyed understanding of the COVID-19 pandemic in our communities. Without the ABC I wouldn't get any reporting of local government issues, or very little State government issues. Without the ABC I would not have the calm, restorative presence of ABC Classic. Stop punishing this magnificent service. Reward it. Encourage it. Support it. Cherish it.

Robert M
VIC 6004

The funding decisions must be based on ideology and not national interest grounds. PM we need a sufficiently funded ABC for all Australians to get through these trying times.

Robert M
VIC 3004

The ABC on television is an integral part of the Australian culture. The mini series and comedies that it has produced has laid the foundation for many personalities. Which in turn have put Australia and it's abilities onto peoples minds, not only within Australia but overseas. This in turn has an economical impact with Tourism and the Arts. Please keep the funding for the ABC at a minimum on the current level. yours sincerely Rob

Robert N
NSW 3550

We rely on the ABC for both Rockwiz and Spics and Specs as often as possible
The music questions and of course the music brings back plenty of memories
also the docos and lots of other great shows
lets work hard to keep them on the air

robert q
TAS 2262

Many Australians rely on the ABC news service for honest unbiased reporting. Please increase funding to the ABC.
History will not be kind to any government that further reduces the capacity of the ABC.

robert r
NSW 7250

We live in an area that was vulnerable to the bush fires and we had friends and family who were in areas that were in the centre of the tragedy. We watched the ABC for constant updates to see if we needed to move ourselves or open up for friends to stay. Of all information sources we fully trusted the ABC to keep us informed during this very stressful time and are deeply grateful to it for clear, honest, unbiased reporting that enables us to make life choices every day.

robert s
QLD 2454

Like many people I rely on the ABC for its impartial, independent analysis of issues of the day. It also provides wonderful news, entertainment, and community services across the country. I cannot imagine Australia without a properly funded ABC.

Robert T
NSW 4060

I have depended on the ABC and people like Norman Swan and the Follow the Curve man (Casey Briggs?) for truly authoritative news and information. It is like a beacon in a storm of misinformation, distortion and downright lies from some other sources.
We are so fortunate to have a public broadcaster and long may it remain so.

Robert W
TAS 2100

Dear Sir/Madam,
at this time we need honest, trustworthy news by professional journalists who check the truthfulness of what they are reporting. It is in our interests as a democratic society to support the ABC in order to avert an avalanche of conspiracy theories and plain lies to infiltrate our social media and consciousness of the the ill-informed.
During the bushfires ,people relied on the ABC for life saving information which also provided a sense of social cohesion in a very stressful time.
Please cease any further cutting of the ABC budget.
Yours Sincerely,
Robert Williams.

Robert W
NSW 7008

I am personally extremely grateful for ABC reporting on issues such as air quality and fire locations during the NSW bushfire crisis. I relied heavily on ABC reporting as I have chronic illness and needed to wear a respirator mask and seal my home from smoke.
The health reports and news reports that have reported the facts during the Covid-19 have been invaluable. I have glanced at the free to air stations 7 9 & 10 and find the sensationalism in reporting is not helpful.
I have actively sought out accurate news reporting for a large part of my life. RN ABC News Radio ABC TV & SBS TV have fulfilled a level of confidence in me when reporting on crisis i am grateful to the broadcaster and trust them.
I am appalled by the governments active attempts to diminish the ABC. Personally it makes me more determined to maintain a public broadcaster in our Democracy.

Robert W
ACT 2023

My wife and I rely almost entirely for our news on the ABC. We listen to many of the current affairs programmes and entertainment programs provided by the group and we depend on the quality journalism that is provided by it. Both in times of crisis and in times of concerned about the state of the world, this is a dependable source of information and it should not be curtailed by budget cuts.

Robert (Bob) D
QLD 2614

I depend on the ABC daily. ABC news at home and on the radio while driving to work, on the way home from work, and updates throughout the evening keep me up to date. The radio programs that I listen to live or via the ABC Listen app are vital in keeping me informed about current events, the arts, literature, science, etc. I love the ABC at all hours - invaluable. Thank you to all the journalists, researchers and other staff who keep the ABC entertaining, informative and functioning at a high standard.

Regards,
Roberta Kehren

Roberta K
VIC 4061

The ABC is the only news broadcaster that reports the facts without judgement- Increasingly all the "for profit" media reports are judgemental and politically biased news which supports the views of it's owners. Every opportunity is taken to marginalise the general public and frighten them. As long as it ramps up the fear and causes people to doubt a political party or organisation that does not suit the "for profit" political agenda. Increasingly we are subjected to racist views and the sort of journalism that lacks integrity from the so called free press. The only media that can be trusted is the ABC which is why the general public has turned to the ABC during this pandemic. This government does not like examination of some of it's behaviours and when that happens the ABC has put itself in the firing line. All governments are accountable to the people - not just the ones who elected them but to all Australians- never ever think that the people will not judge you and when you take away any freedoms to seek the truth you run the risk of being voted out. Governments work for the people not to tell the people what to do. The day will come for some of these press barons who have sort to manipulate and deceive. And we will stop buying their papers and stop watching their news. But we will always trust the ABC- They have earned our trust and respect

Roberta O
ACT 3011

During the Covid 19 pandemic more than ever I have relied on the ABC FM radio station for music all day long and the ABC TV for my most trusted news source for local and international news and later in the evening for entertaining and informative programs. It is important that funding be restored to the ABC.

Robin C
VIC 2602

I am a rural Emergency Physician. I rely on timely, correct unemotive reportage of crises. I need the data. I do not need spin. I do not need someone's opinion of whose fault xyz was. I need honest observation and honest questioning. Disingenuous tribal primary school bickering does not do it for me.

Robin E
NT 3127

When I need to know useful information I turn to the ABC radio and television. I love to watch IVIEW for political comment and reflection on society through comedy. I appreciate all the new performers who have been given opportunities to perform on the ABC and create jobs for so many people.

Robin K
QLD 810

2019 & 2020 have been a very sad and worrying time for myself my family and friends I always tune in to the ABC News knowing I will get the latest truest news and updates, the ABC New makes me feel confident about what is going on around us. THANKYOU

Robin P
TAS 4551

Personally I am extremely dependent on the ABC: I live rurally in Tas, 67 y.o., no reception. I rely on local, national and global objective reporting. Local info very important for journalistic specifics of what's going on for immediate reliable awareness of changing State and local area restrictions (eg NorthWest corner lockdown), adult kids' lives' work plans (2 work on the Spirit), national reliability of news (my daughter in Melbourne), globally so important for everything, all turbulence,(my nephew lives in New York). Now with arguably a collapse of credibility of reported objective 'truth' etc, due to our accepted technologies (pluses and minuses acknowledged), and this besides the massive contraction of media ownership in Australia at least, I value our ABC hugely more and more daily. For my mental health I literally wouldn't be able to have made it through these corona months without the ABC, for above (saving from isolation) reasons, it's true collectivity sense for us, aswell because it's been a (continuing) period in which has been impossible to get to a psychologist's help even having got my GP's reference ,(the depth and sensitive editorial pertinence of Radio National during these months has been absolutely life-saving.) All this provision of cutting-edge info, research reports, and, amazingly, the quality of investigative journalism like that of 4 Corners, (unearthing and disseminating massive infrastructural truths) consistently proves to me ABC's existence truly holds up this country, forming our backbone, both 'soul'-wise, and global-cred wise (ie stops us falling into ignorance and insularity like a country like the US at the mo).

Aswell, without ABC's comedy, by now I'd definitely be round the bend. This goes for it's historical and natural-world documentaries also, educating and informing me and our collective knowledge, spirit, and thus our identity. Hey, let's say the truth, that this is all due to a national sense aswell, that the ABC's primary criterion is people and country, not money. Thus existentially it's like a good mother.

Robin T
ACT 7306

I listen to and watch ABC programmes every day. I do not trust Murdoch sources. I rely on ABC for emergencies and to know how my relations are coping in an emergency. The ABC programmes are exceptional.

Robin W
WA 2615

I would like to write how the ABC, in distinction with the commercial media, has been the only source of sanity and safety for me and my family in two different bushfires.

The first was the Canberra bushfire where we were two streets down from the fire front in Duffy. In the morning of those fires around 10am or so, we could see that the fire was going to get dangerous so we went around the area and saw some areas in the Murrumbidgee corridor burning with fires already heading for West Kamba. We went home and turned on the radio and TV and in not one station of the commercials was there any mention of the coming hazard. Not one! Instead, the classic example being was all I got from the commercial stations was Tony Greig flogging of his 'memorabilia' during innings in the cricket. It was the same throughout the non ABC spectrum.

The afternoon started with aerial water bombers flying overhead to the fires just directly west of us while the area went through a severe cinder attack. To this day I don't know how we escaped unscathed as many near us didn't.

At around 2 to 3pm we were evacuated out of our home (all Duffy was) and sent to a gather point at Canberra College. There I sat in my car flicking from radio station to radio station and the ONLY news I got was from the ABC - and this was when the fire had already devastated Duffy and parts of Holder and Weston and was threatening Lyons, so much so that we were then evacuated from Canberra College to the Narrabunda College where we spent the majority of the night.

The second time was when the South Coast NSW fires were running amok. By then we had retired to Ulladulla and we thought that we could have been burnt out in September as the bush just to the south of us went up and we were just a few houses north from that. Thankfully, it was not to be. However, in the January fires we were enveloped in a thick pall of smoke for weeks, unable to travel anywhere as the roads to the south and the north were blocked. We could only keep informed once again by the ABC as most of the commercial stations were playing political games over greenhouse and thus their coverage was slanted. At least with the ABC we got it straight.

Just before that time we sold up and were in the process of moving to WA for family reasons. For a while it looked as if we couldn't get out of Ulladulla but thanks to the totally heroic efforts of the fireies we were able to drive north in early February through Nowra and Kangaroo Valley and thus get to WA. The devastation on the trip north on the Princes Highway was appalling. The whole area was lucky that so few lost their lives but so many lost all their possessions and from what I hear they are still waiting for the assistance promised them.

My experience with both fires was that the ABC was the only station to give continual updates. The others, constrained as they are by commercial considerations, could only give a shadow of the coverage that the ABC did.

The selflessness and community minded actions of the fire fighters was amazing. It still angers me that one of the most experienced retired fire fighters, Greg Mullins, ex head of NSW Fire and Rescue and a captain of the RFS at Bateman's Bay was pilloried by the commercial media for pointing out that the current government had ignored the warnings that he and others had given to the government months before this avoidable tragedy occurred. They even tried to 'fire' him from his voluntary position as Captain of the Batemen's Bay RFS! This was reported on the ABC but was given minimal reportage anywhere else, once again demonstrating that we need the ABC for level coverage. Unless we have that we will end up living in a mirror image of China.

I am both disappointed and amazed when I hear of the ABC bashing that the narrow minded and greedy indulge in as there is always a need for a well funded, public broadcaster, free from both commercial and governmental bondage as the ABC is (was - are you listening Ita?), in my experience it is the only source of unbiased and factual reporting in times of national crisis.

Robin W
NSW 6180

I am writing to let you know how I rely on the ABC daily for my independent and trustworthy local, national and international news. Also during the recent summer bushfires, when the fires were just 7km from my property, I listened to the ABC for their regular updates. This was lifesaving. I also often need updates from the ABC during times of frequent flooding here in the north coast. And now its to learn about Corona Virus. Please ensure that the ABC is adequately funded every year.

Robyn B
VIC 2483

I watch and listen to ABC every day. It provides accurate and unbiased news. Avoiding the wasted battle of the the "competing stations" i.e. 9 and 7 constantly using their media to dig each other. My youngest daughter (28 with IQ disability) loves ABC Me and relies on it's entertainment in the current lock down here in Victoria. I especially love the Breakfast crew on TV and Virginia on the radio. Other programs also like landline are awesome. Sure beats the other "reality" waste of time on commercial stations.

Robyn B
NSW 3156

During January 2020 the bushfires threatened my home and I eventually had to evacuate for 6 weeks. I relied heavily on ABC news feeds and television to keep me up to date on developments and follow the fires around Australia and my local area. I prefer the ABC because it has a no nonsense, practical approach to their reporting and do not sensationalise. They simply stick to the facts. Also, when watching in a stressed state wanting to here only the news, the ABC has no adds to plough through in order to get the facts. I always rely only on the ABC for my news updates. It's disgusting that the government is cowering to media mogels and sacrificing the quality of our public ABC in order to gain the support of big money and prevent the facts being reported about government activities.

Robyn B
VIC 2579

I watch abc because the commercial channel commentators drive me nuts. I just want t hear it how it is without going to the streets and ramping up everyone's hard luck stories so they can give them money and look like the good guys. ABC is much more about the facts even though Lisa is annoying in the morning, so old school. ABC is like a breath of fresh air especially now we are entering a whole new world.

robyn c
TAS 3071

I rely on the ABC throughout every year to keep up to date on what is happening on our roads and weather up dates and quite a few other things. But one significant occasion was the Dunalley bush fires in 2013 as I was living at Murdunna then . The reports from the ABC kept me up to date with what was happening anf assisted me in making decisions of what to do. We need to keep our ABC

Robyn C
QLD 7178

As a pair in our mid 70's the ABC has been with us since, we first where told "shush" as children as the morning news signal sounded and then again a night after tea. The ABC has been a valued part of our lives. News, local, state, national and international affairs have all been delivered and trusted all these years and must continue to do so. Our children and grandchildren and soon a great grand child have been left safely in front of the ABC without a worry as to the suitability of content. From Magic Roundabout, Play School and now Bluey they have been educated and entertained while learning life's important lesson on being good citizens. Just as we revere the initials ANZAC, so the ABC is revered. It is a vital element in the very fabric of Australian lives. Long may it Live and Serve.

Robyn D
ACT 4361

Right now (also during the bushfires), the ABC is my lifeline. I am really on the edge emotionally, and without the reliable and truthful information that I get daily from the ABC , I feel that I really would be unable to cope. The ABC is the most important thing in my life at the moment. There is absolutely no way that I could support a government which cut information in these terrible times. What this country needs at this time is science and truth. The virus is not going to recognise spin and nonsense. You must restore funding to our essential lifeline- the ABC.
Robyn Debney

Robyn D
TAS 2602

ABC has always been my preferred go to for news and current affairs, it's always factual and honest...at the start of the Covid-19 pandemic, it quickly become very apparent that the ABC was the only credible news source to listen to.

Robyn D
NSW 7010

During the recent bush fires in the Shoalhaven area where I live.

The bush fires were at the end of my street.

We could not evacuate as was strongly advised by police and RFS the high way was blocked due to the holidaymakers from Sydney who were told repeatedly not to come.

It was terrifying, we thought we were going to perish.

We had ABC news on TV on battery-operated radio and car radio.

We had very little sleep and took in turns to do so.

We listened to ABC 24/7.

During the virus, we only listen to ABC News, it's the only program that gives truthful updates with professional Doctors i.e Dr. Norman Swan and all other professional specialists.

So I am pleading to Morrison and Co. to not cut funding, in fact, they should greatly increase the funding.

Labour has promised to fully fund ABC, address, climate change, homelessness wages etc.

We don't have very long to wait for the next election.

And Labour will win, it's about time that the Liberals were sitting on the other side, they will not like that but too bad, too sad.

As Laura Tingle stated some time ago, "you vote for an Ad man that's what you get" full of spin.

Robyn F

QLD 2541

I am a lifetime supporter of the ABC, from The Argonauts in my youth to concert broadcasts in later life radio news bulletins, TV and Radio insight programs.

I find at this time of Covid crisis and the daily unfolding of terrible events in Australia and around the world. the ABC is the only reliable news source I can rely on to bring me news and opinions that are not clouded by commercial interests and the false information peddled on Face book, Twitter and Sky News.

I have been disturbed by the stories uncovered by the ABC talented journalists and correspondents in Australia and overseas, eg high rates of juvenile detention, crisis in aged care homes, water mis management, child abuse in religious institutions, climate change impacts, etc. This can be a way of holding to account politicians and community leaders.

Programs like Australian Story, Back Roads, Landline provide wonderful stories of Australian places and people that would never be made for commercial television. As were many Radio Australia programs until the funding cuts there.

Coverage of the 2020 bush fires showed that ABC reporters were prepared to work long hours to keep the emergencies covered for local residents in areas not usually served by city based agencies.

It is important that the ABC budget should receive no further cuts. Indeed in the face of a continuing national pandemic and the beginning of another bush fire season exacerbated by climate change, it is essential that the ABC receives adequate budgetary support.

Robyn F

QLD 4069

The ABC is an essential part of my daily life, and has been for the past 40 years. The coverage of emergency services such as the catastrophic fires over January and their thorough reporting on all aspects of the Covid pandemic is just so essential.

We cannot live with only commercial and pay tv and I feel horrified thinking about cuts to this essential source of news and information.

Robyn G

VIC 4217

I am 77 years of age and recovering from a series of post anaesthetic complications following surgery. When the coronavirus pandemic began I placed myself in voluntary self isolation. For this reason I rely heavily on the ABC for news and entertainment. I detest the commercial channels, the programs a juvenile and the incessant advertising unbearable.

I also rely heavily on the ABC during the Bush Fire seasons and other Nation wide issues.

Robyn H

WA 3461

I have relied on the ABC all my seventy five years and could not imagine being without it. I do not listen to commercial stations because I do not trust them. The ABC is part of my wellbeing and I listen or watch it everyday.

Without it I will simply get my information from overseas news sites. I know this attack represents actions by the right wing extremists and Rupert Murdoch, who has bullied the ABC for decades. If necessary I will support the journalists who tell the truth. Australians are not all stupid. We are entitled to a public broadcaster as we pay taxes for that reason.

Robyn J

VIC 6149

The ABC has been an integral part of my 64 years going back to it being a constant on our radio and TV as a child, as it is now. I do not listen to much of the commercial offerings and certainly not Foxtel who you continue to pay regular \$10 million as payment to News Ltd for their support. The ABC is many things to many people- entertainment/information/ emergency warnings/ variety of output/ investigative journalism etc. Unfortunately the Conservative Govts believe they have an ideological right to decimate the ABC but there is huge support for the ABC. It is also unfortunately being muzzled by the Coalition as they try to contain operations that educate and inform the public by providing both sides of a story. Stacking of Boards has proven to be a way to undermine institutions by the Coalition- hopefully these ppl have a conscience and ethics to uphold the ideals of the public broadcaster and other institutions that they serve on.

Robyn L
NSW 3616

This year has been very difficult for all of us in so many ways.

First, through the horrific bush fires, from Spring '19, the ABC kept us informed about where the fires were and how things were progressing.

I live in a high density area in the city of Sydney (am retired from paid work) and the smoke was overwhelming some days and being stuck inside, listening to the radio on Sydney local ABB, helped to keep me sane.

Now the pandemic and I'm stuck inside again! Luckily I love Wendy & Robbie's morning programme and Cassie's Focus. Richard Fiedler is a great interviewer and of course Janes Valentine is delightful. RN has great programmes on the weekend including Saturday Extra and Julian Morrow's Sunday morning programme. These programmes have been my constant companions and lifeline in this most difficult year.

Lately I have had eye surgery and can't get out again. I just don't know how I would have coped without our National broadcaster. I also feel a connection with my country cousins through programs such as Landline and Back Roads.

The wealth of information and diversity of programmes, including so much great local comedy on ABC TV eg Hard Quiz, Mad as Hell and Rosehaven ...outstanding and then there's Four Corners, Foreign Correspondent, and the excellent Media Watch. I could continue on but I'm obviously a big ABC watcher and fan. I just can't believe that the funding is being compromised. It's very wrong and very upsetting and disappointing. This organisation should be funded and supported fully. It is our National broadcaster and is above politics. It should not be made to compete with commercial enterprises that have an agenda/shareholders/ vested interests to appease. It really has to remain independent and be properly funded and be protected. It's a national treasure.

Robyn M
VIC 2011

During the bushfires that ravaged the south east from late last year and into the new year, it was our ABC that kept us informed of what was happening and where. They would have been the lifeline for those in the fire zones.

And now we have the pandemic. While we were getting all sorts of conflicted and mixed messages from all sorts of sources, including our own government, it was the ABC providing clear and concise messaging. Their own resident expert (Dr Norman Swan) never varied his advice (backed by solid research and information), and it soon became the message that others picked up and amplified.

For emergency coverage, the ABC has clear daylight between it and the next best source - whoever that may be, and we need it to be there.

As for other programming, it is a shame to see the budget cuts and freezes that have impacted on the variety of viewing on offer. I hope that we will have a government that has the guts to ensure the ABC is funded properly to continue to provide what is an essential service to millions of Australians.

Robyn M
QLD 3352

I'm an Australian living in London, and not only do I rely on the wonderful ABC to tell me what's happening back home, but it's the best source of international news, bar none. It's actually better at reporting what's happening in the UK than the BBC... and ex-government UK minister once told me that too!

And that's the other point. The BBC was once the world's greatest broadcaster, but now it doesn't dare to bite the hand that feeds it. The ABC has kept its teeth, despite a much tinier budget. It's very clear about its mission being to the people of Australia rather than to the sitting government, and that's exactly how it should be.

Rather than being put at risk, its funding should be expanded and ringfenced. The ABC has shown with its embrace of the internet that it is committed to finding continually better ways of getting information out to people, and not just about emergencies and politics. Witness its wonderful ongoing series on domestic violence, or on money management. Just thinking about that work touches me to the quick: the ABC is the Australian institution of which I am most proud, by far!

Robyn P
QLD 4567

I am a 68 year old resident of Brisbane, stranded in Melbourne because of Corona virus restrictions. I'm staying with family, so I count my blessings, but I can't go home because Hotel quarantine will cost me an entire month's income.

Without the ABC and SBS life would be unbearable. The ABC gives me information I can rely on, without sensationalism, or stupid commentary. It offers me entertainment of a high standard (though these programs are becoming fewer with budget cuts). It frees me from mind-numbing advertising. And it offers me an Australia wide view of the world.

In these times, when people have so few options, funding for the ABC should be increased. Not all of us have Netflix or Foxtel, and not all of us want to watch sport. Hands off the ABC.

Robyn S
NSW 4005

My name is Robyn Trigg and I live in Islington NSW. For most of my adult life I lived in Sydney where I had a 40 + years career as a secondary teacher, an ESOL teacher of secondary new arrival students, adult migrants at TAFE, and providing tutorial academic support for overseas students at our universities. I also worked as a compliance auditor for NSW state authority VETAB and the National regulator of vocational training standards, ASQA.

I moved from Sydney to Newcastle in 2016 so that I could afford to work part-time/ casual and have some free days to assist in caring for my elderly parents to enable them to continue living in their own home rather than them being forced to move into an aged care facility.

For me and my extended family and friends, the ABC is a much loved, respected and precious National Treasure.

* It champions Australian cultural content.

* It has intelligent, capable, respectful and well educated comperes, journalists and panel hosts.

* It covers critical incident news such as the recent bushfires and serious environmental incidents in a way that no other TV or radio media do. Commercial broadcasters are missing in action but the ABC stays despite the danger and difficulties that must be controlled and overcome.

* I can rely upon the ABC for honest and open discussion and debate of political, social and cultural Matters and issues.

* The ABC including its radio networks champion Australian and Multicultural content.

* Ultimately I love and trust the ABC and I am dismayed by the way it is treated by our government. The continuous attacks on its board, its programming, its journalists and its budget are an utter disgrace.

As for the Murdoch media empire and the other giant behemoths of the landscape, I have learnt to loathe them for their self interest, political manipulation, bastardry of content and pure treachery in our country and internationally.

Your in concern and disappointment
Robyn Trigg

robyn t
NSW 2296

I work in the U.K. regularly. I've been stuck there trying to get home for months. The ABC news has been critical to me to read daily to keep in touch with what's been going on at home. Australia barely rates in foreign news coverage except the odd negative story. The ABC is the only source beaming out all the news in a balanced way. Besides helping keep me sane in these months I have been able to tell friends to look at ABC news online when they see one article alone somewhere. So they can really see the longer stories and get the full picture. This was true also in the bushfire period when a few Brits had friends they worried about. The ABC news and data on the bushfires and especially on CoVid in Oz has been a much higher standard than e.g. the BBC. Let alone any US source.

Robyn V
NSW 2009

I live in Blackheath. Just before last Christmas, the Gospers Mountain fire was bearing down on us from the north. That same fire had dropped into the Grose Valley and had become the Grose Valley fire, which was now threatening us from the east. In addition, the Ruined Castle fire at Katoomba had jumped over the Narrow Neck Plateau and was now starting to move up the Megalong Valley, which was a potential threat to us from the south and south-west.

I spent the whole of the weekend of Saturday and Sunday, December 21 and 22, with my digital radio tuned to ABC 702 Sydney, and my computer logged onto the RFS website.

Fortunately, I live on the west side of Blackheath, and was saved by a strong westerly wind, which blew up on the Saturday afternoon, and which would have blown any potential embers back down into the Grose Valley.

However, the eastern side of Blackheath was hammered by the bushfire – in particular, the area around the eastern end of Hat Hill Road.

To the north of us, Bell, Dargan, and Clarence, along with the railway infrastructure along the Darling Causeway, were being destroyed. Hartley Vale, Hartley, and Mt Victoria were all under threat. At night, the northern sky was catastrophic red. We were continually receiving text messages warning us to be ready to evacuate.

Without the timely information and updates that were provided by Simon Marnie and other announcers on ABC radio 702 Sydney, we, and so many others around the State, would have been at a total loss as to the state of the disaster in our local areas.

ABC radio is critical to all of us as our emergency radio broadcaster. It is essential that full funding be restored to the ABC to enable it to fulfil its full functions as legislated. The continued withdrawal of funding from the ABC shows a complete lack of concern by the federal government for the interests of the majority of Australians, who look to the ABC as its essential broadcaster. DOESN'T THE FEDERAL GOVERNMENT CARE, OR DOES NEOLIBERAL IDEOLOGY TAKE PRECEDENCE?

Robyne Hobson.

Robyne H

QLD 2785

As a busy GP in Brisbane I struggle to get enough time to keep abreast of the latest developments in health. I need an unbiased, careful, thoughtful, incisive analysis of the latest research. Norman Swan and his team at The Health Report deliver all this in spades.

This sort of unbiased review is utterly impossible in the private media.

During the pandemic, Coronacast has been yet another invaluable resource keeping me abreast of the latest updates without hype.

Good quality medical practice in Australia needs the ABC.

Rockley B

NSW 4075

Dear MP

I read with concern, and have heard of ongoing threats against the comprehensiveness of ABC news reporting via recent and proposed funding cuts (see below).

How refreshing and nourishing it was after switching over from years of listening to an incredibly limited range of commercial news outlets to have my awareness broadened and deepened by news being brought to us by several ABC channels.

Why on earth should we allow a diminishing of such informed, wide ranging reporting? How does that fit with a healthy, informed democratic society?

I'm also sure those most affected by the recent bushfires would very much have appreciated the ongoing and regular warnings brought to them by ABC radio.

We must maintain a news source i.e. the ABC, that is untainted by commercial and power interests to provide intelligent news and not ever serve to 'dumb down' our society.

Please support our Australian ABC and maintain healthy debate.

Thank you

Rod Grace

Rod G

NT 2210

My sole source of trustworthy news arrived courtesy of ABC News. Each morning I switch on for covid updates. The national broadcaster is also my educational vehicle be it The Mindsphere, Philosophers Zone, History Lesson, Bookshelf or Late Night Life, these are my plug in to mental expansion, irreplaceable in my timetabling.

Rod M
VIC 870

On three different occasions whilst travelling in remote Australia, we depended on the ABC radio to keep us informed on current events and weather. The ABC is essential for a well balanced reporting of news, for music, for comedy and the performing arts.

Rod O
QLD 3054

The ABC has been part of my life for 70 years I can remember the time as a child that we would have to hush up and be silent while my mother and father listen to the news and current affairs that are happening at that time. The ABC is an institution that has been relied upon and loved by the population.

Any move to reduce the role of ABC in our media should be seen that the government has a lot to hide the ABC has highlighted a number of things over the years which include the water from the Murray Darling the age care crisis and the abuse of children to name a few.

I don't want to see the conscience of Australia thrown down the gutter by the liberals

Rod R
4737

Hi,

I live by myself and I'm undergoing 6 months of medical treatment that leaves me exhausted and in pain. With Covid, I can't have friends around to help out. Yet through all the 6 months of treatment and struggle, the ABC has been my comforting company to help keep me sane. I don't trust the other propaganda tabloids masquerading as news sources. I trust the ABC.

Please increase funding to the ABC to continue to have a functioning democracy as without truly independent media we are lost.

Rod S
TAS 8011

The ABC has credibility. They set high standard trends which other media don't follow. With our ABC we don't get cash for comment and they haven't been involved in child abduction.

The ABC does extraordinary work in early and mid child programming and education.

Rodney C
VIC 7018

See above

Rodney S
VIC 3461

I wake in the morning to the ABC news. During the bush fires I was able to keep abreast of the fires while on holiday. During the Covid crisis I have also relied on the ABC for good coverage and critical reporting of the events and activities in an unbiased way in programs such as the drum involving experts from across the country.

I trust the ABC far more than other services and the poor performance of our print media.

Roger B
NSW 3182

Since I was able to read/listen to the ABC News and Current Affairs, I have always relied on the broadcaster for; honest, reliable and trustworthy news.

This means that my age of 71 I have been dedicated to the ABC for much greater than 50+ years and the way the government is interfering into the ABC, displays some form of right wing product like the broadcaster Fox which is a conservative news platform specifically to reinforce a bias and non partisan viewpoint.

What is now essential is for a national body ICAC immediately that is independent from the government.

Roger G

NSW 2487

I am an Aged Pensioner living in a rural area.

I used to be able to rely on the ABC's emergency broadcasts in times of emergency. Not any more - due to the funding cuts.

The ABC is THE only trusted source of information now.

The funding cuts MUST be reversed.

Roger S

NSW 2479

THE ABC as a independent critical voice in a biased monopolised media landscape is more important than ever. It was the 2019 -2020 bushfires ABC reports that made that clear for me. They kept me informed about the situation with the Updated facts. Now with Covid 19, the same applies, facts and critical analysis, not merely headlines. We need more independence in media not less. But the Liberals agenda, is about cut backs to silence the truth that damages their electoral hopes for reelection.

Roger W

VIC 2208

My wife and I left our home in Central Victoria at the end of June to spend time with our family in Byron Bay and Brisbane.

For the whole time we have been away we have been able to keep abreast of all the accurate news and changing conditions through ABC radio and TV, which has been accurate and consistent throughout and will also inform us about events in our home state and when it will be safest to return.

On a previous return trip from Queensland late last year, with bushfires raging all around, we were also able to rely on the ABC for information for our safe travel, with it's uninterrupted bushfire information broadcasting.

Roger W

VIC 3463

THE ABC LITERALLY SAVED LIVES OVER THE SUMMER. They need to be funded, supported and valued! I used their lifesaving reporting to figure out where to go, where was safe, and how to help my fellow Australians.

Romy A

NSW 3054

Our radio is permanently left on the ABC. As far back as I can remember, I've listened to the ABC. In recent times the ABC has kept me informed about the situation with bushfires. I also enjoy the bipartisan approach that the ABC exemplifies in its programs. Most of all I trust the ABC to tell the truth.

Ron E

VIC 2782

The ABC is virtually the only TV news organisation in Australia that is doing significant investigative work that holds government and its various institutions as well as the Church and big business to account. We would be a far more corrupt society without the ABC.

Ron E

TAS 3161

I have been listening and relying on the ABC for uplifting news and entertainment since 1936- when I was 5 years old. I hope it continues long after I am gone.

Ron H

WA 7150

We have always relied upon the ABC both on TV and on line as the most reliable source of up to date news. This has become even more important during the corona virus outbreak when one cannot rely on private enterprise media for in depth , unbiased reporting.

ron r
QLD 6157

At the age of 87 and still working, the shutting down of cinemas with the threat of covid-19 was inevitable. I relied as so many others do on the ABC for reports and information about this pandemic. The ABC is such an important institution to all Australians and needs to be properly funded so that important information can be seen and heard by a vast number of people. The coverage given during this ongoing pandemic should be ample proof that the ABC coverage is of great value to the community. A lot of people were much more affected than I but the loss of the small amount of money did have an effect on me as did the loss of contact with many people. So many have been forced into difficult positions due to the effects of this virus that the States and Federal governments have been able to make some very difficult decisions and alleviate a lot of the stress. Following on the heels of the devastating bushfires, this has not been easy. The Governments should be applauded for the way in which they have handled this pandemic and continue to do so. That some members of the public have acted irresponsibly and put people into danger is, to me, appalling behaviour and should be dealt with appropriately and severely. As cinemas are now open again I am grateful that I can resume working as the physical exercise and contact with people is for me beneficial in many ways.

Ron W
VIC 4569

As a rural resident of Greater Bendigo we have relied on the ABC during the coronavirus crisis to keep us informed about our obligations to our local community and the state?

Living in a rural area and opposite a state forest area we rely on our local ABC in times of bush fires, or other disasters to keep us fully informed?

We are depended on the ABC to hold those in power accountable at times when deception is easily overlooked?

The ABC helps keeps the political establishment honest

The ABC helps us stay connected through its drama, music, comedy and commitment to Australian stories? These cultural events keep us connected with others and our culture

Ron and Sandra R
NSW 3515

The ABC has meant a "lifeline" to the outside world for me. I lived for 35 years remotely and relied heavily on the ABC for information /news/mental stimulation. The "Life Matters" program was especially helpful as it discussed everyday issues that affect us all eventually, especially child rearing issues living in isolation . The family you have when you don't have a family! Since then , I rely heavily on ABC for facts and info during catastrophic events. I am in the Shoalhaven, which burnt significantly for 3 months. The ABC is the only media we can rely on. More funding is needed, not less. Save our ABC pleeeeeeeeee!!!

ronald r
NSW 2539

The ABC, particularly ABC radio, is my source for accurate updates on air quality, science and health reporting. When I drove to Manyana to stay with my godchildren for a few days, we were able to avoid Covid-19 hotspots because the ABC had up to date info on where the virus was on its website.

There's a vast difference between a national broadcaster and a oligarchy of commercial broadcasters. Please do not cripple the national broadcaster.

Ronnith M
NSW 2131

This year has been an extraordinary year for all of us. I, for one could not have coped as well as I have without the ABC - both radio and TV. Being an 'older' Australian I need the TRUTH, the honest FACTS and I want it NOW! Trust in the ABC make allows for wise decisions to be made, forming action plans when needed and gives me confidence when discussing current affairs etc with others. Commercial radio and TV with their 'sensationalism' journalism is not what Australia (including me) needs. Please don't destroy our National Broadcaster!

Ros H
VIC 2903

As a school leader, the ABC has been a vital part of my day, keeping me abreast of the latest developments as they transpire. This timely information has been vital to managing the logistics of running a school.

Rosa M
VIC 3802

My name is Rosa Morstyn and I live In Melbourne. I am a passionate listener to the ABC, including radio, TV and podcasts.

My main source of news and commentary is the ABC, as I find the Murdoch press very biased and does not reflect my values.

Without the ABC I would be very frustrated and unhappy, as the information received from the ABC is one of the very few reliable and thoughtful sources of news and analysis.

The ABC reflects a 'better' Australia, a fairer and more compassionate Australia. Certain governments may feel the ABC is critical of them and should therefore have their funding cut, but to me, the ABC helps every government be a better version of themselves and encourages the powerful groups in society be more fair, thoughtful and hence in the long run be more effective and stronger.

Every political orientation should encourage these discussions that the ABC brings to us all.

Please do not disappoint the people of Australia by steadily defunding The best news and entertainment organisation in Australia. I want my fairly high taxes to go to the ABC as it gives me so much knowledge and understanding in return.

Let's be proud to have intelligent discussion in Australia

Sincerely

Rosa Morstyn

Rosa M

WA 3006

*I have always depended on the ABC for factual and balanced report on what is happening both in Australia and the rest of the world.

* We cannot afford to have our news fed to us through channels that can be influenced by outside interests.

* In previous years when bush fires have threatened the town of Balingup, ABC cover has provided the information we needed to be ready to act.

* My youngest daughter is now living in Melbourne and it is reassuring to have news that is neither playing down or dramatising the situation.

* Without fear or favour of those in power the ABC has held accountable the deception of those who abuse their position.

* Sadly the dear old Aunty ABC, through repeated funding cuts, is no longer the woman she once was. Gone are Let's join in and Story time which were once proudly shared with Papua and New Guinea and nurturing our relationships. We need to build the ABC up to its former glory. not cut it down further.

* My pre budget submission is to give the ABC back the funding that has been stripped from it.

Rosalind B

NSW 6253

The ABC has always been there for me but even more so during the 2019- 2020 Bush Fires and then again during the lock down of Covid-19. It would have been unthinkable during these crisis not to have been able to turn to ABC for news, for warnings, for information and then of course the distraction of entertainment.

My bias is heavily weighted towards radio. Ever since I came to Australia over 50 years ago it has meant a growing understanding of this country. It helped me settle and then feel part of Australia.

I am in awe of the really amazing broadcasters and the wide range of topics. I don't love every broadcaster or topic but there is such a wide variety it doesn't present a problem and certainly doesn't worry me. In fact there is so much to listen to I can't possibly cover it all.

Some broadcasters have become as familiar as family members and I feel anxious if they are not there one week and am relieved when they return.

Some broadcasters are truly very special and I admire deeply their wit, their humour, their good nature and balance.

In my mind any cutting back or diminishing the ABC would be a criminal act against the Australian people.

Yours faithfully

Rosalind Gillespie

Rosalind G

VIC 2090

As a recently widowed, self-employed person, working from home since March, I depend on the ABC in my isolation. I listen to the news broadcasts but also to wonderful programs that keep me in touch with what is happening in the world. During the next 6 weeks shutdown it will be the ABC keeping me informed and in company. I trust the presenters in a way I could not trust someone motivated by commercial concerns.

Rosalind T
VIC 3182

I live in a retirement village in south east Melbourne. For most of my life I have relied on the ABC because they provide both comprehensive and unbiased coverage of events locally, nationally and internationally.

This year such news coverage has been especially important given the global pandemic of coronavirus. I rely on the ABC to give me the facts and to inform me of what restrictions are in place; they also provide analysis which makes it easier to understand why those restrictions must occur.

The ABC's coverage of the pandemic is particularly important in these times when so much misinformation is making its way onto social media platforms and commercial stations sacrifice accuracy for the sake of a story.

I know many of the people who live in my retirement village of over 200 people rely on the ABC to get accurate up to date information on the pandemic and the restrictions that are in place in metropolitan Melbourne. In addition my two primary aged grandchildren who have been remote learning for most of the year have relied on the ABC's education programs to make remote learning more enjoyable.

Family members who live in NSW and North Queensland also rely on the ABC for news not just about what applies in their state but around Australia and I often receive phone calls from them as a consequence of news they have heard on the ABC about what is happening in Victoria.

In a world where hostile states spread misinformation to destabilise democracies like Australia having a reliable source of information is critical. The ABC fills this role and without it our way of life would be under threat therefore the Government's continued support and funding for the ABC is critical in these challenging times.

Rosalind V
VIC 3178

The ABC is the only news source I go to when major issues arise in the world and locally. I have watched ABC news non stop since the summer fire season and now the pandemic. I know that I can rely on quality and , competent, and regular updates.

The ABC is a critical service and MUST be supported adequately to continue to produce local content and news.

Rosalind W
ACT 3182

The ABC provides a positive and up to date news coverage as an alternative to sensationalist programs on free to air television. It is deeply important to me that programs for both news and entertainment have diverse casts and depict women and diverse groups fairly, there is no obligation for other channels to do this, allowing them to be lazy in their approaches to casting and awareness of social needs.

It was wonderful to see the increased coverage of womens sport by the ABC, shining light on a hugely under acknowledged group of sports people who work significantly harder than their male counterparts to be successful in their sport while also maintaining other paid employment and without the grassroots support offered to young boys.

Finally, the ABC provides quality and diverse children's programming and have taken risks in their choices to allow families to see themselves more fairly represented, the success of such is demonstrated in the hugely successful Bluey program. It can be difficult to find shows for my young sons that depict women and minority groups fairly, and there is research to link the stereotypical representation of women with domestic violence.

By cutting ABC funding the government is directly contributing to stereotypical understandings and attitudes in the media.

Rose L
VIC 2611

The ABC is my one source of truth, for fair balanced reporting. When I lived in the Mitchell Shire during the Black Saturday bushfires it was the ABC EVERYONE listened to, they were the voice that gave us clear, calm information. Not hysterical sensationalising.

If the Government continues to buckle under Murdoch's wishes to take over the ABC programmes, I will never forget or forgive.

Rose M
NSW 3223

My name is Rose and I live in the Northern parts of Melbourne. I am a teacher. This issue matters enormously to me and many others.

The ABC is one of the most important things that keeps me happy in Australia. I 100% rely on the ABC for coronavirus info, for bushfires, in terms of air pollution around my suburb and for a great many other reasons. I very much relied on the ABC to hold those in power accountable at a time when deception appeared to be so easily overlooked. I rely on the ABC to hold those in power accountable at a time when deception is easily overlooked. The ABC help me stay connected through its drama, music, comedy and commitment to Australian stories. I love the ABC. The ABC has always been there for me and for the students I teach. The ABC is there for all my family members and friends.

I demand no cuts be made to the ABC in the October 2020-21 budget. I also demand any funding that was cut to be restored. Funding needs to increase. Stop cutting my ABC. Stop cutting funds to OUR ABC. We are lucky to have such a wonderful group of journalists and those who support them within the ABC. We MUST look after our ABC and ensure that it not only survives but thrives!

Rose S
NSW 2074

Without the ABC life's not worth going on!!

Roselyn W
NSW 2480

I live in Leura in the Blue Mts. During the bushfires of December/ January one particular horrifying night stands out, when the winds pushing the fires north towards the Blue Mountains were estimated to meet up with fires coming from the northwest in Katoomba/ Leura around 2 am.

All through the night, I & my friends listened to Radio Sydney, giving us regular, accurate updates on the progress of the fires. I knew some of the ABC people, with familiar voices, including Richard Glover, had been rostered on to keep us company & reassured throughout. I will never forget that night. We made it through with not a second's sleep, but accompanied by cheerful familiar ABC people who unfailingly lifted our spirits by providing constant, reliable, factual reports.

That's just one instance of my faith in & love for the ABC. It is always on at my house... for the variety of accurate information & entertainment it provides, there is no need to listen to anything else.

rosemary b
VIC 2780

The ABC is an absolute necessity for sharing information in an intelligent manner. It is socially inclusive and fair in its judgement, from foreign affairs, Four Corners investigations, virus reports, weather, and all other programmes like Ahns Brush with Fame. Programmes are not run by bullies and climate deniers, and continual interference from advertising. Its work is a shining example of what needs doing in the public good. Cut its funding at our peril!

Rosemary C
NSW 3142

My submission to the Government regarding the ABC is passionate, heartfelt and sincere. During the bush fires, from our home in North-west Sydney, we listened intently to reports regarding the proximity of the Gospels Mountain fire. Already stressed and anxious it was only the ABC who was able to deliver clear, timely information as to what was happening. In other parts it saved lives. A fantastic effort and unique.

The ABC quickly developed excellent educational programs for online learning for students excluded from school due to Covid 19. In general the ABC produces high quality TV for children year round and now that is diminishing due to funding cuts.

There are fewer journalists able to present their factual reports on matters of national and international interest. They can't afford to employ them anymore and our nation is diminished. From being a stand-out democracy where people could be heard we have sunk (and still sinking) to a second rate democracy, where fairness is not championed so easily because the ABC is being choked to death by ever sinking funding.

I believe that the ABC is the reason why Australia has till now been a robust democracy where wrongdoings, wherever they occur have been able to be called out through ABC independent reporting.

Lastly we were suffering in our entertainment options as the ABC could no longer (still can't) afford to provide the rich choices which were once available. ABC TV has developed the brilliant i-View and SBS on Demand options. Where would we be without those? Sadly little funding is available yet for producing quality home grown TV. Our children are forced to watch American shows and beginning to speak like Americans! Thank goodness for 'BLUEY'!

Australia is a unique society and the ABC plays a crucial role in building social cohesion. It must be adequately funded or we all lose.

Rosemary C
ACT 2156

I've found the ABC a vital lifeline during the pandemic, not only keeping us informed but guiding us to supporting services when we need extra help. It's an Australian icon, recognised as essential by the population.

rosemary d
NSW 2614

The ABC has been at the core of my access to reliable information through the bushfires over the summer, and access to accurate information in the ongoing COVID19 crisis. Norman Swan's honest and thoughtful coverage is typical of the thoughtful, intelligent analysis of news and information that has been an island of calm amongst what can only be described as months of stress and anxiety that comes out of the ABC.

The ABC is also a critical source of programming for young children that is educational and appropriate in terms of entertainment. It is the one mainstream media outlet that makes the depiction of Australians, Australian culture and life a priority, for the sake of our cultural identity, not just because it can earn advertising revenue. Australia needs that. Australians deserve no less.

Governments don't like intelligent scrutiny and the Australian people are not stupid, they know that and they will interpret further cuts to the ABC as a political tactic to avoid scrutiny. Only politicians with something to hide would object to open, and direct analysis of policy and its implementation.

Rosemary D
VIC 2153

Being a pensioner with a disability and living in country Victoria I am extremely concerned with the proposed changes to the ABC. This year more than ever before I have relied on the ABC for company, information and education. I am extremely concerned that with the upcoming bush fire season and living in an area that has been devastated before by fire I am concerned about what may befall us this coming fire season.

The daily information provided through the ABC is vital to my feeling of security and well-being. I have the TV on from early morning to late at night. During the COVID 19 I have taken comfort in the fact that Prime minister and Premier Daniel Andrews along with health officials have been able to give full briefings daily on the current conditions. I have watched all other news and current affairs to understand the nuanced debates around the issues of COVID just as I did with the Bush fires in 2019-20. It must be a priority of government to secure and increase the amount of funding so that I as well as many other's like me can make appropriate choices about if and when to leave with up to the minute information. I do not want to rely on communication through telephone.

There were any number of short comings with communication during the fires if you were in a "hot zone". I do not want any more lives lost or families worrying about people like me and taking risks to secure my safety. Thank you

Rosemary G
VIC 3277

It is absolutely critical that the ABC is well funded. It does a critical role in many areas but the one that stands out for me is its consistent and reliable emergency reporting during bushfires. I had to evacuate three times during the fires this summer and could not have coped as well I did without the voices of the ABC keeping me and everyone in the district up to date and connected. Knowing they were there broadcasting emergency warnings as needed gave me the confidence and knowledge to make an informed decision as to when to leave each time.

Ro Gooch, Nicholson Vic.

Rosemary G
QLD 3882

This year the ABC's Radio National programs have been indispensable to me and my family. The Coronacast has been just excellent. And on the Economic side of things the program called "The Economists" provided informed, on-point, and easy to understand information about how the economy might survive the pandemic. It was very reassuring.

Added to these two new programs are the stalwarts: The World Today, Saturday Extra, Big Ideas, The History Listen and Late Night Live. All these programs are characterized by having top quality guests from University Professors to Leading Economists and Political Experts so that we know the information is current, objective, informed and accurate. You simply don't get this calibre of program on the For Profit media outlets.

Then there's the excellent programming that helps us all stay forward looking and hopeful: The Science Show, The Music Show, Blue Print for Living, The MineField and All In The Mind. Intelligent, thoughtful and well crafted programs that feed our minds and our spirits without trying to sell us anything.

Australians need the ABC. It gives us the information we need to cope with the calamities, injustices and uncertainty of modern life. Please don't kill Aunty.

Rosemary G
NSW 4350

I live in regional New South Wales, 23 kilometers from the nearest post office, about 15 kilometers from the nearest shop. Mobile 'phone coverage is only available from Optus using 3g on 'phones with strong reception. My land-line telephone is subject to fail in flood or fire (and has done so on several occasions) and with it my internet connection. There are critical times, such as storm or bushfire, when I am totally dependent on radio. T^he ABC provides an excellent trustworthy service, that I can rely on. I could not feel the same confidence in a commercially provided service. Equally, when the internet is available, I depend on the ABC as the only totally trustworthy provider of accurate and unbiased news.

Yours faithfully

Rosemary Knight

179 Buralong Valley Road, Murrays Run,

Rosemary,Morrow,2780,rowemorrow@gmail.com,The wonder and security of having the ABC in pandemics and in fires and whatever is coming next....I work in refugee camps across the world and with the advent of covid-19 many many of our food projects had to close down. This has caused suffering and disaster for many refugees as well as the poor people of Bangladesh and the Philippines. It is THE ABC when I have gone for reliable pandemic data to redevelop projects. Without that I would be all at sea!

In addition Dr Norman Swan with his extreme integrity giving us the changes in knowledge and research on covid-19 has been invaluable. What a wonderful wonderful service not to be a victim of opinions which can cause such damage. The back in the bushfires in the Blue Mountains it was the ABC which integrated and regularly reported on the fires i.e. really our safety from moment to moment. No cuts and a bigger budget...BLESS THE ABC

Rosemary K

WA 2325

My name is Rosemary Seneviratne and I live in Western Australia. I am a mother, grandmother and greatgrandmother. My daughter and her family all reside in Melbourne as well as many close friends and relatives. The ABC keeps me updated with regular details of the situation in Melbourne re Covid-19.

It also helped tremendously in the reporting of recent Bush Fires especially when I was worried for family and friends living in Bush Fire areas.

I also depend on the ABC for comprehensive and accurate newsworthy items re political, social, historic and other happenings in Australia and around the world.

Funding cuts to this important and truly independent organisation will only result in diminishing standards of factual and ethical journalism. Many of us will deeply mourn the loss of its unique value to our Community and the Nation.

Rosemary S

VIC 6051

Throughout this dreadful year I have totally relied on the ABC to give exceptional news. During January and February it was the ABC who gave consistent and reliable news.

Since the start of the pandemic Dr Norman Swan and the Coronavirus live blog have again given extraordinary levels of excellent coverage. We desperately need to keep the ABC fully funded.

Rosemary T

NSW 3079

In late 2019 and early 2020, my Canberra home was blanketed in very thick smoke. It meant that it was unrealistic to go outside unless it was completely necessary. It gave a feeling of anxious unreality to everything.

In that situation, being able to rely on the ABC for information about what was happening and the level of danger we were in, was crucial. The ABC and the Canberra Times were places of sanity in a strange world.

During the "big smoke", my daughter and I both got very sick and needed to have 4 courses of antibiotics to shake off the heavy coughs we had. It was very in keeping with the level of smoke but later, through the ABC and the Canberra Times, we realized that Australia was being invaded by the Corona virus. Since then, we have wondered if we both had the virus back then or if we had chest infections due to the smoke. We are both well now.

In sickness and in health, the ABC was a source of accurate information. I felt so sorry for those who rely on the shock jocks for information as they were pumping out misinformation at least some of the time. I wonder if we should have laws that disallow that kind of misinformation during pandemics and bushfires as lies can cost lives or, as they used to say during WWII, "loose lips sink ships."

I don't feel a great sense of confidence in the Government as a source of information. I think the Government has relied more on scientists for guidance during the Covid19 crisis but they are completely willing to ignore scientific accuracy regarding climate change. The poor performance of the Prime Minister during the bushfires was due (I believe) to his surly realization that his nonsensical approach to climate change was literally going up in flames while the nation watched.

Knowing how variable the Government can be in relying on science, I am very grateful to have the intelligent, responsible, well-informed people at the ABC so we can get reliable information. I feel very worried about the steady reduction in funds to the ABC because a government that wants to reduce access to facts could be a government that is working towards having a dictatorship.

When we look at what is happening in the USA, we can see how easily a nation can slide away from democracy, away from facts and into a whirlwind of mixed up nonsense that confuses many people. President Trump uses a technique similar to the shock jocks of giving rambling rants with little connection to reality while dismissing any attempts to discuss the facts as being "fake news." For poorly educated people, this can give a feeling of hopelessness, where they just accept that there are no facts that they can access. Apparently Putin uses a similar technique in Russia, though he speaks much more coherently and has more dignity than Trump.

I have been very grateful that the ABC provided the talks by Norman Swann to help ground us in reality. I am grateful for the ABC news services and programs like the 7.30 Report and The Drum. The ABC is a credit to this nation. I am so proud of it and feel we are so lucky to have it.

Rosemary W
QLD 2913

As in every other year since I moved from a capital city to a small regional town, the ABC network in 2020 has been a very significant aspect of my daily life. Every morning I tune into either Radio National or News Breakfast for at least 2 hours, and then throughout the day I am listening on and off to Radio National while I work on my B&B business or conduct my carer duties. In the evening, invariably I tune into ABC television programs. Many years ago, I stopped watching commercial television due to the irritating ads and because my interests align so closely with ABC programming.

I regard the ABC as a highly reliable information source; as a terrific source of entertainment; and consider its current availability as critical to my overall mental stimulation and on-going education. It is of priceless value to me - and many others I know, especially those in rural and regional areas. While my area has so far been spared from the ravages of bushfire destruction and of Covid-19, my understanding of the associated issues largely comes from the national broadcaster.

Please DO NOT subject the services to further cuts - some things in a civilised, civil society are worth subsidising and ensuring a high level of access to all Australian residents.

Rosie F
VIC 4600

Hello,

I am a young Australian and find it hard to rely on various new sources to tell me whats really happening around the globe right now. The ABC highlights voices from around our country, provides a forum for people to debate and discuss ideas and issues and for me is a trusted news source.

We have so many pieces of information put in our faces all the time now, please continue to fund one source that is funded by the people and is there to support the people. We need the ABC now more than ever to bring people together and create an understanding of whats happening around our country.

Rosie H
VIC 3095

The ABC covered the bushfires so well. If we lose it we'll have nothing

Rosie p
NSW 3156

The ABC is my [our]channel. Apart from SBS it's the only channel we watch . News 7.30...Four Corners Australian and British Drama.The reporting of the bush fires was amazing and important to us as we have a small property down the South coast...we needed to know what was happening apart from concern about every community. Norman Swan has been so incredible with his information about Corvd 19 . We need more funding not LESS! In these troubled times the ABC has been invaluable in its terrific and honest reporting.Thank you .

Rosie S
NSW 2088

I turn on the ABC first thing every morning to get the latest news and I dip in and out all day, depending on what I am doing. This has been a terrible year with drought, fires and smoke haze followed by the uncertainties and isolation of Covid-19. More than ever I need to know what is happening and am more dependent than ever on the ABC to feel informed and connected.

I listen to the news and to the background to the news, starting with Fran Kelly interviewing politicians of all persuasions and experts in fields relevant to the topics of the day. On Saturday mornings I listen to Geraldine Doogue and her assembled experts from here and abroad.

I am very grateful to be able to learn so much about what is happening in our world in a balanced and rational way. There is so much misinformation being peddled now and so many vested interests vying for attention.

The ABC has no agenda and I trust it. It is a valued friend who I rely on for information and companionship.

Roslyn B
QLD 2047

Life without our ABC would be unbearable. During disasters such as the last horrific bushfire season, they are the go to trusted source of critical information. Since the beginning of the Corona virus epidemic, we simply could not get sufficient factual information to enable us to do what we can to stay safe without it. Although I read and watch a number of news sources, I always come back to compare the "information" with the most reliable and trusted ABC. For news, indepth analysis and wonderful entertainment, nothing compares with the ABC. It must be preserved for the good of the nation.

Roslyn M
WA 4560

#REF!

Every night or at least most nights, I will turn on the ABC for news I can trust. I listen to ABC podcasts, I enjoy watching Leigh Sales from time to time, I depend on Gardening Australia as my soul depends on it, Sammy J is a lifeline. I have been watching ABC probably since I was born, so for quite a long time. We watched Behind the News at school which was paramount to my education. The ABC has been providing such a broad range of topical issues and mostly unbiased, far ranging reporting. It is truly my lifeline to the world and making informed decisions about life. The ABC needs to be fully funded and supported.

Roslyn Y
QLD 3158

Over the years and decades, I have essentially lost my enthusiasm for commercial TV and Radio and have more and more tuned into and relied upon ABC to provide a service free from the brashness and trickiness associated with corporate and political influence. I consider the ABC to be an essential service and part of Australia's cultural character. I listen daily to ABC Classic as an important calming and soothing element to my life.

Ross B
NSW 4882

I depend on ABC News for balanced reporting of the news - and for some entertainment without lots of ads.

Ross E
NSW 2298

I am an avid ABC listener and watcher .Common sense and very good staff.No BS!! I am appalled at the attempt to defund them.I am specially impressed at their honesty in the age of Trump!! from Ross Jones

Ross J
ACT 2086

This year when fires surrounded our land and the internet and phones crashed the ABC was still providing information crucial to our property's defence. Thankfully we survived but only due to a couple of fortuitous wind changes, the RFS and ABC. The ABC is our go to for accurate news, weather and for fine Australian drama and now is fostering Australian music when it is having a hard time with no live gigs. I would think it is crucial to increase funding to not only create employment but to maintain current jobs.

Yours Sincerely Ross Martin Cooma NSW

Ross M
NSW 2630

I firmly rely on the ABC for all of my news I can trust not just the sensational fare from other broadcasters. During the recent fire season we had burnt gum leaves landing on our property. Who did we trust for advance notice? The ABC. I am 75 years young and have arrived at this age always believing in the ABC's trusted sources and will definitely affect my next voting choice if it is affected by cuts. I know there are so many requests for funding at this time but please don't remove one constant we have at this terrible time.

Ross R
VIC 2250

Have you been to America over the past 12 months, their news is highly sensational and riddled with ads from pharmaceutical companies pushing drugs with huge legal disclaimers associated with it- is very difficult for normal people to access real news. If the UK can fund the BBC then Australia can fund the ABC- it is not acceptable to defund the ABC.

Rowena L
VIC 3188

I have relied on the ABC DAILY for reliable, non-sensationalist information on Covid19 - especially data analysis tracking the growth and decline of the virus in Australia and other countries. This helped me make sense of the situation and manage to keep functioning psychologically. I also used this graphic information to explain the situation to my students, who are studying English for Academic Purposes (all online since March 21). They commented about how helpful this information was, comparing it favourably with information that they got from their own countries' national broadcasters. By contrast, I have kept finding sensationalism on commercial broadcasters' reports on Covid 19, which doesn't help. Lastly, The Health Report by Dr Norman Swan also helped - especially in the early days to teach me about what researchers had just found out about how the virus works and what that meant for ordinary people, using everyday language.

Rowena M
NSW 3015

When the bushfires began in the Nth Rivers region this time last year local ABC was the only media covering what later became a national disaster. Rural and region ABC is our lifeline to truth.

Roy S
WA 2480

Here in Perth, we rely on the ABC Perth Radio & ABC TV for news & Dr Norman Swann for an update on Covid-19

Roy S
QLD 6169

ABC has been there throughout my entire life from growing up in New England NSW, to Nanango QLD to many Cities. In 2020 especially offering some needed relief with shows like The Weekly with Charlie Pickering, Rosehaven, At Home Alone Together, You Can't Ask That. Great Australian Drama shows like Stateless, Mystery Road, just to name a few. Then to be informed by 4 Corners & ABC News especially updates of the raging Summer Fires to Covid-19. ABC has always been there and the Federal Government always needs to fully fund the network. It should never be Privatised. ABC is for all Australians & should be fully funded with our Taxes. Never pull the plug on the ABC.

Roz K
VIC 4053

I constant;y rely on the ABC, not only for unbiased news, but for up to date emergency information.

We had decided that this was the year that we would treat ourselves to a caravan trip around our great country – The Big Lap.

Thanks to ABC updates we postponed our trip slightly and were able to plan a re-route to avoid the bushfires. In late March we were in Victor Harbour, S.A. and were just about to head off to the Eyre Peninsula when the ABC let us know that borders were closing and so we were able to immediately head home, and so not only avoided hefty fines, but also were able to do our bit to stop the spread of this awful virus.

There is no other vehicle that we know of that provides this kind of timely and thorough information.

Rubin M

WA 3136

The ABC is the only news source I rely on daily on TV, Radio or Internet. It helps me stay connected through news, current affairs and documentaries. In this day and age, with all the fake news sites promoted by enthusiastic amateurs or vested interest groups, the ABC is more vital than ever. The ABC cuts through all the emotion and sensationalism and presents the facts and lets me make up my own mind. Very important at a time when we are facing a pandemic. Presents the facts. Dr Norman Swan and other experts. Very helpful to keep us informed.

Rupesh S

NT 6153

I have relied on the ABC every day of 2020. It is my chief source of fact-based news and current affairs, whether on TV or by way of Radio National. It has become more vital in this most turbulent of times to offset the rise of fake news and malign forces that seek to divide us. It is also my chief source of entertainment telling Australian stories and reaching out to the entirety of the nation in a way that no other media do. A lasting memory is of ABC journalists - many of them I suspect on their holidays - being on the front line of the minute by minute coverage of the bushfires early in the year. Motivated not by profit and self-interest but by the national interest and an ethos of public service. If as the Australian Constitution reminds us, we are a Commonwealth, then the ABC lies very much at its core. Support the ABC and fund it appropriately. It is the patriotic thing to do.

Russell Hogg

Russell H

TAS 4059

In 2019 fire time the ABC was crucial in my planning about keeping myself and family members safe from fires. The updates were important while I was in Tasmania with a shack at Tods Corner, Great Lake and when I was travelling through unfamiliar areas in country Victoria and NSW during January 2020.

During the NW Tas Covid outbreak, the ABC updates helped us stay alert, and gave us knowledge of the areas we could visit and activities we could do.

I fear the local news and call in radio about local topics will fall by the way side and it seems to be already impacted by years of cuts. I feel I can trust the ABC and get the facts. Other news stations aren't as informative or regular.

The ABC needs more funding for National, International and Local news.

Russell Horton

russell h

VIC 7315

The ABC was the only reliable news service we could depend on during the recent bushfires for our property in East Gippsland. This service was outside their normal broadcasting program and they need more funding because bushfires are forecast to become more frequent in the future.

Russell J

TAS 3188

Stop cutting the funding to the ABC.

In fact, INCREASE it!

The ABC and SBS are the only reliable media sources left in Australia keeping us informed and safe.

All the Telstra, NBN and emergency radio systems failed and ONLY the ABC and SBS was there to keep bushfire victims and towns informed of what was happening, and when and where to go.

The ABC is the only source of honest and independant investigative journalism and must be protected, rather than persecuted.

Russell L

TAS 7321

Because I have very low vision,with one eye blind and ten percent vision in the other,I rely heavily on radio to keep me abreast of event and politics in my local community and in national and international arenas.

Radio,I-Phone and TV,with audio description, keeps me informed and enables me ,in spite of my disability,to join in knowledgeable conversation with family and friends.

I am passionate in my view that the ABC is a national treasure in providing unbiased commentary on important political and lifestyle issues in a world bombarded with "alternative facts" and conspiracy theories.

The ABC radio programs and podcasts are truly a big part of my everyday life and an important and necessary asset to our democracy and as such should be generously financed by any government.

Ruth B

NSW 7275

The ABC is my go to station for the most accurate and politically balanced reporting

I have relied on the ABC during the coronavirus crisis, seeking accurate up to date information throughout the day.

I have also relied on the ABC in times of bushfires, floods and other disasters.

The ABC was the best 'go to' station for educational content for children at any time but this was way more significant during the demands of Home Schooling.

I have relied on the ABC to hold those in power accountable at a time when deception is easily overlooked.

And I love that the ABC reflects back the Australian culture to us.

Ruth C

WA 2829

Every day I listen to the ABC right through to the early hours of the morning. It keeps me up to date with world affairs and they have the best news reports and weather and kept us informed when fire was raging close to our town. I love every minute of the ABC, particularly the night programmes. It is a wonderful institution that we should all be proud of and deserves more funding!!!

Ruth C

NSW 6507

There's no drama in my story, no sensational highlights. Just a long standing trust that goes back to childhood. The ABC was what we listened to, learnt from, trusted, in the good times and the bad and the ordinary. Want to know what's happening? Turn to the ABC. We learnt from experience that if the ABC said something was so, it was so.

Ruth C

VIC 2320

The ABC has been an essential Australian National Broadcaster for the following reasons:

- *accurately informs the public in times of crisis eg Covid 19, bushfire reports and other disasters
- *TV programs without commercials and commercial vested interests
- *wonderful childrens programs
- *Australian produced programs and movies, therefore giving employment to local artists
- *amazing podcasts eg the Heath Report etc that keep the public informed on a range of topics

Ruth E
NSW 3150

ABC Wollongong we absolutely wonderful keeping the information on the fires current and succinct. The only source we could rely on.
The only radio we ever listen to is ABC.
I just can't imagine life without the ABC.

Ruth G
VIC 2535

Listening for the latest flood forecasts and river heights in our flood prone area. Listening to find out if the fires are close enough that the CFA member of the household is likely to be called out.
Nowadays listening to find out what the latest news on this wretched covid 19 is.
Thank goodness we have our ABC.
We need our ABC to not only entertain. We need our ABC to keep us factually informed.
We need our ABC to help educate us.
We need our ABC because we know we can trust what we are hear.
We need our ABC to keep us all, right across the country, safe.

As has been shown yet again, in our society no-one can live on nothing.
We must have a fully funded, fully staffed ABC.
The pandemic has hammered that home very clearly.

Ruth H
ACT 3678

Through 2020, fires, hail and COVID-19 the ABC news has always been reliable and measured and my only source of news on radio and television. Apart from news my source of solace has been ABC Classic. This station and the wonderful music takes me away from the problems of the day and is a source of relaxation. Thank you ABC Classic and your wonderful presenters!

Ruth H
QLD 2602

the ABC is important to Australia as we need a good, reliable Public Broadcaster especially in times of crisis which the bushfires and coronaviris have given us this year. It is unrealistic to expect commercial television to provide the national coverage that only the ABC can do properly. Also the ABC does good investigative journalism that the commercial stations do not do and which is very important. Sadly, I am convinced the federal government does not like the ABC as much as many Australians.

ruth j
TAS 4051

I start every day reading, getting the news on my ABC app.
I finish every day on ABC TV.
I trust it. I'm entertained by it. I'm informed by it. And ofcourse there are no ads. Such a relief.
My 98 year old mother never changes the channel. Always the ABC. And if she can't sleep at night ABC Radio keeps her calm.

ruth m
VIC 7112

Do not cut the ABC - we rely on it for up to date current information , especially during times of disaster: Bushfires, floods, Covid developments - IT IS VITAL, AN ESSENTIAL SERVICE.

Also for Australian radio, TV shows, general news, local news. Unpaid stories, investigative reporting.

All of these are vital

Ruth M
VIC 3000

The ABC has been a great thing for me while I've been in lockdown it have the most reliable news in Australia and endless entertainment that you can binge they have the best Aussie dramas

Ryder W
NSW 3350

I am a retired lawyer and live in Pymble NSW. I normally spend a lot of time travelling, I research and write travel blogs, and belong to several discussion groups.

I am most distressed at the cuts to the ABC budget over the years, and I demand that your government commit to restoring ABC funding, and undertake to make no further cuts to the ABC budget.

I have always listened to and watched ABC. Since my retirement, I have come to rely on the ABC to provide me with news, entertainment and information more and more.

During the summer bushfires, I was driving to country NSW and Victoria. I listened to the local ABC station, which was providing updates on the fire situation, which assisted my planning on when and where to drive, and really relied on those updates when I was driving.

During the current coronavirus crisis, the listening to and watching ABC has saved my sanity - and I don't say this lightly.

My inability to travel has been very difficult to deal with, as has my inability to go to concerts and plays.

The ABC has filled the gap. ABC classic alone has been extremely beneficial - the music has been a life saver, the travels around the world in music has been a delight. At the darkest of times, ABC classic and their wonderful presenters have lifted my spirits.

ABC am have kept up their wonderful informative interviews and discussions, and ABC news is overall of the highest quality and the most believable and least hysterical. ABC investigative journalism is second to none, and I feel assists in keeping those in power accountable.

The ABC book club is a fantastic resource, and has provided me with many hours of interesting discussion.

Without the ABC, a lot of light would go out of my life.

I never view commercial television. I do not trust the Murdoch press - that appalling term "fake news" actually describes their activities perfectly.

Finally, I believe that the Murdoch press and their supporters have a conflict of interest such that they should not be making submissions about the future of the ABC. Your government should not allow submissions from the Murdoch press and their like, due to their conflict.

ryrie b
VIC 2073

I listen to ABC radio every day. I watch ABC every day. I count on ABC especially in the fire season, multiple times a day to keep reliably in touch with the situation. All year round ABC links the country from east to west, north to south and that is important in such a big continent that we keep in touch about things going on everywhere. Australia wouldn't be Australia without ABC, it is essential.

S G
NSW 3460

ABC radio and television broadcast are an integral part of my life, which I greatly value. Current news and affairs assist me to live safely during times of bushfires, water shortages and SARS Covid 2 pandemic by informing me of up to date developments in rapidly changing situations.

The superior weather forecasters assist me in my every day life to know when to wash clothes, dress warmly or irrigate plants.

Cultural coverage of The Arts enable me to participate in life more fully, enrich my spirit, reinforce my sense of identity as an Australian and ensure I maintain contact with what is happening in the world.

Australian produced documentaries, news stories, political critiques keep big business honest, ensure our political representatives are acting in Australian citizens' best interests. My favourite programmes like Lateline, Foreign Correspondent, Catalyst have been canned or reduced and I am very unhappy about it.

Australian content feature films and series, police dramas, comedies, popular music programmes, programmes aimed at the teenage viewer, childrens programmes have all been reduced.

I am tired of surveying my television programme each week to discover rather than having new Australian produced programmes we are forced to endure repeats of something aired only a week ago because the funding is so low no new content can be produced.

The budget does not seem to allow purchase of more fabulous BBC productions to enable us again to avoid frequent repeats.

What the hell is going on ? Snap out of it ! Give more of my tax dollars to services I value, rather than spending it on for example, needless government advertising campaigns telling the public what great service federal government is supposedly giving the electorate. Wasting money on a sub standard NBN with composite cable to the node rather than optical fibre to the door. Why are we ripping out a perfectly good functioning land line telephone system and replacing it with a substandard internet service ? Why not leave it in situ and have the copper cable and optic fibre to the door as well !! Let's do it slower but better. This complete waste of funds could have been directed to the ABC ! Make Ita Buttrose earn her money and obtain a better outcome for the ABC and it's audience.

What idiot is going to vote for a politician who advocates cutting ABC funding ?

s m
VIC 2088

Many of my family live on the Murray River near Jingellic and Walwa. The fires this year in that area started less than a kilometre from their property. The fire jumped the river and landed! A ball of fire came within yards of the homestead. Family, including teenagers, stayed and fought the fire. The only reliable update on what was happening was via the ABC. Without the ABC we would have been out of touch with what was happening and whether or not the family was safe.

I also noticed when tuning into the ABC during the fires that journalists pulled together for an amazing effort to give us full coverage. Journos who'd worked on international assignments, who were managers and senior reporters took to the field and reported. It really stood out that the ABC team were dedicated and prepared to work beyond the norm to help.

I live in Melbourne. During Coronavirus I have been glued to ABC radio and TV. Press conferences are fully aired and programs quickly accommodate critical local events.

But my reliance on ABC goes past disasters. I also rely on the ABC for investigative journalism. 4 Corners - updates on Covid, including the Italy experience, 5G (good evidence in support of), Indigenous matters, workers compensation financial issues, etc. Also programs like 'War on Waste' and 'On the Sauce' - both have made me think and change my habits - recycling more and drinking less. Foreign Correspondent, Australian Story I could go on. When I turn to commercial channels the news is often focused on things like local traffic accidents and crime - current affairs - rather than what I think are important community and political issues.

I don't think I'm alone in relying on the ABC. It is noticeable that budget cuts are damaging the services the ABC can offer. Please don't make any further cuts. To the contrary, recognise the important role the ABC performs and increase the budget.

Thank you.

Sally A
TAS 3143

The ABC has been a great source of comfort and joy during these bleak covid times. I am a radio FM listener-during this time they are always interesting and cheerful with lots of new ideas to help us get through bleak days. They have added dance sessions, virtual travel, great concerts and their usual wonderful programs. The ABC TV has also helped tremendously during covid. Their news has kept us aware of the current situation and requirements every day. They have added great new films, old favourites and fabulous arts programs and concerts. Please maintain ABC funding-our ABC is an integral part of Australian life and we are very proud of it.

sally a
VIC 7018

The ABC is the main radio station I listen to and station I watch. It has provided trustworthy up to date information year after year during fire seasons, floods and now during Covid. It provides alternative views and debates and is willing to question those in power which is central to any democracy.

Sally B
VIC 3219

During these really difficult times, I rely on the ABC to provide clear information without the fear based drama and speculation. If there wasn't the ABC and SBS news I wouldn't watch news at all. There are so many wonderful programs on the ABC that are so valuable for Australians. Please keep up the funding.

Sally D
VIC 3163

During the fires last summer and during the pandemic for most of 2020, I've totally relied on the ABC for reliable, thoughtful and respectful coverage of all the complexities of: What to do, where the dangers are; how to manage them; what the outcomes of various scenarios will be etc. Radio news and TV broadcasts have provided up to the minute information and TV programs like the The Drum have provided slow, thoughtful insights into all kinds of complexities relating to events and policy. Not only that, I've been comforted and supported by the streaming of a long list of Australian movies from different eras, and regular dramas like Vera. The ABC is not only vital to Australian democracy but also to our sense of ourselves culturally.

Sally G
VIC 3054

I trust the ABC to not have an agenda when reporting news unlike commercial news which I haven't watched in decades. They also have good quality dramas, comedy and kids programs. I view is sensational and well produced.

Sally H
NSW 3055

The ABC was vital for my mum and me during the bushfires, we checked constantly and we trust it implicitly. Frankly the prospects of more cuts feels like a way of stopping the Australian people from being informed. After all the heartache we've been through so far this year how could further cuts even be on the table. We need this. Do not take this from us.

Sally K
TAS 2790

I rely on the ABC because of its integrity to provide news and entertainment without political bias. I rely on the News24 channel to bring up to date information throughout the day without commercials and I trust the content especially during this current Covid19 crisis. The other standouts for me are 7.30 with Leigh Sales and 4Corners. And thank heavens for Norman Swann. It gives me comfort to know that ABC is always "there". ABC classic and ABC RN is my other "go to" to lift my spirits during the day. My grandchildren watch ABC children and love Baby Jake and Bluey. I can see the devastation caused by the Government throttling the life out of the ABC evidenced by the lack of good new drama, and the never ending "repeats" of programmes. Shame on the Federal Government for lying to the people that they are not cutting funds.

Sally M
ACT 7250

During the bushfires this January, we were separated from our family. We relied on ABC news to give us up to date, honest and reliable news - and it was a very big comfort to see familiar ABC reporters in the thick of it - smoke, fire, gatherings - doing their jobs calmly and professionally. ABC reporters didn't sensationalise: they simply reported, fairly and fearlessly, keeping our spirits high and anxiety low. We could not have come through without the ABC.

Reinstate the funding that has been cut to the ABC - they are the lifeblood of Australian life.

Sally M
WA 2614

Please
We can not lose our beloved ABC News or any ABC
It's quite literally the only station I could not live without
Have been tuning in my hole life to ABC

Sam B
NSW 6069

Do not cut anymore of the ABC budget- it is the only news we watch in our home because it is unbiased and we believe the news stories that the ABC delivers. Cut defence budgets or politician's salaries but no more cuts to the ABC.

Sam W
VIC 2230

I don't watch free to air tv, I don't listen to the radio except as background noise when at work. Which won't be happening anymore for at least 6 weeks due to stage 4 restrictions.
The only news source I rely on for updates is ABC news on Facebook.
I trust it, it's not filled with stupid celebrity drama, just facts and relevant information.
I'd be lost without it.

Samantha B
VIC 3136

I get all my news from the ABC. I also watch their other programs to keep informed. I do not watch the commercial channels at all.

Please ensure the ABC is well-funded and keeps up its job as the public broadcaster. It provides a very valuable service, which the commercial channels cannot and will not.

Samar S
WA 3084

I have found through past experience that the ABC has presented a clear concise explanation of the many world events. I am more than impressed with their presentations on coronavirus. The virus news has been realistic.

I did not personally experience the bushfires but the varied presentations from the ABC reporters gave me an overall picture, reflecting insight into our mob that did.

I use ABC as my staple news service and appreciate that at times, to keep things honest, there will be a variety of views of the actions of the Federal and State Governments. Many of us appreciate the actions of our Governments but dislike infrastructure, health and education being politicised. I expect our Governments to use criticism as a learning experience to enable them to improve their services. As such I also expect our Governments to support ABC journalists in their search and attaining the truth for their listeners.

Sandi N
NSW 6012

During summer when bushfires were ravaging the state of NSW and the country I needed the ABC for up to date reports as access to my property from Sydney was cut by the Gospers Mountain fire, the largest fire by area in Australia's recorded history ! This was at a time when other media outlets were suggesting that it was deliberately started, and they were focussed on debunking suggestions that what we were experiencing was directly linked to climate change. That is the alternate media were driven by their own agendas dictated by their owners and editors. Instead I chose rely on the people's station the ABC, as they use scientific and professional experts as their source of news and the views promulgated in this way give me great confidence that there are no hidden agendas. Especially during such life threatening disasters you need someone you can rely on, someone who has Australia's interest at heart. Quite obviously we need to provide more funds to further increase the depth of investigative journalism for such an independent organisation, not reduce its budget ! For Australia to go forward and for its people to be empowered by the facts surrounding any situation, whether a crisis or to point the way for longterm decision making and maintain a truly data truth driven democracy we we need a better funded ABC.

Sandor G
NSW 2212

I watch The ABC at least 75% of my total TV viewing and I only listen to ABC radio
I am appalled at the relative cuts to the ABC budget.
The ABC is a vital service to ALL Australians and should be supported and well funded
You talk about " jobs jobs jobs". How on earth can you justify cutting jobs. Just more evidence of hypocracy and mismanagement.
At such a difficult time I feel it is immoral to cut the budget of a much needed institution
The ABC has an array of very valuable programs
It does not have a "left wing" bias. Only the ignorant can make such a claim
Please do the right thing and fund the ABC appropriately. Give jobs to more people that need it
Yours faithfully
Sandra Ackling

sandra A
VIC 2120

The breadth and depth of ABC programs is astounding. The journalists are exceptionally talented each in their specialist field. I always feel that I am being broadly educated, and that my choices across a wide range of subjects through podcasts is like a library. The ABC is a national treasure.

Sandra B
WA 3095

I am a pensioner and live alone. I lead a relatively busy life but would be lost without the ABC. It's a trusted source of new and information as well as entertainment. I enjoy listening to the 7.45 news programme on the radio whilst drinking my morning cup of tea. When I drive around in my car I always have the radio on 720. I enjoy some of the programmes such as Focus and Conversations. I like the morning program with Russell and Nadia and also Gillian O'Shaughnessy in the afternoons with her guests especially Dr Karl and Sabrina Hahn. On TV I watch mainly the ABC and SBS for quality programmes and information I can trust. My life is enriched by our national broadcaster

Sandra B
QLD 6030

For many years I was unable to access TV because of my lifestyle. Living on a small boat made it impossible to have reliable Television reception. The regular radio news and entertainment programmes kept me sane. Now that I am a Landlubber I am keeping up to date and informed about a variety of issues that the commercial media doesn't see fit to report. The ABC is a vital connection to those of us who live outside the capitol cities. If the current government sees fit to slash the budget of a much needed service, they would do well to seek employment elsewhere. We will not be denied a voice that has stood the test of time. Spending on private perks could go a long way towards saving your tenuous grasp on your jobs. Leave the ABC alone!!

Sandra B
NSW 4877

I live alone in the Southern Highlands of NSW and being retired rely totally on ABC Radio for company, entertainment and information. I would be very unhappy with the Government if they cut ABC funding even further and deprived me of my radio friends. During the bush fires I had to evacuate 3 times from my home. I have huge admiration for the RFS but the 'Fires Near Me' App is not always reliable and thank goodness ABC was there with accurate information.

Of course now I am getting up to date information about Covid 19 from ABC radio, in particular Dr Norman Swan. It is because of the information on the ABC that I know exactly what precautions I need to take to stay safe. Please do not take away or reduce to almost nothing the wonderful ABC.

Sandra C
QLD 2579

I rely on the ABC for balanced political commentary, including on matters relating to climate change. ABC also provide great educational documentaries and high quality children's educational programs.

My husband and I rarely watch any TV station other than ABC or SBS on free to air TV. We browse what the other stations are offering, but don't often find anything that attracts us.

Sandra E
ACT 4170

I am a retired grandmother living on my own. Apart from babysitting when required, I feel very lucky that I can watch tv enjoying the many interesting shows on ABC from programs that keep me informed through ABC news and current issues political discussions, general issues across local, national and international areas; BBC shows eg drama, humour etc which I totally enjoy watching; spy and thrillers etc. In essence ABC tv is my go-to for relaxation, mental awareness, and mind thrills and stimulation esp in the evenings and nights but even more so during this COVID period! As I get older, I now find reading a bit tedious on my eyes and now resort to ABC radio and tv. So, it is important that ABC should be well supported especially because I find it a great source of information, stimulation for enjoying my life now. I find the commercial stations do not expose me to Australian culture as much as I do the ABC ie the range and choices on commercial stations are less aligned to my interests and / or assimilate or expand my local experience and learning. The choices on ABC appeals to me (especially as a previously overseas citizen) it lifts my familiarisation / understanding / appreciation of my (now) country of residence. I find the quality of ABC political / social / cultural discussions stimulating and interesting, with high quality in depth investigation which invigorates thinking. During the fires experienced pre COVID the updates on TV was also most informative - I must add that ABC radio even in the previous before last Canberra fires was indeed also a lifesaver when we were caught in the beginning of Stromlo fires.

Accordingly, I would like to support no further cuts to its funding. I look forward to more ABC shows esp those of Australian content which I believe stimulates and promotes discussion, general interest and education / awareness.

Sandra H
VIC 2611

The ABC is the ONLY Australian source of unbiased, balanced news available to ordinary Australians. It has been my go-to source for REAL and un-manufactured Information. So much huff and puff, even emotion and manipulative 'news' is provided by other sources such as the Murdoch group, and for what reasonable purpose. To frighten and make people feel vulnerable and ultimately more easily manipulated. The Australian federal government owes its fellow Australians an opportunity for honest information in its duty to us all to support our democracy. In a time when we are constantly thumped by Trump like dishonesties, we NEED a viable and vibrant ABC. Please consider its value and relevance especially during this bad time in our history and future health.

Sandra H
VIC 3101

ABC is the only Media I watch for all my news reports, my favorite channel for watching movies, documentaries...

Sandra M
ACT 3115

I live in the Snowy Mountains and felt fully informed by listening to the ABC during the horrendous bushfire season. This continued with the ongoing coronavirus pandemic. The ABC has been for decades, and will continue to be, my main source of information and entertainment.

Sandra N
NSW 2630

I rely on ABC radio daily and also the nightly ABC news. It is a source that can be relied on.

Sandra R
QLD 2446

During the fires in early 2020, I watched the ABC constantly. Our mayor went on ABC every afternoon for a while, updating us on the status of the nearby fires. I was and am very grateful for the reliable coverage - and now of the Covid-19 pandemic - that the ABC provides. There is no other reporting that even comes near ABC journalism.

Sandra S
VIC 4272

The ABC has been part of my life for over 60 years. I would listen to Blue Hills with my grandmother. My parents listened to the news & classical music programmes. I had Countdown. MY children had Play School, as littlies & Behind the News at school. My grandchildren have play school. I watch the ABC news & current affairs programmes for a balanced reporting of events. Without the ABC we are likely to have very unbalanced news coverage. Their coverage of our natural disasters is vital for our country.

Sandra S
VIC 3163

The ABC has been invaluable to me over the years, providing quality programs and news delivery which is balanced, accurate and intellectual. The other value has been not being subjected to incessant advertising. This year with the bushfires and now COVID 19, the ABC has been the lifeline of important updates and alerts. It is one of the few media outlets which is rigorous in its ethics for the provision of news. I am on the app at least 15 times a day at the moment to get accurate information about the latest development because of my work and because of the outbreak where I live in Victoria. The budget cuts will impact on the community to access least biased information. the ABC provides a community service in addition to cultural programming. We need to support it, it is our national broadcaster.
Sandrine Prosser

Sandrine P
NSW 3782

I have been watching the abc for many years & I follow their breakfast & evening news religiously every day. Their news content is factual & intelligent. They also have always had fantastic comedy, crime, music programs. There is no other superior channel than the abc. It is part of our Australian culture. To have any budget cuts to abc would be detrimental to the high quality of programs.

Sandy H
NSW 2482

I totally rely on The news and programs on the ABC and I'm so upset that so many of our excellent Australian produced programs are being cut. ALSO I am at risk for the Corona virus so rely heavily on news produced by the ABC providing me with honest, up to date information

Sandy S
WA 2483

THE ABC IS AUSTRALIA. It is more continuous, enduring and reflective of any state, territory or federal government, in part because as a broadcasting site, its focus is on emphasising the qualities, diversity, breadth and depth of Australian life. That it does so through a range of fora - radio, television, social media, podcasts, regional channelling and so on - and manages to include news and understanding about countries and issues outside Australia is a compelling rationale to ensure it is not only adequately resourced, but properly resourced. Where else can Australians and others look to for more reliable reporting, grounded critiques (including where required of itself), community and professional arts, economic, health, environmental and political analyses, and information that is not biased by a need to rely on the commercial sector? The ABC in all its guises has excelled in its reportage of the shocking Summer Bushfires, and the reality of Covid-19 and its harsh implications for so many. The ABC is Australia, and it will continue to be within the changes, ravages and inspirations of people, the environment, successive leaderships, and time.

Sandy T
NSW 6016

The four corners report highlighted serious problems with the insurer at a time when workers compensation claims will accelerate due to the pandemic and its psychological effect on Australians

Sanjay R
QLD 2206

I turned to the ABC to get the most reliable bushfire info early 2020, not juts for myself but to know how the rest of Australia was faring.

Right now I rely on it to give me the best information about COVID-19 all over Australia and the world. I am already missing Lateline and don't want to lose more ion our world-class journalists

Sarah B
VIC 4070

I turned off my TV two years ago. I got so sick of the constant bad news and loud booming music.

I continued to watch the Drum, Insiders and Q&A. I gave away the first 2, and in April I stopped Q&A. The coverage of the coronavirus has been atrocious. Nothing but fearmongering, biased reporting and purposely misleading information. I couldn't care less if the ABC is defunded. I choose to watch real news and determine the truth for myself.

Sarah C
NSW 3030

I live in northern NSW hinterland. Mobile reception is not available and nor is free to air TV. The is no radio reception either, I have a land based internet service and through this I have access to the ABC.

It saddens me to think we will be reducing the service, this is OUR ABC, it's what I watch, it supplies me with a truthful news feed and intelligent arguement. The importance of regular specific reporting to areas in danger of the bushfires was essential. The advertisements on the commercial channels just make me sick and watching become intolerable. So I don't waste my internet service on commercial stations.

Please fund the ABC for us, don't reduce our viewing to a commercialised consumeristic unintelligent shit show.

Regards

Sarah D
QLD 2480

This year my husband, 3 sons and I travelled from Queensland to Victoria on a long-planned camping adventure. And then covid19 struck! Knowing that we could always tune in to a local ABC radio station to hear up to date news regarding border closures and the evolving situation was a great comfort as we made our way home. The ABC is a vital service in a country as large as Australia. It is not optional. No other media organisation has the capacity, nor the inclination, to provide the range and depth of services the ABC provides.

Sarah M
VIC 4065

We watch the ABC News every night, we read it online, our kids watch the programs. We would feel in the dark without the ABC. Every night during this pandemic, the ABC has provided in depth analysis, asking the very questions we have going around in our head. ABC programs raise you up to feel informed, intelligent. They present well balanced pieces about the issues that matter. Other news broadcasters do not do this to the same extent. They use fear and sensationalism for their approach. ABC is extremely important to our lives. Please keep funding, increase it, so that Australians have the chance to remain informed, form intelligent opinions, progress our society and our big issues. ABC gives Australia as a whole a higher IQ

Sarah O
VIC 3011

ABC is so important for Australians, more now than ever. Personally, I have been keeping up to date with COVID-19 information such as restrictions, change in laws and how it's affecting the rest of the world through the ABC News.

During the bushfires, ABC radio was crucial. It helped my brother get out and stay safe.

Sarah R
NSW 3044

I have been listening to and watching the ABC for more than 45 years. I trust it and find it to be the most reliable source of information, as well as being fascinating and entertaining.

Please look after the ABC and please do not cut it's funding.

Thank you,,

Satya P
NSW 2482

The ABC online is utterly vital to the way we as a family successful live our lives and contribute to Australian society.

The ABC online is my primary source of news. It has kept my family and I informed during the bushfires (which threatened our house), for the coronavirus and for everything else that has happened in 2020. The ABC radio is also a crucial service in such times. Please increase ABC funding to ensure it continues to be able to provide these vital services.

Saul W
NSW 2484

I live in rural NSW. I have so much respect for the ABC. Both radio and TV have kept me informed and safe during the recent bushfire crisis. Seriously. Thank you to the ABC. When other media outlets are selling advertising and content to the highest bidder, the ABC is giving me information that the other stations cannot or do not provide. Information about fire fronts, evacuation information and requests from fire chiefs, info about who to contact, where safety and refuge can be found. No commercial outlet will ever provide those services with the clarity and no nonsense way that the ABC do. I am a husband with two children and job that earns me enough to live. If you can increase funding to the tune of over 20 billion dollars, you should be able to fund the ABC with \$100 million. To not fund the ABC is an ideology not a budget measure The ABC must be funded.

scott c
QLD 2454

The ABC is the last outlet that presents and informed and balanced view. If education is important surely a balanced view teaching the next generation to critically analyse media is important

Scott L
QLD 4064

The ABC is the most reliable source of unbiased news available to me. I do not believe commentary from the commercial sources.....flat out "do-not-believe" them. They just don't get a run in my household. I trust the ABC, and I distrust anybody that attacks their fairness and reporting standards. It's not that the ABC is my sole source, it's just that I trust, then verify using other independent sources. So often, my trust is well placed, although I have noticed lately a shift to the right in their perspectives. I guess it was inevitable given the bastardry undertaken by Canberra, right aligned think tanks, and media. Leave MY ABC alone....simple. It's mine, not yours.

Scott N
VIC 4125

My connection to the ABC goes back to my school days, when the ABC used to print a book for schools in NSW, that had educational programs on the radio to listen to and on television and these programs opened my life up to science, the arts, history, literature, geography, the cultures of other countries and their people. In isolated Australia, the ABC brought the world into my life and expanded my knowledge, understanding and awareness. The ABC created in NSW the combined primary schools choir with a choir of over 500 school kids and brought them together in the Sydney Town Hall (at the time the Opera House was being built) for a concert to go live by radio across NSW and was recorded. This event brought school kids into the city for the day for the rehearsal and the performance at night to a packed audience of parents, teachers, principals and the community. The experience was affirming and the opportunity to explore the city and have lunch in Hyde Park and travel by train and meet students from other schools and collaborate with them was inspiring. To sing in the Sydney Town Hall and to this day, I remember finishing the songs and because of the acoustics of the Sydney Town Hall the reverberation of our voices swelling the Town Hall and coming back at us on stage even when we had finished singing the songs. This is what the ABC gave to me and my family and community a great sense of connection, engagement, identity, celebration and a great sense of belonging from an early age through to my adult life. These aspects of the ABC are acutely invaluable and immeasurable and it is atrocious how the ABC has been fundamentally being destroyed by the envy of the insidious and hideous Murdoch Media and the IPA, which I refer to as Australia's internal terrorist organisation, because both these organisations are intent on destroying Australia's values and way of life for political expediency. The most thoroughly disappointing aspect of this is that we have an LNP Government headed by Scott Morrison doing these repulsive and repugnant organisations bidding for them. The ABC has elevated the country's place in the world and assisted with evolving the country's identity and supplied and created a vast array of programs that could never be replaced by commercial media and that these programs have contributed to the exposing the populous experience to a vast knowledge, understanding and awareness and surely this is what and Government would wish for its people and country to have a population that is highly educated, informed and have the capacity to be innovative, creative and have skills of analytical, strategic and critical thinking and this is what the ABC promotes and develops by its very existence. For those that are intent in destroying the ABC, they will take their infamy and degraded reputations to the grave with themselves and it will be forever embedded in their families history, that their family members were involved in the destruction of one of the most important life bloods of the nation that contributed to building the nation, the ABC.

Scott R
QLD 3550

Quite simply, our local ABC radio station was an essential part of our information and updates critical in the Peregian Fires.

During the fires, the government website gave some general information, however extra information and importantly aerial footage provided by ABC in the following days was helpful in understanding where the fire front was, where we should relocate to, and helped to reduce stress in knowing that my house was not under direct threat even though we were evacuated for 3 days.

Secondly, ABC local radio keeps me company while working long hours, they need more funding not less.

Regards

scott r
NSW 4573

I live in Moruya on the south coast of NSW. During the bushfires in December and January this year, my family had to evacuate our property three times as conditions deteriorated and the fires approached.

During those terror-filled days we lost power, internet, mobile phone and television reception.

We had bushfires raging on three sides of the town and were in fear for our lives. We were threatened by the beast, waiting for the fiery jaws to snap shut at any time.

The ONLY source of information that we could depend on to keep us safe was provided by regular emergency updates on ABC radio that I listened to while sitting in the car and running the engine.

I have heard exactly the same story from many, many neighbours in the area.

It is imperative that this essential service is not further undermined by government cuts. ANY federal government that seeks to white-ant the ABC loses my family's votes.

Scott S
NSW 2537

I have relied on the ABC since I was born. It was the only channel we could get, and since then, I've utilised their services and reporting via TV, radio and online to live a more informed, interesting and happy life. Their coverage of the bushfires and Covid-19 have been second to none - better than any other channel. This has saved lives. No to mention their arts and entertainment have enriched (and therefore also saved) lives.

I demand no cuts be made to the ABC in the October 2020-21 budget. I also demand that cut funding be restored.

Thank you.

Scott S
VIC 2037

Save the ABC, people are relying on the ABC for a balanced unbiased news coverage from home and overseas. It is the only Chanel that has decent Australian or world comedy and in these times we all need some light hearted moments . No more cuts

Sean C
QLD 3198

The ABC and SBS are the only reliable sources of radio and TV news in Australia. All other radio and TV stations have a reactionary political agenda, and are deluged with ads.

We spend a lot of time working in SE Asia, and ABC TV is an important source of news about what is happening back home. During the bushfires it was the ABC we relied on for up to date news, both general and personal.

Kind regards,
Dr Sean Foley

Sean F
NSW 4171

We have a world in turmoil and need institutions that are relatively stable, well funded and able to inform the public on current news and arts, needs of minorities, and reveal weaknesses in political life. This is part of Freedom of the Press. In contrast Murdoch entities in print, radio and tv project negative froth about climate change, attack the ABC, UK BBC, Community entities in the USA and elsewhere. And try to get them unfunded.

The Coalition Government, bending to Murdoch, has progressively defunded ABC/SBS. Despite the huge support that communities ravaged by Climate induced drought, fires, and floods being in our midst brought by ABC local services. Saving lives; building morale, being familiar voices, bringing comfort. These are Murdoch targets - Let's call it out.

Fires: In Mosman NSW we were fine.

But those fellow Australians elsewhere were not fine. And our PM was on holiday in the USA. It took a while to find that out - not Murdoch.

So, we could go on. But it is mostly known.

So, with the ever present threat of Covirus 19, and associated costs, will the Coalition further unfund our balanced, national news/entertainment for the benefit of the budget and Murdoch?

Sean M
VIC 2068

The ABC is my most reliable source of unbiased and informed news and current affairs. I listen to ABC radio everyday and depend on its reliable news service as well as programs such as "The Health Report", "The Science Show", "Late Night Live" and others.

During the Coronavirus outbreak I have depended on the ABC's new streaming service for updates and really importantly on updates from Dan Andrews.

Investigative reports by the ABC are indispensable in protecting our democracy.

My children often use a ABC iView.

All the services provided by the ABC are absolutely necessary for Australia to remain a vibrant, multicultural, informed and democratic.

I urge the Government to increase funding to the ABC.

Thanks,
Sebastian

Sebastian F
NSW 3058

ABC helped me with urgently required information on bushfires, drought, flood and Covid 19 continuously. ABC news kept me alert in much needed information during these disasters and spread of the deadly virus.

Reporters engaged the needed info for safety and security needs for all of us who were susceptible to get into grips with these calamities. ABC is very efficient and effective broadcaster for everyone. It should be supported with funding to keep its remarkable work going without funding impediment being brought by the government.

Seema S
VIC 2209

A reliable, freely accessible media source with quality journalism, and journalistic integrity has always been important to me. I've never been more reliant the ABC than I have this year. It's helped me navigate the stress and anxiety of the coronavirus pandemic, the black summer bushfire season, and has ensured that I can access the quality, accurate information I need to keep safe. Beyond emergency scenarios though, the ABC's reliability, journalistic rigour and scalr ensures that I can keep up to date on matters which affect my local, stare, national, and international communities. The ABC is an Australian icon, and an Australian lifeline.

Seline C
VIC 3101

The ABC is the only trusted news source in this country and elsewhere.

Domestic

A large part of our regional communities and other international communities that surround Australasia within the Southern and Northern Pacific Oceans have been impacted with the withdrawal of ABC Radio Australia "ABC Radio Australia is an international satellite and internet radio service with transmissions aimed at East Asia and the Pacific Islands, although its signals are also audible in many other parts of the world. It features programmes in various languages spoken in these regions, including Mandarin, Indonesian, Vietnamese, Khmer and Tok Pisin. Before 31 January 2017 Radio Australia broadcast shortwave radio signals which were terminated in favour of online and satellite radio.

Radio Australia bulletins are also carried on WRN Broadcast, available via satellite in Europe and North America.

Commercial

ABC Commercial is the division of the ABC responsible for pursuing new sources of revenue for the Corporation.[186] It comprises ABC Retail, ABC Content Sales and Distribution, ABC Publishing and Licensing, ABC Music and Events, and ABC Studio and Media Productions. ABC retail outlets were established in 1974, and closed in 2015. All profits from the sale of consumer product and production services return to the Corporation to reinvest in programme making."

https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Australian_Broadcasting_Corporation#International

This trusted organisation is not a plaything for ANY neo-liberal right wing ideology or any of its lobbyists, donors or billionaire's with other vested interests and agendas.

The current vicious cuts by this narcoleptic administration and its agenda via the IPA are a complete anathema to the Charter of The Declaration of Human Rights

https://www.ohchr.org/EN/UDHR/Documents/UDHR_Translations/eng.pdf

The general body politic is not stupid.

Serenity N

SA 3037

We live in a world when & where so many unexpected things happening all around that have huge impacts in our daily lives. @ the same time so many news getting directly to us through different sources & for different reasons. Unfortunately & Like so many people I have found majority of the news I hear or read are either fake & unreliable or serving only special groups for special purposes! And that's due to the nature of human greed for money or power even for forcing an idea or a belief!

That is why we need a totally free, reliable & independent source of news which reveal news as it happens with no other desire.

For this very important fact I support ABC & demand our government to support ABC as it is & not causing any disruption to our trusted broadcasting.

Shahla p

NSW 5031

The ABC is a national broadcaster that has always been a reliable source for providing news as well as enjoyable programmes.

I have always relied on the ABC for news about bushfires and related information.

The ABC belongs to all Australians.

I am against funding cuts to the ABC. In fact I am all for increased funding for the ABC.

Shakuntala Singh.

shakuntala s

QLD 2515

Dear Sir/Madam,

I live on the Gold Coast & suffered a massive respiratory failure & induced coma of several weeks at the end of last year as the bushfire raged. I then had a pulmonary embolism & CIM (critical illness myopathy) & required a long recovery period.

My release from hospital, recovery & movements were done using the ABC's reporting of the bushfires, problem areas & information, without which I would probably have returned to our residence & suffered a relapse at best & complete failure at worst, given it's proximity to bushland.

My Wife has Multiple Sclerosis, her immune system is currently at an all time low. Covid would literally kill her at the moment & even mild colds & flu's would result in Hospitalisation. We have to plan every single trip to the doctors or hospital, track what areas are safe & shop in very small time frames. The only news source we trust in the middle of the Covid epidemic is the ABC. They are consistent, unbiased & fact based.

Without the ABC there is no news source in Australia that we can rely on to be consistent, reliable, accessible (paywalls kill people in emergencies) without an agenda & up-to-date.

They are literally the difference between Life & Death for some of us and underfunding it would be a crime, in every sense of the word.

Shane Carter

Shane C

QLD 4215

The ABC has been a vital source for information to my rural students that I teach remotely through the University of the Sunshine Coast. Without this valuable and trusted news source, our country would be far more informationally poor and democracy would decline.

Dr Shannon Brincat

Shannon B

QLD 4074

The ABC has been our source for news and reports in a professional way. Recently many for profit news channels have been using imagery, back ground music and camera tactics which increase anxiety and fear. Examples of this are overuse of red writing/images, screen movements mimicking panic attacks, music akin to horror films and sensationalist language. We find ABC reporting to be more based on facts and able to get strong messages across without playing on fear and anxiety. The Abc has programs that support education from home for both our school children and adults. This is needed more than ever. As the country heals and deals with the trauma of covid 19 on the economy and individuals we need shows that bring us together and represent Australia. Shows like Landline, Q&A, ABC News, Four Corners, Media Watch, Think Tank, Ahn, Brain Cox, kid programming and more. Australian Based programs are also popular with overseas party's and provide GDP in an environment where globally, many people are at home. Please look at opportunities where the ABC can contribute to our lives as they do now and give support so that they can create valuable material for our country and others. Thank you for considering my comments and values regarding the ABC. Kind Regards Shantel Nasir

Shantel N

ACT 4860

Hi There, On the first of January this year my partners' family rolled up to our door in Albury from Tumbarumba with heaps of their belongings. We missed their calls in the wee hours telling us that there were coming because fires were threatening their town. For almost all January we stayed glued to the ABC for coverage around the clock letting us know what was happening with the fires. It was our only trusted source for information. Then, when covid struck - well, I now know the reporters on ABC News on a first name basis and feel comfort every single day from their reporting. Big ups to Joe and Casey who breaks down the statistics for us every day and David who tells us about the stock markets - and PK in the afternoons with her review of the day and analysis. This whole year they have been absolutely constants in this household, I don't change the channel because I trust them. They are more important than they have ever been.

Sharni M

WA 2681

We are a democracy and having an open, fair and impartial press that examines transparency within all Australian society is important to gate-keeping this. The press is amazingly seductive and we cannot have King-makers controlling our thoughts and actions. This is the danger, not the ABC.

sharon b

NSW 6163

I have only in the last few years started to watch the ABC after being so disillusioned with mainstream media outlets & their appalling bias to one political party or another. The ABC provides a non bias up to date news report that used to happen in the media, good old honest reliable information without the bias. The ABC were incredible with providing communities with Fire updates throughout the hell summer we experienced, a few of my friends lives were saved because of the ABC providing real time updates that often was the only way communities could find out the latest fire warnings. I am extremely happy that the ABC continue to keep politicians accountable, this is something that other media outlets rarely do! The public have had a gutful of Murdoch's control & bias reporting, there will be a massive backlash to government if there is any more cuts to the ABC, we have had enough!! Hands off ABC, if government is transparent they should not be worried about ABC truth reporting.

Sharon R
VIC 2570

I have always trusted the ABC for my news .
Has been part of my life in Australia since 1970 .
I am flabagasted that most Australians really trusted the ABC when the Bush fires were on last yr and earlier this year and they did a fabulous job too .
How come there is not so much trust with the vivid.19 pandemic ?!
The Liberal Govt did not support them .
WHY and Why are they undermining our really valuable and much loved national broadcaster??
Please look after the ABC and stop taking money from them .
Every real democracy requires good journalist to report on what our government is really doing and stopping misinformation on other self serving papers like the Murdoch press .
These very powerful people have far too much influence on our Liberal government .

Sharon W
VIC 3199

I have been totally reliant on the ABC during this pandemic. Reliant on it for accurate, unbiased reporting. Before this the ABC was crucial in keeping me informed, regarding the devastating bush fires. It helped me find out where the fire activities were happening and kept me in touch with my family who were fighting the fires.

Sharon W
NSW 3447

ABC is the only reliable and continual source of information they I depend on during any crisis. It is our local radio when blackouts occur during fires floods and the pandemic it gives us full coverage of parliament. I have relied on ABC for quality educational programs for our children for 35 years. I Now only watch and rely on ABC for quality Australian content an drama. When I had a traumatic personal experience it was the ABC ready to tell our family story without the sensationalizing hype for ratings. It is truly our local and national broadcaster without the influence and dependency of limited and bigoted USA media stories that have no relevance to everyday Australia.

Sharron R
NSW 2538

My family relied on the ABC as the emergency broadcaster during the bushfire crisis on the far south coast of NSW, January 2020. We were isolated, had no power, no internet, no phone and only the radio to rely on for emergency information in this extremely volatile and dangerous situation. The information was reliable and timely. It allowed us to stay safe and evacuate safely, without getting into dangerous situations or becoming a burden on stretched emergency services. Commercial stations were not up to scratch and mostly off the air. The ABC is also once again proving this through solid coverage of the evolving Covid-19 pandemic. More than a key Australian cultural insitution, the ABC is an essential service and it's funding must be increased, not frozen or cut.

Shaun L
QLD 2211

I rely upon the ABC far daily updates on COVID-19 and other critical news items. I strongly suggest an increase in funding at this critical time for our nation. The ABCs charter ensures that it is the one broadcaster in Australia that we can rely upon for up to date honest news, as we did last year and this on the unprecedented bushfires.

The government has done the right think with stimulus payments to assist the Australian public, now is the time to inject some extra funding into our ABC.

Shaun N
TAS 4818

As a dual American-Australian citizen I've had one or two opportunities in my working life to return to the old country and pursue my career there. I left Sydney and I left Melbourne; however, I could never imagine living without the ABC. Eventually, I relocated to paradise (some call it Tasmania) where I continue to be informed by and dependent on the ABC in all its forms. In 2018 Hobart experienced catastrophic floods, in 2019 and 2020 Tasmania was subject to severe fires, and now, of course, the pandemic. It is on occasions like these that people in the regions turn to local ABC to find out what's happening. With Australia so dominated by the East Coast cities, and commercial media so city-focused, it is only the ABC that truly (and accurately) represents all of Australia.

Sheila A
NSW 7050

Through the covid19 crisis, Norman Swan and Tegan Taylor provided us with facts and answers each day. Before that, in the bushfires, details of place and damage, and what needs were. Classic Radio helped me to relax, and the Drum and the 7pm news kept me informed. And wonderful Ivview, for catchup.

Sheila W
VIC 2066

Please let the ABC flourish for our country and city citizens! I live in rural Victoria and our first act in the morning is to turn on the ABCNEWS. Though out the day it keeps us company in the orchard. During sleepless nights it is on keeping us in contact with Australia and the world. Though bush fires and Covid-19 this year we have relied on the information. Not even the Government website was able to keep up with the news and commentary updates. Only the ABC. It needs more funding. The coalition will lose our family votes if it cuts ABC funding again.

Sheree M
VIC 3962

The ABC is Australia's broadcasting pride. There are few countries with such a wonderful service. The ABC is the only service which provides fair and equitable - and full and necessary - coverage of Australian and worldwide issues, both in its news and current affairs.

In this time of lockdown, I, and everyone I know, relies on the ABC to provide up-to-date information. We would be lost without this service.

As well, the ABC has many local and international programs which are interesting and entertaining, without them being ruined by advertisements at inappropriate times.

Australia is widely served by right-wing news coverage, who wrongly accuse the ABC of being left-wing. This is spin at its worst.

The only reason I can see for this government wishing to make the ABC unviable is because of its right-wing members and lobbyists.

We even have the Prime Minister and senior government MPs lying about the ABC and its funding cuts. Repeating this lie time and time again does not turn it into the truth. Our MPs should be, in my opinion, more ethical and truthful.

To further underfund the ABC is a crime against the citizens of Australia. Please take care of this national jewel.

Shirley B
VIC 3111

I work in aged care. I listen to the abc driving to and from work, and I use the abc news website for information.

The ABC is the only network that provides information, news, arts and entertainment without annoying ads, rhetoric and bias. I have a stressful job, and commercial networks aggravate my PTSD.

Commercial interests drive a lot of consumer driven product these days. That does not mean its good. We are human. we need support, kindness, community news thats accurate. We need dialogue, open discussion and a range of programs that support and speak to different interests. the ABC does this. Its unique. Its rare. Its endangered.

There is no alternative. Im glued on.

.. and clued on!

Please save the ABC.

thank you. I didnt mean this to be so long.

shirley b
QLD 3055

I find that most of the programmes on the other TV channels are mostly so-called reality TV, they tend to sensationalize the news rather than just present it to the public. Sky news for example reflects the views of the owner, I want to form my own views on politics & environmental concerns myself. I rely on the ABC for an unbiased news report. I love the fact that they have a lot of Australian content & love the English dramas. If the ABC has not the budget to present these programmes I will not have much to watch on TV. As I am on the old age pension I cannot afford lots of data, foxtel etc. & really will lose a lot of my quality of life.

shirley g
VIC 4305

Dear Sirs,
My submission concerns the importance of the ABC to me (amongst many others).
During times of crisis e.g. the recent bushfires, and now the pandemic, it provides a supportive and encouraging overall view of what's happening minute by minute. The reporters are honest about the hardships for people and animals, and aren't afraid to express their feelings - which alleviates my own anxieties, knowing that what I'm experiencing is part of an overall response from a greater population than only one.

The ABC also entertains and informs me. The courage and insightfulness of the interviewers is professional, and enables both the subject and listener to take risks in explaining more about themselves, and this is a great incentive for me to do the same with other people. There is more learning than acquiring information, but personal modelling also.

I don't understand why there has been an ongoing drive to cut the ABC funding, over a number of years. The service they provide is immeasurable, and trustworthy. And the programmes which include sly assessments of what's going on both in Parliament and the public corporations provide thinking and a wider view to simple folk who are made aware of another side, with gentle humour. There's nowhere else that this happens.

Maybe sometimes what is said doesn't suit everyone in governmental positions - but have a heart, be big-hearted enough to reassess yourself and take courage in both hands - and reconsider.

Yours sincerely

Shirley K
NSW 3136

As a former journalist and an environmentalist, I have had many criticisms of the ABC, mainly because I think they can/must do a lot more on addressing climate change. However, I've been most favourably impressed with the ABC's coverage of issues such as fires, and corona. That's when we all really need them.

Shirley L
NSW 2780

For many years the ABC has been for me a trusted source of news and information. In ABC coverage of events I am able to distinguish between reporting and commentary - a distinction often absent from commercial broadcasters. I appreciate the reliable experts I hear on the ABC talking about a wide variety of topics that interest me from current affairs to how to identify frogs by their calls and everything in between. Because of ill-health I have been in hospital and then in lockdown in my home since 23 February 2020. During these months ABC Radio and Television have been my constant connection to the outside world. I find ABC presenters and their guests to be excellent communicators who open up the outside world while I am shut in.

During the bushfires earlier this year ABC reporters were on the scene BUT that kind of coverage is expensive to set up and maintain. Programs like LandLine and BackRoads, programs about Indigenous issues and even Parliamentary broadcasts bring Australia into my home. Coverage of overseas events by ABC reporters on the spot helps me see their significance for Australians. During the corona virus pandemic the ABC has been a source of reliable information and advice helping to keep us all safe. THE ABC NEEDS MORE FUNDING NOT LESS!

Shirley M
WA 2135

There are so many ways that the ABC is important to me. Firstly, watching the news and knowing there will not be a biased view delivered. Watching Compass and Landline, learning from these programs, the amazing Foreign Correspondent programs, Media Watch and of course Q&A. No other tv station delivers such relevant news and human interest stories, and all about our amazing country.

shirley m
QLD 6008

I am 81 years old and totally depend on the ABC both TV and Radio National as well as SBS.

I cannot imagine life without this support.

No one dare ring me 9.00am/10.00 Sunday am - Insiders.

10.00 pm 4 week nights- Phillip Adams.

Reports/news on our political scene and fire side chats with John and Chas re US politicks etc. etc.

I have never taken a sleeping pill in my life - just turn on ABC radio at any hour at night and listen to good in depth interviews and absolutely absorbed for perhaps as long as a couple of hours.

Am I angry re the cuts to this reliable and honest service to this country - YOU BET I AM

Shirley P

WA 4123

I've decided to make this submission because the ABC is extremely important to me and my extended family. We have found the ABC, whether radio or TV, give the full report on matters which concern us the most. Their coverage of the devastating bushfires was on the ground and as it happened giving us the details of where it was and which way it was heading. Vital information. Not interrupted by 5 minutes of 'in your face' ads every 10 minutes. Not only the bushfires, and the native animal habitats and ecosystems endangered but also the drought and the struggle of families on severe rations, or having to truck in water, all while Adani Coal are granted 92million litres of precious water per year for 60years, to wash his coal. And the Southern Downs Council approved a Chinese consortium our water to commercially bottle for 92years. These are things our Federal Government don't want us to know, because they are heavily involved. They are all for selling our assets, be it water, fossil fuels or other resources, as they have with our amenities, all privatised and prices go up and profits go overseas. The ABC tells the whole truth, and asks the hard questions in their interviews. They are not biased in any way, politically, but the answers, or stock answers, avoiding answering the direct questions, is obvious when we, as the voting public, want answers.

This Government have cut and stripped most of our services to the bone, as is evident now in the Aged Care/ Nursing homes sector. Our frail elderly, who have worked hard all their lives and paid their taxes are treated with such disrespect. Malnourished, mistreated and neglect, together with profit seeking, privatization, cutting their obligations to the Care givers and staff by hiring them as casuals and not full time employees, has led to this disgraceful situation now with the Corona virus sweeping through these homes of horror. A couple of years ago we heard about the disgusting food, incontinence pads had to be full before they got changed, residents didn't get washed for days, were heavily drugged if they complained... all abhorrent.

If this LNP Government, who have already cut vital funding to the ABC, again cut funding to this outstanding service, then we will know this Gov't do not serve the Australian people, they serve the Murdoch media monopoly and big Multi National Conglomerates, who pay no tax, despite their billion dollar profits from our resources.

The people of Australia love the ABC and rely on it's National coverage. Funding should be increased not cut.

Shirley P

QLD 6000

As an elderly person, with decreasing ability to easily leave my house, I am very dependent on the ABC.

Not only for news, but intelligent information in documentaries, music, etc. Up to date crisis information gives a good sense of security.

While I use the radio frequently, all hours of the day, and TV daily, the digital services are also simple to access. I enjoy films.

Please continue to fund this much needed public service.

Thank you ! Shirley Timmins.

Shirley T

ACT 4017

I am in my 92nd year and live at home alone. I depend on the ABC to keep me up to date with weather, fire and health

Emergency alerts. I live in Canberra very close to bushland and when the fires were very close last summer the TV ABC News was there for me with hourly updates

Shirley T

WA 2615

Since Covid we've enjoyed the presentation of the news by all the newsreaders. Encouragement and support has been there for every one. They haven't been bogged down by politics.

Shona C

VIC 6446

It's hard to know where to start. I suppose it's with trust. I trust the ABC to keep me up to date with well researched, balanced information on so many topics. As a not for profit public broadcaster, I can rely on it to look at issues that provide information to communities without the underlying motive of making money. It's there for us all. Not paid for their opinion shock jocks. Intelligent debate. Invaluable help during a crisis, such as the recent bush fires. And especially now, during this pandemic, in my isolation from family and friends. The ABC keeps me informed every day, providing in depth analysis of events. The Drum, 7.30 Report, Land Line, QandA, all the News Conferences. And also the radio, the podcasts, iview, the Insiders, Parliament question time. I could go on. When I turn to other commercial media, I am somewhat appalled by it. No, we need a public broadcaster. Please don't make further cuts to this valuable community resource.

Shonasea M
TAS 3159

My name is Simone Booth and I live in the Southwest region of Western Australia. I am an activist and I am concerned about the future of the ABC as Australia needs a reliable news source.

This is especially true now with COVID-19 as my friends and family rely on the ABC to keep them informed. They also relied on the ABC during the Black Summer bushfires, as well as other disasters.

Simone B
NSW 6330

I rely on the ABC every single day – local radio and ABC TV is basically the only news source I would trust to provide me with balanced and reliable information.

During the bushfires the ABC was a saviour as my town was surrounded by active firefronts – I don't know what I would have done without over several evacuations. And during the current pandemic it has been a source of vital information that was clear, responsible and non-hysterical. Online, apart from the Guardian and a couple of other independent news agencies, the ABC is again the only news source that I have total faith in.

We need the ABC more than ever – the ABC works for all Australians, no matter where they live, how much they earn or who they vote for. Free, reliable news and information feels like a basic human right in this age of conspiracy theory madness and extremist propaganda. Cutting funding to the ABC is utter madness and it must end now! Restore funding to only source of news that Australians really trust.

Sincerely

Simone F
NSW 2785

I live off the grid and the ABC Radio National is often the only radio station we can access. We rely on it. Also, the ABC Corona Virus coverage has been outstanding and great comfort. I consider the ABC to be part of my daily life. As a teacher, I rely on Behind the News as a great resource for my students. The ABC needs our support. Please do not cut funding.

Simone H
NSW 2777

As a Clinical Psychologist I have observed first hand the trauma that recent disasters have caused and seen how the ABC helps mediate some of this trauma.

COVID 19 & Mental Health

Recent data from Mental Health experts suggest a potential increase (b/w 25-50%) in suicide throughout Australia as a result of COVID 19, (Sydney Institute, 2020). This data was predicted by Ian Hickie from the Sydney Institute reported on Norman Swan's Health Report (13.05.2020). Since then it has been acknowledged as a priority area by the government and their own appointed mental health experts, (Dr Ruth Vine, Christine Morgan, Professor Michael Kidd, Mark Roddam) have spoken about the predicted data and potential risks in Webinars addressing those in the Mental Health Profession. These experts have also suggested that one of the ways to manage the risk is true proactively "reach out" to vulnerable groups, who may not be willing to engage with Mental Health Services. The ABC already acts by providing a pathway to engage vulnerable groups as well as all Australians who may become vulnerable due to the current challenges.

Every year over 65 000 Australians attempt suicide, (Blackdog Institute, 2020) . Protective factors, amongst other things, include social cohesion, knowledge and knowing that you are not alone (either in your feelings or in terms of support). The ABC provides a sense of community to those who are isolated, as well as information and knowledge about issues which effect us all (including mental health information via "All in the Mind" and the Health Report) and opportunities to destigmatise by hearing others stories of adversity on many of their programs. It informs, provides a voice for, empowers and unintentionally provides a panacea for many of the people who are most vulnerable to Suicide and Mental Health Issues. It provides a far reaching, accessible nonstigmatising opportunity for those who feel alone to reestablish connection and resilience. The ABC provides an essential service to ALL Australians which helps keep people safe both Mentally and Physically.

To not adequately fund this service during times of hardship leaves all Australians more vulnerable in a time when we need to be Strong. A healthier ABC, promotes a healthier Country.

Siouxsie V
VIC 2486

2020 has come for all of us with many challenges and stressors. Prolonged drought, the extreme fire season and now the pandemic have highlighted the need for clear local information.

The ABC has long been a reliable distributor of not only news and entertainment, but also essential, up to date and localised information in the event of such disasters.

During the extended fire season, our area had no land line phone service, no mobile phone service, no power and no road access for an extended period of time - nearly 2 weeks. With a generator and a device of any kind - phone, radio, computer, we were able, with the information provided on the ABC, to remain safe and informed.

Currently, in lockdown in remote Victoria, the ABC continues to provide the most accurate and reliable information regarding the impact of Covid on the state, and about lockdown restrictions for our area. It is also a source of inspiration, emotional support, educational support and entertainment.

Our national broadcaster is an essential part of daily life for many Australians. When living remotely this is even more so. Now is the time to recognise the negative impact the past defunding has had on its effectiveness to continue its irreplaceable service and right the wrongs of the past and once again increase its funding.

Sincerely,

Skye Auer

Skye A
VIC 3888

The ABC is literally the only outlet I turn to for news and current affairs. I have needed the ABC during coronavirus and the bushfires to get all of the information I needed to stay safe and to keep the community safe.

The kids education programme during corona has been invaluable to my friends with children whilst they were learning from home.

The talk/panel and current affairs programmes are CRUCIAL in holding people in power to account. I only trust the ABC to do this work in the media space.

One of the most significant impacts for me is that I have noticed the ABC has been making very clear, very concerted action on including non-white, cis men as presenters and panelists on their programmes. It is SO IMPORTANT to see intelligent and successful women, indigenous people and others on these shows, sharing views, and representing the diversity of our community. This kind of inclusion is nowhere else on our televisions or media more broadly.

PLEASE: KEEP THE ABC STRONG + FUND IT PROPERLY

Smiljana G
QLD 3065

During every crisis, The Brisbane Floods, The Bushfires and now COVID. The ABC has been crucial to me being able to keep up to date with information from a source I trust.

It's not sensationalised, it shows the whole story. They have a live feed with all the COVID press conferences, so I can get the story first hand. Their app is extremely accessible with Radio National, and important cultural and political discussions which help me in my work. They provide excellent, well researched podcasts about current issues and it represents so many different voices, which are reflective of the society we live in. This is most important to me. I don't want to just learn in a bubble, I want to understand the things I don't know, or can't see.

We need to fund the ABC more, it's crucial to this country being well informed, progressive and innovative... otherwise we end up with a society based on popularised, two dimensional views.... which is basically the United States.... and look where that leads...

Regards
Sofia Woods

Sofia W
NSW 4103

I have been benefiting from the ABC ever since the year 2003 when I would listen to the radio during my final years at high school. It was always calm, balanced and informative without agenda - other than the agenda of helping keep Australians informed, educated, aware and entertained.

Today I look through the ABC app every single morning when I wake up. I love how there is news, in depth content that helps educate me on current issues and online options for me to explore how the news relates to me - interactive and mobile device content.

Throughout COVID-19 the ABC has been reassuring and helping me cut through all the noise and panic. The ABC connects me to genuine experts and people who want to help me, not just sell me something. I would definitely attribute a significant part of my ability to cope during this time to the way the ABC helps me stay alert but not alarmed. It provides me with news and evidence-informed ways to look after myself and my loved ones.

No other sites do this so bias-free. No other sites are so helpful, supportive, solid and dependable.

Solomon L
NSW 2010

I trust the ABC and listen everyday to radio. I enjoy everything you put on. Science, art, politics I listen to you my ABC. I like Dr. Norman Swan and listen everyday to what he has been telling us about Covid19. He is very up to date and tells us the truth about the virus. I also like the way you really listen to callers and give us a chance to speak unlike the 'shock jock' stations like 2gb and 2sm that continually attack people who oppose their right wing politics and cut people off. What is the point of them been on air. They continually attack the ABC and that is disgraceful and non democratic. They are fascists as far as I'm concerned and have no respect for people. I really like the Science show and thank the ABC for keeping me informed. Long live our ABC and governments of all hues 'hands off the ABC'.

Sonia B
NSW 2147

The ABC has been and still is a very important part of my life. Listening to Radiational and Classic FM at home and whilst driving is an integral part of my day. Despite all the cutbacks the quality and variety is still there despite all the repeats that are screened in the latter months of each year and into the next. I have never warmed to the faux-folksy crassly self-important tone of the majority of programmes on commercial TV and find the Murdoch media offerings very cringe-worthy. The ABC is an island of sanity in these tumultuous times and it pains me deeply that so many Australian conservatives have been unable to appreciate this fact,

Sonia M
WA 2810

Having driven round our country more than once I have been welcomed into almost every ABC studio from Broom to Begga--on to Hobart and back. The ABC has always been there, if not an interview there and then a recorded session or playing local music adding my album somewhere. The ABC is very important to all Australian Artists, if its budget were cut the loss of program time would hurt us all. Sonny Rolfe

Sonny R
TAS 6170

When the Tasmanian Government announced a State of Emergency and there was the potential of community transmission - I was very concerned for my family. During this time I relied on the trusted and local ABC radio. I would not like to rely on a commercial/private broadcaster as they can be unduly influenced by whoever is paying for advertising. I love, value and trust the ABC. They are integral to the wellbeing of my family and community. During a crisis - the only station I turn to is the ABC. Their services need more funding and support - not less

Sophie U
VIC 7004

I am very worried about cuts to the ABC. Since I was a child and we only had 2 TV channels, the ABC has been my go-to place for excellent quality news, drama and documentaries. Since I have had the internet, I have used the ABC News website as my main source of Australian and international news. It provides wonderful coverage and looks into the things that matter. Please keep the ABC protected from cuts and keep our public media healthy.

Sr Elizabeth Y
VIC 3065

Please don't cut funds to the ABC. Through all the disasters this year we have relied upon it primarily for clear information on the state of affairs, for fair reporting. Even more it has been so important to have Australian content, and even entertainment as we move through these challenging times. And the ABC's educational programming for kids during lockdown has been essential for our family, as we both work and haven't the time to give them full support for their home schooling!

We NEED them!

Sri E
NSW 3055

I live in a remote town in the snowy mountains, Tumut with a population of some 6,300 persons. The ABC enters my life every morning in providing me accurate unbiased news commentary world wide, local and throughout Australia. Weather and sport reports are updated daily, controlling accurate and safe conditions I will experience throughout the day. The ABC has an excellent garden show headed by Costa Georgiadis which keeps me up to date on the unique mountain area where I live and what activities are needed to keep my home grown food supplies in tip top condition. As an old age pensioner, these services are almost essential and are reliably provided on radio and television on a daily basis. Even my recreational activities, such as fishing, the ABC provides a weekly report. Any change in government funding would certainly impact on the quality of my life and affect the standard of living offered to me by this great country Australia.

Stan C
NSW 2720

there is no doubt in my mind the ABC as a non commercial media source is crucial to Australians' life. Being informed is a duty of all citizens as part of a democracy. Information that is timely accurate and broad in scope (i.e. looking to the causes and consequences of past and future events) is needed more than ever. The advent of fake news, of click bait and trivia distract and confuse us and can even make us despondent and so abdicate our rights to those who gain a profit and or unchallenged power. Then Democracy is just lip service to the elite. We might as well be in China or Russia. Is that what we want for Australia?

Stan V
NSW 2122

My alignment goes back years with the ABC. Thomas Shapcott reviewed my novel, "Stefan", on ABC Radio in 1978.

During the fires [Northern Rivers, NSW] both radio & TV ran from morning to night. I have a disease - COPD - that is life threatening. In fact, smoke from fierce fires, is a killer. Calm factual commentary is worth its weight in gold. Our ABC is this country's heart & family. I am here to help the ABC just as it has supported me for over 7 decades. Just as you cannot or should not put a price on life I say the 'crisis' the ABC now faces due to unwarranted cuts is criminal. I'm saddened to hear & learn that the people's mouthpiece could be silenced.

Stefanie B
QLD 2480

My name is Stella Pabon, I am an early childhood educator and my husband is a medical doctor and university lecturer. We have lived in Australia for over 23 years and from the first day in this wonderful country, the ABC has been an important part of our lives. Our children have been able to access high quality entertainment and educational programs, we can be informed of current issues and we are always sure of the quality of the news the ABC presents as they have very prestigious journalists and very ethical journalism guidelines. The ABC is a strong pillar of our society, making sure politicians do their duty and people in power can be held accountable, need be. We can turn to ABC for music, documentaries, movies for the whole family, specially our beloved Australian cinema and comedy. We need to continue having The ABC in our lives, our children are now grown up and they also hope their children will have the good fortune to grow up benefiting from the many benefits The ABC offers. Please do consider The ABC in the October 2020-2021 budget, we reject the government funding cuts! It is unjust and unethical, a democratic government should not try to silence The ABC. Please restore ABC's funding.

Stella P
NSW 4115

The ABC along with SBS are probably the only 2 channels worth their salt.

The news 24 hrs is brilliant with up to date information on local, country and world topics (that can be believed) I am also a bit of a DRAMA queen and love most of the ABC drama series and use iView regularly.
Stephan.

Stephan C
ACT 2750

The ABC is my primary source of information . This is because I trust it. It is the only media outlet that is accountable to the public in that it has no agenda other than factual and objective analysis and reporting. It has the people's interests at heart rather than media owners and their backers and advertisers. It's radio arm is particularly important to me for its information, education and entertainment. In 2020 it played a critically important role in keeping the public informed on the bushfires and the corona virus, especially in regional areas. It's role in the Pacific and Asia is also crucial. It makes Australia a better country and fosters community. It needs greater support not less and should be independently funded, not subject to the budget. Its importance to our democracy cannot be underestimated.

Stephanie B
NSW 2602

The ABC is the most trustworthy and best presented news information available here. It was essential during the bushfire season as we sheltered my sister and her husband when their home was under threat in the Southern Highlands. It is essential now in coronavirus updates. It is essential as we attempt to tackle the existential threat of climate change.

The ABC is also a haven for high quality arts and music that is essential to their current survival under threats from underfunding, Covid shutdowns and the devaluation of higher level learning.

It is not overstating it to say that the ABC is a lifeline of our democracy and our culture. The current cuts are politically driven, highly damaging and totally irresponsible. Their impact is already felt. Cuts must be reversed and the precious nature of this resource appreciated and nurtured into the future.

Stephanie M
QLD 2060

the ABC is a national icon and my most trusted news source. I believe it is imperative that we have a unbiased, uncommercialised national broadcaster who we can rely on in good times and bad. Please do not make any further cuts to the ABC budget if anything we should be increasing their funding.

Sincerely,
Stephanie Molenaar

Stephanie M
WA 4151

All my life I have relied on the ABC to provide reliable, up to date news reports, in-depth discussions of important events and issues and commercial free entertainment. My Grandmother always listened to the ABC as did my parents.

For me shows such as the 7pm news, 7.30, Four Corners, Insiders, The Drum, Media Watch provide excellent reports and commentary on issues that affect our lives. Diverse views are aired and important and sensible issues are covered and discussed.

Then there are shows such as Australian Story, Hard Quiz, The Weekly, The Heights, Back Roads, Landline, Gardening Australia which provide entertainment as well as information.

I also tune in to ABC radio throughout the day for news and entertainment. I normally listen to local radio, but from time to time listen to News Radio and Radio National.

When I've missed a show on TV that I particularly wanted to view then I log in to iView and am able to catch it there.

I lived in the north west of Western Australia for some years and when cyclones were threatening we all listened to the ABC for up to date and reliable information.

All these services are provided by extremely professional individuals who are excellent and often top of their profession. The organisation itself is revered by Australians as it is, after all, 'Our ABC'. We have grown up with it, relied on it and feel a sense of ownership as our tax dollars support it. To deny the ABC the funds they require to continue and to improve the work they do and the shows they produce is a denial of an excellent service to all Australians. Please adequately fund the ABC.

Stephanie O
NSW 6152

2020 started glued to the essential emergency broadcasting of South Coast Local ABC radio, we were directly threatened by the fires and evacuated three times. Local ABC radio helped immensely in understanding the threat and the response to the fires. It was a intense time. Now it is a trust source of information regard the COVID 19 emergency.

For me, the ABC fills my day from RN Breakfast through the morning of RN and the afternoon of Radio Sydney and the nights of ABC TV. Classic FM is our weekend background. In these COVID times when live performance is missing, all these elements keep us entertained and informed. What we will miss is the local productions that the ABC were producing and can no longer afford.

While the ABC is not our sole news source, it is essential for covering the main stories of Australia and NSW which other sources expand or counter, it is a trusted news source.

Stephen B
NSW 2010

My name is Steve (Stephen) Craven, I am recently retired from my occupation as a Laboratory Manager in the Department of Earth and Planetary Sciences at Macquarie University. I hold a PhD in Geology and I have both worked and studied in this field most of my life. I live in Pymble on Sydney's North Shore and have lived here for forty five years. In fact I have lived in the area all my life.

I believe that I am a concerned citizen. I have been involved in the Scout movement for nearly forty years, though I have little involvement these days. Still, having been involved with youth for all this time I have a growing concern with the direction the world is taking and the situation we leave behind for them.

As a scientist I am preoccupied with fact or at least well supported opinion. I have found, over the years, that the ABC produces the most informative news and information that is available. I am paranoid about getting the right information and I fact check, where I can, everything I hear. It can be quite arduous at times and it is refreshing to be able to turn to a source where you can at least expect information to be close to being correct. Yes the ABC do get it wrong at times but it is normally corrected in a timely fashion and apologies made where appropriate.

I am fully aware of just how much our communities depend on the ABC in times of crisis. The bushfires this summer are a typical example. For me, amid the confusion of the rapidly changing situation I found the ABC to be the most reliable source of information. I have rarely been confused as I derived all my information from the ABC.

I have, and am, deeply concerned with the continued cuts to the ABC funding by recent successive Liberal Governments. I am not a believer in unsubstantiated government spending cuts or tax cuts of any form. In my experience, only the most vulnerable suffer from them. It seems that if you give the facts then you must be a left wing greenie supporting organisation. Appalling! Cuts to ABC are in a way an attack on democracy, a cynical attack on this invaluable institution, to keep it quiet not save money, and I oppose them vehemently.

Sincerely,

Dr. Steve Craven PhD
Pymble, NSW

Stephen C
WA 2073

I use only ABC or SBS for up-to-date news on critical subjects, such as bushfires or the Covid crisis, as well as world news. I trust the journalists and presenters to be in search of objective facts, without the spin of commercial networks. I also trust them to correct their mistakes, something I neither expect, nor get from many politicians and most commercial media outlets. Without the ABC, I'd be without credible information on many issues. Federal Government should adequately fund the ABC in the interest of a transparent democracy.

Stephen F
VIC 6170

Save our ABC by not cutting its budget further. In a world where fair reporting is crucial we need the ABC to be funded more. My 80yo mother depends on the ABC for all her news on radio and TV because she doesn't trust Rupert.

Stephen I
VIC 3218

As a person who has relatives living in the North East parts of Victoria, the ABC news on radio and television with constant updates were a godsend during the recent fires.

Without the ABC we would have had no idea where the fires were and how bad. With the closing of commercial TV stations, the ABC is a constant and informative presence.

Stephen R
VIC 3850

Australia's ABC is an essential service. With its unbiased reporting, intelligent programming, and communication of current, relevant news. ABC is Australia's emergency station, its emergency updates, that do not become edited for commercial or egocentric gain, are lighthouses for many communities to stay in touch with our world. To curtail the voice of our public broadcaster in these Covid and Climate Change times, now, and into a very uncertain future is nothing more than a shockingly partisan act. At a time when our country needs the ABC more than ever. Do we live in a community or an economy...?

Please fund our respected national broadcaster properly.

Yours sincerely

Stephen Routledge

Stephen R
NSW 3747

The ABC is the heart and soul of this nation. I rely on ABC for all my news as commercial organisations cannot be trusted to present facts impartially.

Through the most terrifying events of our (long) lifetimes this year, the ABC has provided both forensic and sensitive analysis. No commercial organisation comes close. To defund the ABC may keep Murdoch and the IPA (same thing really) happy, but we won't forget your cultural vandalism come election time.

Stephen S
NSW 2481

Mr Frydenberg,
Federal Treasurer.

Dear Treasurer,

My name is Stephen Terrey, I live at Fairy Hill NSW and am a retired Medical Practice Manager.

It is with respect that I write asking that the ABC's budget not be cut, in fact it should be increased. The ABC is very important to us, I wake up to the Morning Programme and listen to the radio most days. The information we get from the ABC, especially when the bushfires were affecting areas close to us, is extremely valuable. It also keeps us in touch during this period of lockdown, we haven't left the property since early March as we are particularly vulnerable to Covid-19.

Please help the ABC maintain its vital function in these areas, also in sheer entertainment. It is an important part of our lives and has been since I can remember, some 70 years.

I thank you for consideration,

Stephen Terrey

Stephen T
VIC 2470

I get updates from the ABC about the corona virus, which is critical.

I enjoy TV Programs, like, 7.30 report, Australian Story and, Q&A.

If we are continue to be a democratic country, we need much more funding for the ABC!

Stephen T
VIC 3116

I'm a white-collar working living alone in Thornbury, inner northern Melbourne.

The ABC has been essential for me to keep up to date on the coronavirus crisis, especially the varying level of restrictions.

During and prior to this particular crisis, ABC News is the only source I trust to provide accurate, timely and unbiased information free from click-bait hyperbola. It is an essential service and one all Australians should be proud of.

The October 2020-21 budget should NOT contain cuts in funding to the ABC. Rather the ABC's funding should be increased so it can continue providing news, current affairs and Australian entertainment content we all need.

Regards, Stephen

Stephen V
VIC 3071

The ABC has been indispensable to me in 2020, particularly for its reporting during the bushfires and now COVID period. Unlike the commercial media (radio, TV & online) it covers stories on the ground nationally and internationally with far more attention to professional standards of journalism. As well it provided frequently excellent locally made documentaries (mostly made by independent producers) which the commercial media almost never run. The ABC urgently needs to be properly refunded so it can continue its role as Australia only truly 'national' broadcaster. The economic and social cost of reducing its ability to cover national and local events will far out way increased annual funding.

Stephen W
VIC 3937

Please don't cut the ABC budget any more. Along side the commercial outlets, it's like a light in the darkness for my family. It provides a continuous and intelligent update on bushfires, world politics and pandemics in a non-sensational way - nothing else like it.

We rely on it so much.

Stephen W
VIC 3934

The PM:

With regard to the ABC, it is totally clear that your Government acts as we expect teenagers to act - spitefully and immaturity. As a result, you and your party members are able to increasingly become less transparent and open in government, which contributes to greater erosion of our already reduced democracy.

Shame on you for your ever deepening cut-backs in funding ...and regardless of how you try to spin it, you ARE guilty of cuts!!

Steve Baldwin, Sale Vic.

9/8/20

steve b
WA 3850

The ABC has provided clear guidelines and feedback during this Covid crisis. It is also our best bet during bushfires. Despite political spin, the ABC remains our most reliable news platform. Whilst it requires tax dollars to exist it does not exist to make money. The Australian content is vital in retaining our identity and in reducing our vulnerability to the negative aspects of globalisation.

steve b
VIC 6251

I rely heavily on the ABC, especially during emergencies. During the 2019/20 bushfires, it is the source I can rely on for both accuracy and timeliness of information.

It has also been my primary source of RELIABLE information re COVID and lockdown restrictions.

I also use it extensively for other current affairs, information, entertainment and sport.

It is my most trusted and treasured national institution. I am well aware that it sometimes makes things uncomfortable or embarrassing for Governments - that is part of its job, to hold Governments accountable, and this is an essential feature of a robust democracy. I am also aware that it sometimes gets things wrong, and consider that its low rate of errors is an argument for more funding rather than less funding, to give it more resources to be thorough and rigorous and reduce its already low error rate.

Please protect and strengthen the ABC by maintaining, or better still, increasing its funding.

Steve F

TAS 3011

I am a psychotherapist, living in Hobart. I have listened to the ABC since I was a child - 50 years ago.

I teach internationally, in over a dozen countries. I have never encountered something as good as the ABC.

Its a special Australian resource, and needs to be protected and supported.

The ABC has been important during Covid, for its usual clear reporting, and a range of programs to help people cope.

Many people I know depend on the ABC for Covid related information and support.

The ABC holds those in power accountable when deception can be easily overlooked.

The ABC through its stories, entertainment, and deeply reflective pieces helps Australia to stay connected and educated.

It is ESSENTIAL that the ABC is supported by the government, NOT CUT. It is essential that cut funding be restored.

The ABC has suffered a significant cut to its funding for decades:

- the total funding cut to the ABC since 2013 will be over \$783 million.
 - It is now operating with the smallest budget since the Howard Government's extraordinary 2% funding cut in its first budget.
 - A thousand jobs have gone since 2014.
 - Lateline and state-based versions of The 7.30 Report have been axed. Radio current affairs programming via The World Today and PM has been halved. Specialist programming on Radio National has been cut, and over 100 ABC websites have been shut down.
 - The ABC no longer covers local sport on TV. Its local production units, other than for news and current affairs, in Adelaide and Perth have been closed, along with five regional local radio newsrooms.
- The ABC was a vital resource during the bushfire season of 2019-2020.
- Research shows 60% of people in affected areas relied on ABC's emergency broadcasts to stay safe.
 - ABC local radio was essential when digital and telecommunications failed in bushfire zones.
 - One in two Australians used it as their main source of information during the summer crisis.
 - People trusted the ABC's channels and websites more than commercial outlets.
 - When the organisation's emergency broadcasting policy was created in 2011, the emergency division ran for six months of the year – now it runs for the entire year.

Please, for the sake of the Australia people, and for the sake of future generations, do not destroy this precious resource.

Steve G

VIC 7005

Trust, balance & authenticity. That's what the ABC means to me.

In a world where people are constantly crying Fake News in order to achieve their own political or financial agenda, the ABC is the single place that I go to get real news. And I am more than willing for my tax dollars to be spent on it.

Steve K

QLD 3161

I rely on the ABC for reliable information on COVID, bushfire, unbiased news and fact based journalism that is well researched. The ABC holds ALL governments and ALL parties to account for their actions. We need this 4th arm of our democracy to shine a spotlight on any potential corruption in the other three arms of government, to take up issues on our behalf. Increasing ABC funding is imperative, and I don't mind paying extra tax to achieve these goals.

Steve T
QLD 4210

I rely on the ABC on balanced and fair reporting. As a senior single citizen I have relied on the ABC tvview to keep me entertained with quality programs and films that I otherwise would not have been able to access. A lot of my social activities have been curtailed by the pandemic. The alternatives are mainly crap especially SKY which peddles hate and far right agendas. The ABC gives me hope in the democratic Australian way. We must support the ABC with more funding and the resources to do investigative journalism. KEEP YOUR HANDS OFF OUR ABC.... I am a swinging voter who used to vote liberal.

Steve W
NSW 4210

I do not consider any further budget cuts to the ABC to be fair and just. I will focus my opinion on the quality of current affairs and news, however there are many more valid and just as important reasons, to continue a level of reasonable funding to the ABC.

It appears the current government is holding the ABC to ransom to produce favorable media coverage for them (some might refer to this as propaganda) and overlook their current bias towards big business and American style capitalism, at the expense of accurate reporting, to prevent any further budget cuts.

I cannot remember a time in my life when it has been so important for fair and accurate reporting, as evidenced by the current global pandemic reporting and so much conflicting information from social media so called news outlets, and also by at times federal and state governments providing conflicting advise and information. The ABC has continued to provide factual reporting and expert commentary to guide through the politicking and bickering on the best and safest way forward.

The recent standards of "proper news" in most commercial media outlets has been severely compromised by advertising and entertainment articles being passed of as news, and it has become a minefield trying to locate fair and reasonably accurate news reporting apart from what the various, and still at this stage, multiple ABC platforms and formats available can provide.

It must also be considered that the ABC continues to provide coverage to all the regional Australians where the business minded sections of the media do not consider it necessary or profitable to supply news and current affairs to these regional and at times isolated Australians.

I would just like to impress upon you how important the local, national and overseas news from the ABC is in most Australian peoples lives, and funding must be maintained to continue and improve this very necessary service.

Steven D
NSW 2168

Please keep full funding for the ABC. As a farmer in rural Australia I rely on ABC for up to date news and rural information. Do not take away funding. The ABC kept me up on all the information I needed to survive the 2020 fire season where I nearly lost our home. Keep ABC alive!!!

Steven H
NSW 2422

The ABC is the most important media outlet in Australia.It is the leader in news, both local and national and is important for children with pre school programs. It requires and deserves adequate funding from the Australian Government.

Steven P
VIC 2429

Why support a compromised Media that is not prepared to provide balanced reporting? The recent story on the ABC - the truth about 5G was a joke. ABC withheld important facts - what the science really shows and what more informed nations are doing - i.e. placing moratoriums on 5G rollout until research has been conducted to validate safety claims. Instead the ABC has parroted the same unsubstantiated conspiracies of Russian interference and had feel good Croft (a psychologist - not a real scientist) making statements he has no credibility to be making. Obviously, selling out to Government neoliberalist propaganda that 5G is safe when there is in fact no scientific health based studies to support such claims. I have lost all faith in media providing the truth. Fake news and soap box journalism seems to be the state of play.

Steven W
VIC 3030

I depend entirely on the services of the ABC & SBS for my information and entertainment. The services provided by for-profit constantly show bias and special interest, but commercial and political. I cannot trust them. It has been proved, at the behest of the commercial services that the ABC lives up to their Charter of balance, time and time again that the ABC. And yet they pursue it by any means they can. Sadly, advertising in a public media facility inevitably leads to influence and bias.

I demand thematic the ABC & SBS be closed in the new arrangement for the likes of Facebook, Amazon, etc to pay for their data. The present arrangement is clearly a sop to Murdoch and will just encourage the unpaid use of our ABC services instead, thus enabling the big four media groups to feed on the best for free from the public through.

Stirling W
QLD 3187

We need more funding for the ABC not cuts.

Stu C
NSW 4850

During the bushfires that ravaged much of Australia between December 2019 and January 2020 we were aboard a cruise ship on a Christmas/ New Year cruise around South Australia, Tasmania and Victoria, along with around 1400 others, mostly Aussies.

Throughout this time many and probably most of us relied on the brilliant coverage provided by ABC of what was happening on the ground, as it was happening, at or near our own homes. We were well informed on where the fires were, how each of our communities was responding, what the fire services were doing at the time at what they were planning, who was safe, and who was not.

Given how much has been stolen from their budget to mobilise with local resources as well as staff resources. To manage, co-ordinate and dispel all that material so well, so succinctly, we can trust the ABC to do and that is why we need a properly funded public broadcaster.

A couple we met on the ship were from Kangaroo Island and as we sat off Kangaroo Island on standby to assist in evacuations the ABC told our friends their home was not in danger. On a personal note I have 3 friends in the RFS who were in different parts of NSW fighting the fires, and thanks to the ABC I knew they were safe.

I may not like everything the ABC does but I'd pay extra taxes to ensure it remains strong and able to do news and entertainment. Valued not costed!

Stuart F
VIC 2047

I live in rural Victoria. The ABC is absolutely essential for information of life and death importance. I speak from experience. My family home was destroyed on Black Saturday. Without the ABC I might have been misinformed about the risks of that day, and perished. No other media organisation was there, before or after, except for some sensationalist material.

I also rely on the ABC for news more broadly, and agree with the majority of Australians that it is the country's most trusted source of news. It is crucial in a media landscape dominated by a foreign owned giant, where increasing concentration and commercial imperatives stifle press freedom, impartiality and diversity, that the ABC be funded properly. This means that funding should be increased. While politicians invariably claim a lack of funds available for the ABC, most people know that politicians always find ways to fund electorally advantageous projects when they wish.

Regards,

Stuart Morgan
St Andrews 3761

Stuart M
WA 3761

At a time earlier this year when my wife was in India and needing to get home pre border closures, and she had many queries about Covid testing, quarantine etc; the government and political commentary was so confused I turned to the government's Covid hot line. Regrettably after being kept on hold for well over an hour, I gave up.

I then thought of turning to Dr Norman Swan and there it all was - everything I needed, clear and readily available.

You could even post questions, which I did.

I am pleased to see GetUp has highlighted the ABC's role in the Covid crisis - much other commentary about the ABC's budget cuts refers to the ABC's role during the bushfires however neglects to mention Covid.

I think the Covid role should be emphasised and I think it should be noted we are highly likely to have more bushfires this summer and once again people will be turning to the ABC.

Stuart W
VIC 6158

ABC is my favourite TV and we relied on it get reliable and unbiased stories.

Subramaniam S
QLD 3150

My children grew up watching Playschool. Now their kids watch Bluey too. We all watched Science programmes together. I currently watch Australian Story, Gardening Australia, 4 Corners, Shaun Micallef, War on Waste, Stateless, Drama series like The Slap and many, many more. Our ABC is so very much more than the news and current affairs. Do not destroy our ABC.

Sue B
QLD 4655

Start my day every morning with a cup of coffee and the ABC news.
Earlier this year, when overseas while the bushfires were raging in Australia, I relied on the ABC to keep me informed of events at home.
Love and cherish our ABC.
Yours sincerely
Sue Collings

Sue C
NSW 4151

ABC is my go to station for radio news and TV coverage. The news is balanced, pertinent and extensive, presenters are top and the programs are real and relevant. Take Back Roads, Four Corners, ABC Story as examples. It will be a travesty to lose the ABC.

Sue D
WA 2088

I dont watch news much - I tend to just hear it somehow but when something goes wrong, I only want it from one reliable source. With friends and colleagues daily facing bushfire threats, I was constantly reviewing ABC Just InDecember/Jan, there was only reliable and comprehensive source of news with adequate coverage in Australia, the ABC. Then coronavirus hit....and whilst all the other news channels showed sensationalist stuff, if one wanted the scientific information, Norman Swans perspective, reliable updates etc, again one turned to ABC. I do it every day, multiple times daily (online, radio and TV). And then, of course ABC iview has been a godsend for many of us in isolation....those of us that dont choose to pay for Pay TV (not everyone wants to or indeed are able to pay for TV). ABC podcasts and music have filled in the rest of the coronavirus need for many of us also. Aside from crisis moments, the ABC also has investigative journalism - the only investigative journalism left in this country are ABC (TV, radio, online) and Guardian (print). I think if Australia ever stopped having ABC, I would leave the country - it is the only worthwhile, reliable news and we depend on it, around the country. We also depend on it for our entertainment and our comfort when things are wrong. THANK YOU THANK YOU SO MUCH ABC for being there for me and for Australia.

Sue F
NSW 6163

During the bush fire crisis it was immensely re-assuring to tune to the ABC and listen to the appraisal of the current situation by experienced reporters such as Phill Williams, no hysterics, no hyperbole, just calm factual reports. The same applies to all ABC reportage, no blame games, just calm, detailed accounts. I also rely on the ABC for covid updates. I want to hear from experts not politicians or commercial commentators pretending to be experts. The covert chipping away at the ABC must stop.

Sue G
VIC 2070

I rely on ABC News 24 for keeping me abreast of daily announcements by the Victorian Premier & the Prime Minister on the Covid 19 Pandemic.
Furthermore the daily 7 pm news on the ABC keeps me abreast of the news generally as does the 7.30 Report. I rely on the ABC news for dispassionate and objective news coverage.
Each day for many years I have relied for company & music entertainment on ABC Classic. I listen to their broadcast for most of each day and as I live alone I depend upon it.
Please do not further defund our national broadcaster! It would be devastating to me.

Sue J
VIC 3070

I have depended on ABC tv and radio and online for daily health updates on the coronavirus. News is accurate and invited specialist commentary provide additional information. Also similar for bushfire reporting. A high level of journalistic integrity demonstrated. No name calling, false facts, nasty attacks as seen on some other media. . I also value range and quality arts, music, documentaries. Also note Australian content and productions. An amazing and world recognized media which is working for all Australians..To continue its excellent work the Board and Manager need to be selected by an independent body. No political interference from any government or lobbyists.

sue M
QLD 3166

I have relied on the ABC during the coronavirus crisis, also for bushfires and other disasters. I am a retired RN and I have 10 grandkids in Victoria who also rely on the ABC for schooling.

Sue M
QLD 4873

I rely on the ABC for Education and for "not-for-profit" news.

sue s
VIC 4123

The ABC has provided me with detailed interviews and an independent analysis of many issues related to bushfires, Covid 19 and the black lives matter movement during 2020. The coverage has provided balanced viewpoints from experts rather than sensational headlines which commercial stations often repeat.

The ABC gives a voice to the people impacted by the tragic circumstances unfolding during this year. It enables me to make informed decisions about issues rather than relying on the viewpoints of people hired by media magnates.

Shows like Lateline and state based versions of the 7.30 report need to be reinstated. The ABC should no longer endure a "death by a thousand cuts". It is an institution that provides news, entertainment and comfort during these challenging times.

Sue T
VIC 3193

I am a retiree who manages a small farm in Gippsland, Victoria. Through every crisis - droughts, bushfires, floods or global pandemics - the ABC keeps me informed, educated and engaged. The ABC is my most trusted source of news and information and connects me to fellow Australians and the world like no other media source can.

Like many Australians, ABC local radio is my lifeline during the bushfire season and I rely on its emergency broadcasts on my battery radio if power is cut, and I evacuate if it advises me to do so.

I have fond childhood memories of The Argonauts Club and The Children's Hour. Likewise my children and grandchildren have enjoyed and benefited from Adventure Island, Playschool and ABC4Kids. More than ever during this pandemic crisis, kids need the intelligent, creative, educational programs on the ABC.

Cuts to the ABC are cuts to the heart and soul of Australia so I insist that there are no cuts to ABC funding in the October 2020-21 budget plus a commitment is made to fully restore past cuts. It is crucial to Australia's interests that the ABC is fully funded so that debacles similar to Radio Australia's bandwidth being taken over by China do not occur.

The ABC is essential for media diversity. We need a robust public broadcaster to ensure that there is a benchmark for quality journalism in Australia and especially for local content in regional areas.

The ABC is a national treasure and should not be put under threat by people in power who do not want to be held accountable for their misdeeds.

The results of budget cuts to the ABC since 2014 read like a train wreck. It is past time for those responsible for attempting to bleed the ABC to death to realise that they are putting a knife to the heart of every Australian.

Sue T
ACT 3820

Firstly, we depended on the ABC for advice about where the QLD and NSW bush fires were as we planned to drive to QLD for our overdue Christmas with my sister and her husband. The information broadcast by the ABC was instrumental in us NOT driving to QLD this year because of risk associated with the fires and road conditions. Then the ABC-delivered news of what has become the Black Summer fires, the dust storm that blanketed Canberra, the hailstorm that damaged 30 to 40 vehicles - all these new reports delivered promptly and clearly by the ABC as the national public broadcaster under its charter. The ABC's emergency services were without parallel! We cannot do without the ABC.

Sue V
WA 2606

We need our ABC now more than ever. News we can trust and beautiful music and informative talks.

Suellen R
NSW 6158

ABC TV and Radio National have been my companions since I've been living in Australia. I was amazed that Australia could have a free to air station with so much excellent content. I'm from the States and believe me there is nothing like the ABC over there. I get all my news, local, national and international from RN and ABC TV I trust the them.

Even though I haven't been through bush fires or floods I find out how people are managing by listening to the news.

The documentaries are excellent, also look at the wonderful work 4 Corners, Foreign Correspondent, The Drum to mention just a few.

The ABC is my life line, I love it

Sunny Pengelly, 17 Mounter St Mayfield East 2304 NSW

Sunny P
NSW 2304

There is no doubt that the most helpful and reliable information on the virus and what we should do about it came from Norman Swan on the ABC. When the messages from politicians were confusing, Scott Morrison saying we should go to the footy when this virus was spreading and could kill, Norman swan explained the risks of big groups and why it was problem so clearly.

Susan B
NSW 2021

My name is Susan Brown. I live in Tea Gardens, on the New South Wales coast. The bush around us here has many birds and animals including some koalas. During last summer's bushfires I listened to and watched the ABC's emergency broadcasts to see if the fires were approaching us or our daughters house in Abernethy near Cessnock. She did have to evacuate at one time, but fortunately was able to return with her property unharmed. Being able to keep track of the fires was an immense relief to us, horrifying as it was.

I also watch '4 Corners', and am amazed, informed and grateful at the many stories of public malpractice and fraud exposed. I do not believe any other broadcaster would cover these stories.

Many of the ABC's programs, including the news broadcasts, shed light on occasions when those in power are guilty of deception which might be overlooked by other broadcasters. It is important that some effort is made to ensure these people are held accountable at a time when deception is easily.

I also feel the ABC keeps me in touch with Australian events and stories. Programs like 'Back Roads', 'Landline', 'Australian Story', 'The Story of Bangarra' and 'The Australian Dream' all contribute to an overall view of our society in an interesting and engaging way. Shows and series like 'The Slap', 'Rake', 'The Straits', 'Crownies', 'Miss Fisher's Murder Mysteries', 'Paper Giants', and 'Mabo', as well as the story of Bernie Banton, are jewels in the crown of ABC television.

All these examples come from ABC television but the productions from ABC's radio networks are an amazing contribution to life in Australia, especially for migrants and first nations people. I also enjoy the analyses of elections and current affairs on the ABC. I regularly listen to James Valentine Richard Glover, 'Thank God it's Friday' and whatever is on when we are driving.

I even remember listening to 'Blue Hills' on the radio with my mother. I listened to 'The Children's Hour' and later 'The Argonauts' which were great especially for country kids. I also remember the blanket of silence that fell over the house when the seven o'clock news came on. Woe betide anyone who interrupted this essential listening!

I take particular pleasure in the fact that my children and their children now listen to and watch ABC programs, such is the variety of offerings.

In short, I believe that the ABC is our most important, single cultural institution.

Talk of 'efficiency dividends' does not hide the enormous cuts to the ABC's budget in recent years. I cannot remember any government that was not offended at times by its reporting. That suggests to me that it is even-handed most of the time. If the ABC were to be privatised this action would silence the only independent voice that we have available to us.

I am pleading with you not to cut the ABC's funding in the October 2020-21 budget. In fact, I demand in addition that cut funding be restored.

Susan B
VIC 2324

My story is about being trapped in Mallacoota during the bushfires in late December 2019. In the morning I injured my Achilles' tendon and was not able to accompany my husband to a birthday party in Sydney. I remained in my holiday home without a car. The emergency app said "It was too late to leave." Over night I watched the fire expand on the emergency app at a rapid pace thinking my husband would not be able to return. In the morning I turned on ABC Gippsland who were talking to a supervising fireman. He described the situation and said "There is a small window of opportunity to leave Mallacoota if you go now. My husband was staying in Canberra on his return trip after the party. I was able to inform him that he could drive into Mallacoota pick me up and leave again. I knew that the safest way to get out was to head for Canberra. We safely evacuated to Canberra. The fire coverage was excellent. Who else but the ABC would have been able to give that sort of detailed and accurate information. No other radio station reaches this area.

Stop cutting their funds. They do a magnificent job in standing up in emergencies.

Another example is Covid-19 emergency. Coronacast has been a daily listen for me currently to keep across factual information on the virus, as has ABC News radio in which I can listen to the premier's and Prime-ministers announcements in full. Again what other radio or television station would do this?

The ABC is a much needed institution of Australia.

I also believe there is a place for local drama to be produced and I love their array of informative podcasts.

Thanks for the opportunity to write .

Sue Cahir

Susan C
QLD 3892

I rely on the ABC for mental stimulation through their programs on the arts, philosophy, science, history, current affairs, and sensible, unbiased social and political commentary - especially now we are in COVID19 restrictions.

Please, please do not cut its budget any more. Increase it!!

Propaganda is no substitute for informed opinion!

Susan C
WA 4113

I trust the ABC for my news. The other stations don't appear to do "news".

Susan F
WA 6163

During the COVID outbreak my one trusted source of information was ABC RN, ABC TV and the ABC website. In particular Norman Swans presentations were vital in giving background information for me to understand what this virus was all about. For me it was critical in how to inform my 94 year old mother, who is fit and well and lives independently, but needed precise and accurate information on what was going on. The ABC made it easy to get to relevant, accurate information which was essential to guide ones actions.

In addition the ABC Classic presenters were wonderful in providing uplifting and caring commentary to beautiful music.

The ABC was essential for us and demonstrated the importance of public radio. The Liberal government has done enough slashing of the ABC's budget and should now leave it alone.

It's cutting of ABC budget's and support of Clive Palmer's court case convinces me not to vote for them.

Susan F
WA 6011

During the time of Covid shutdown here in WA, when there was no local cafe open with newspapers, I relied on the ABC for news of every kind. I am not on social media and in any case, only trust the ABC for reliable, well reported, up to date information.

As well as news, I have had RN glued to my ear for book and film reviews I would have read in newspapers.

In the evening my husband and I have had and continue to have a steady diet for Classic FM.

So, in the absence of films, concerts and newspapers our lives have both full, informed and peaceful thanks to our best friend the ABC.

Susan G
NSW 6160

Coronacast and the health report have been essential sources of information for my family during the period of the virus. Lockdown has seen us rely for mental stimulation on old favourites: programmes about philosophy, religion and ethics (esp The Minefield) etc. The ABC is also a lone source it seems of news of current indigenous affairs, stories and language. The music show is a boon at the weekends. In a society increasingly at risk of a general "dumbing down", the intelligence of ABC programming, the curiosity of its presenters and its moral compass so far as privileging facts over beliefs are especially to be valued and supported. My day would be undernourished and unsupported were the ABC to be diminished, and our culture debased

susan h
TAS 2027

Keep the ABC well funded and protect it from political interference and strangulation by death from a thousand cuts. We rely on it for so much: cultural enrichment, unbiased news source and essential information on threats that can harm us, such as bush fires and pandemic advice. I am a farm run the seat of Braddon. I shall campaign for those who support our ABC.

Susan H
NSW 7325

I have been listening to and viewing the ABC as long as I can remember. Now I am more or less retired, doing some charity work from home, I turn on ABC Radio National every morning and listen to it all day. I watch the ABC TV almost all of the time as I don't like being bombarded with advertising.

The ABC gives me balanced reporting and keeps me up to date with current events. I am horrified by the cuts to its funding and I believe wholeheartedly that it deserves to return to full funding.

Susan H
NSW 2483

In both the bush fire emergency (which affected us personally) and the Covid 19 contagion we rely solely on the ABC news and the ABC Radio broadcasts to get reliable information. We could not get such information from any other source.

Susan H
QLD 2575

I rely absolutely and exclusively on the ABC for all my news, analysis, cultural and emotional support. I subscribe to ABC podcasts, and actively engage in on-line discussion in many areas. The ABC - Radio National, Classic FM and ABC television is critical to my quality of life. The cuts that have taken place have been truly shocking, and more would be insufferable.

susan j
QLD 4552

Our family watch the ABC to get unbiased truth. Other tv and radio stations are aligned with a particular political point of view and all interviews, political comment are slanted towards that held view. The cash for comment shock jock for instance. We listen to news and current affairs on the ABC because it is all fact checked. It's real, it's not trying to manipulate us or send subliminal messages. The political reporting of the ABC helped us understand why the spread of Covid 19 was important to control in order to protect our economy. That social distancing washing hands, staying home and wearing masks would help us all to get back to our normal lives sooner rather than later.

The ABC is where we go for our excellent home grown drama series. It showcases just how good Australians are at producing world class content. With the ABC we can laugh at ourselves. It doesn't matter which political party you are aligned the ABC helps us understand all sides of politics have a voice and need to be heard and encourage us to make up our own minds. Unlike other media outlets that force their opinions on us.

The ABC helps our grand-children understand the world around them by their great children's series, Bluey for example, one of our best exports. The ABC just does things well. We trust the ABC to deliver unbiased news reporting, home entertainment and brilliant drama series and comedy. Any political party that takes offence at some of the content doesn't understand the collective intelligence of the audience. We all need to laugh at ourselves once in a while, not brainwashed like other media outlets.

We don't have any particular political alliance but we trust our ABC to deliver factual news and content and we will protect our ABC and we will fight for our ABC no matter which political party is running this country.

Susan and Craig Lynch and family.

Susan L
NSW 4680

The ABC has been a part of my life for as long as I can remember. Before we got a TV I listened to the ABC on the radio and then watched it on TV. I am now 64 and still enjoying both services as well as IView. The ABC provides services that the commercial stations both TV and radio never have. The ABC has provided us with high quality drama both Australian and overseas, investigative journalism of the highest quality and its news service is always there for us. In the current covid 19 crisis I have turned to the ABC to keep up to date with the latest developments. Living on my own, the ABC radio shows help me feel more connected with other Australians. Comparing ABC cutbacks to commercial media cuts is nonsense. The ABC is doing much more for all Australians with a much smaller budget. The government needs to fund it properly. We need a strong ABC to keep governments, businesses and unions on their toes. It may be taxpayer money but so is politician wages and a great deal of taxpayer money is being funneled through Aged Care, Child Care and other sources, providing huge profits instead of decent services as in the aged care sector. Please, liberal government, lift the freeze on ABC funding and increase their budget.

Susan M
NSW 2081

I live in Taree and this area including Harrington , Old Bar and Hillville on the Mid North Coast of NSW, was one of the first areas hit by fires before the summer in 2019. Our area had constant road cuts, difficulty breathing due to smoke pollution, and so much danger.

The ABC radio kept us fully informed so well. No one else did esp commercial media. I actually wrote to our local member Dr Gillespie about this to stop funding cuts to emergency funding to the ABC. Might add I got a reply but no interest I doing anything in support!

We have friends who lost houses, had close calls and had to evacuate. So 'thank god for the ABC' !

We needed to go to Newcastle to help our daughter at this time as well. We knew it was safe to do so because of the ABC. On the way home the next night we became trapped at Nabiac when the fire unexpectedly jumped the road and blocked the highway. It was scary but ABC radio was our source of information to tell us what was happening while we were stuck in a long line of stationary traffic unable to move.

ABC programs like Four Corners, Foreign Correspondent and the News and Morning Breakfast are the programs we watch for unbiased reporting! Sky news unfortunately is now on WIN and is hugely right wing biased and Channel 9 has lost the plot with rural Australia !

I love the ABC comedy like Shaun Michalef and Charlie Pickering. I also enjoy drama like Shetland, Vera, Father Brown and the political drama with Debra Mailman which is Australian. Australian drama is so important so we keep our culture and I always love those shows on the ABC.

The ABC radio and TV need the best funding possible to provide service esp to rural Australia which is often life or death for us locals. Sydney centric commercial news really don't do the in depth reporting locally we need. Hell, they can't even pronounce our place names and think Taree and Port Macquarie are 2mins away from each other when they're 45 mins away! So typical when there is no local reporting.

Long live a fully funded ABC!

Sue McKenna

Susan M

VIC 2430

I am a former employee of the ABC. Disclosure completed.

I spent more than 25 years of my working life in the organisation and feel privileged to have had the opportunity to do so. Like most Australians, the ABC has been part of my life from my earliest years. I had country relatives all around Victoria, who lived and breathed for the ABC's dependable broadcasting. Sadly regional areas have suffered some of the biggest losses, as has Radio Australia.

Public broadcasting plays an important and irreplaceable role in our democracy. Part of its charter is to provide:

" innovative and comprehensive broadcasting services of a high standard"

"to provide broadcasting programs that contribute to a sense of national identity "

"to inform and entertain, reflect the cultural diversity of the Australian community and broadcast programs of an educational nature".

The ABC was never established for economic purposes. It is a purely independent organisation. It takes no advertising because of this ideology, and consequently cannot be influenced by vested commercial interests. Its editorial quality and integrity is paramount. It is the people's broadcaster and is there to serve the public interest.

Working in the organisation I have observed critical governments come and go and budget cuts made that caused devastation from program makers wondering how the continued quality of their work could continue with lack of resources and shrinking staff. And yet, every employee maintained a spirit to do the very best under trying conditions and continued stress.

In recent years I have observed an unprecedented hostility towards the national broadcaster from this government and the press.

The fact that this has been occurring is just one more reason why the ABC must continue in its role as a trusted source of information for all Australians. It is committed to informing the nation of world events without fear or favour, in a balanced and intelligent form, and that is what it does.

The year of 2020 has been challenging for all of us and the future is still looking very grim.

Through it all the ABC has maintained its usual high standard of keeping us informed. No embellishments, no unnecessary broadcasting of dubious or alarming reports to enhance the fears of so many.

ABC radio has been applauded for its dependable emergency broadcasting. No additional funding has been provided for this wonderful service. ABC television has been at the forefront of relaying reliable & accurate reporting on the coronavirus. Norman Swan has been the voice of sanity.

During this period I have also been made more aware of the gaps

in both radio & television programming. Repeated programs are now the norm. The lack of funding is palpable.

The ABC deserves a massive increase in funding, not more budget cuts.

Australia's national broadcaster must be protected.

Susan N

VIC 3145

If the ABC is charged with being the source of information in a crisis, how on earth can it do so when it is starved of funds?
From the (current) safety of my life it is the only agency I trust to supply up to date and reliable information.
A civilised modern community requires investigative journalism and any government which attempts to control or limit this cannot be trusted.

Susan O
VIC 3101

I personally have relied on our local ABC radio for up to date news about the fires in East Gippsland where I live. They had interviews and warnings in places where I know many people who were impacted by fire. Since then I have relied on ABC for news about the Pandemic and have friends and family impacted by this. They provide up to date news and keep me in touch with the broader community which becomes a lifeline in remote communities. Thankyou ABC you have so much to offer on radio and TV that is informative, real and inspiring!

Susan P
VIC 3875

For many many years the ABC has been my news source of choice, and especially in these difficult times. Today (3rd August) it was 774 we turned to to hear both the Premier s update, and the thoughtful analysis of the details of Stage 4 lockdown in Melbourne and Stage 3 in regional Victoria. The thought that ABC journalism is being threatened by lack of funds us abhorant.
ABC drama and live telecasts of various productions has been a delight, but once again is threatened by funding cuts.
Please look at the valuable journalism, analysis, and investigative reporting, together with the drama and entertainment and allow our ABC to remain a large part of our lives (and help them to retain the 7.45am news!

susan s
VIC 3950

I rely on the news from the ABC, more so than ever in Melbourne during the bushfires (I live close to the Plenty river, where a copycat fire was started on the worst day of t, the fires), and during the pandemic.
But more than that, I am now totally dependent on the ABC to save my sanity during Melbourne's second lockdown. The ABC is my one companion during the long hours of the evening and the night and my nearly unbearable isolation. Please don't further cut funds to the ABC.

Susan S
NSW 3088

Without the ABC my family would have had no knowledge as to the progress and proximity of the New Year fires as we live in the rural area of the Far South Coast. Daily local news reports keep us up to date with local happenings, and at present the ABC is our steadying influence and support regarding the coronavirus happenings. As newspapers are becoming obselete the ABC is like a lifeline to usall 24 hours per day.

Susan S
NSW 2549

Dear Minister

During the horrific bushfires of last Summer

The ABC provided accurate coverage and as a lady in her 70's living alone and unwell the ABC was a reassuring lifeline during the three evacuations I endured.

Now during covid 19 the ABC is a trustworthy source in providing regular and accurate updates from the various officials both Health and Government .

I believe out of all the news sources on TV the ABC provides the general public with non sensational but accurate and fair reporting.

They also bring a compassionate and wise tone which in these times in Australia's history is very important to maintain public order.

Their programming is interesting and offers a variety of quality programs which thankfully are Ad free.

I also watch other TV channels but the ABC is my favourite.

It's not my favourite because of my age but because I have watched the ABC from my teens.

We need the variety and quality the ABC provides.

I suggest the Ministers involved in Budgeting

make a popular decision in favour of continued funding of the ABC, we the public should not be penalised by cuts to the ABC because there has been Government mismanagement of funds in other areas.

And covid 19 funding general disbursements to citizens should not be used as an excuse for not funding the ABC because the Government has known the ABC funding was coming due and they can definitely manage the budget to include at least 90% of the funding required by the ABC

susan T

NSW 2000

Our household relies on the ABC news and current affairs programming daily for trustworthy information, across many formats. It is not commercially or politically influenced and therefore is the most reliable source of news and current affairs. The ABC obviously requires sustained and more adequate funding to achieve this.

Susan W

NSW 2484

ABC has always helped me in my life by being the first network to take the risk of bringing British TV to Australia .

Later the commercial networks pick them up if they have been successful.

Without The abc we would never have had our lives enriched by Fawlty Towers , Young Ones , IT Crowd , Death in Paradise and all the British crime series that are perennially popular .

susan w

VIC 2046

The ABC news has been a constant for me through this most challenging of years - even more now as a Melbournian in lockdown. I am a TAFE Librarian who has largely been working from home for the last 4 months and it is part of my new routine to check the ABC news updates over breakfast, catch up with the Coronacast during lunch and the 7pm bulletin on TV after dinner. I rely on the ABC emails twice a day to bring to my attention issues aligned with the study and professional practice of my professional colleagues and students that I can share with them.

Part of what I teach is research and how to use reliable sources, and the ABC is certainly one of these - compared to the biased and often badly sourced and written content we get from other media outlets. On a personal basis, I get solace from the many podcasts to support my mental health with the stories of how others are managing in the pandemic.

But even before the pandemic, through the horrific bushfire 2019/20 season and back through my life, it has been the ABC in its many and varied formats and content that has provided education and entertainment for me and my children and generally helps me make sense of this amazing and wonderful, challenging and overwhelming society that we live in. Thank you B1 & B2 and all your ABC friends! Make sure the ABC can continue to keep those in power accountable and all of us reliably informed.

Susannah B

VIC 3129

During times of national or regional disasters I have regularly turned on the ABC to become informed of situations.

There are many informative programs on the ABC which are educational and entertaining. It is my radio and television channel of choice due to this valuable source of information.

The ABC is a important cultural aspect of Australia and has a long history of community service.

To further cut funding to the ABC will be a backwards step in providing community services at a time when it is needed now so much. Future events will need full and informative coverage and the ABC can only provide it if the government will finally recognise the ABC's importance to the community and discontinue funding reduction and improve funding.

Susanne L
VIC 3551

I use the ABC news application every day to stay updated on news and current affairs. To me, it represents a reliable, highly professional and trustworthy source of information independent of quick-paced market pressures that impact the quality of other news and media outlets. The ABC television offerings are equally dear to me as are the radio programs because they offer a distinctly Australian focus and perspective. Please ensure that the ABC is adequately funded and in a position to deliver quality and quantity of their programs. I do not endorse budget cuts to this vital institution.

Kind regards

Susanne T
QLD 3226

The ABC is the most watched channel in our home. I rely on this service because I have a hearing loss and I prefer to listen to a service that is not filled with noisy advertisements and unnecessary stuff that confuses me. The ABC meets my needs for current information quickly and I shudder to think of our country being deprived of this vital service that keeps disseminating news and updates about situations be it the pandemic, flood, fire or any other national concern/

Suzan W
TAS 4123

I am over 70 and have kept informed of all changes associated with Covid 19. I also listen to the ABC for my entertainment

Suzanne B
NSW 7015

I don't have a specific story to share. I do feel very strongly that the ABC must not have it's budget cut. The ABC provides a necessary service in emergencies, like bush fires & for parents home schooling.

We also enjoy the entertainment provided by the ABC.

I like morning radio as a background when I'm doing thing in house & garden.

Suzanne H
NSW 2234

Without doubt the radio broadcasts relating to the bushfires in January were vital, along with News 24. I was at Culburra Beach which was threatened by local fire for many weeks. The ABC was everyone's lifeline.

Suzanne M
QLD 2540

I live on my own and turning on ABC in the morning is like having breakfast with a friend. The news and breakfast show keep me informed when things are very worrying. The news and information they share is from expert sources and reliable without sensationalism. I look forward to the programmes they choose to show and watch very little commercial tv. Through the day I listen to ABC classic to brighten and sooth my day. The ABC need to be fully government funded as they provide such an important part of our lives providing an essential service with information warnings and alerts. We trust the ABC to help protect us.

Suzanne M
VIC 4127

ABC is an important part of my life.
I depend on the excellent and trustworthy service they provide.

suzanne O
NSW 3444

Why? In one word.....CORONACAST

suzanne r
QLD 2285

ABC has always been my reliable news source and delivers it sans sensationalism. Love watching Q&A, dateline, the drum, 7:30 report, mystery road and a raft of other programs. Seriously the best viewing on public tv. Lots of quality and way more informative and interesting. We've sacrificed a lot this year and this Victorian says don't you dare cut ABC back even further.

Suze T
VIC 4000

I rely on ABC TV and radio every day.
I wake up to the morning news and Fran Kelly and I am up with the latest.
The 7.00pm news and 7.30 Report have been vital for keeping up with COVID-19 details.
Living in Eltham, I relied heavily on the ABC for Bush fire information last summer. It was more up-to-date than even the CFA website and app.
I also love many of the programs and for sanity, I watch many of the comedy shows. I watch the ABC more than any other channel.
Please fund our ABC.

Suzette K
NSW 3095

I kept up to date with the bush fire situation during the dreadful fires on the South Coast where I live over the Christmas and New Year period. Frequent updates made me feel safe and that I could rely on the ABC for accurate reporting on the situations as they changed. Thank you ABC for keeping me calm and safe. I only every watch ABC and SBS news they are the only channels that give the news without hype and the awful commercials which are aimed at idiots. ABC lifts the level of Australian culture out of the "footy" stereotype. It must not be eroded in any way the country will be the worse for it.

Suzette W
QLD 2540

I am a widow living alone and I always have breakfast with the ABC. Its a trusted friend for me and I have confidence the news it gives is not fake news. Whenever I am in the kitchen, on goes the radio - I never change the dial on my radio.
It is so valuable as a source of honest news - especially during crises like the bushfires, Coronavirus updates, air pollution warnings etc. They deserve more funding and not cuts.

suzette m
WA 4220

At home I have relied on the ABC for connection to reliable news stories without bias, my entertainment with wildlife documentaries, comedy and Australian film, for most of my adult life, as I live in a remote area there are no other options available to me.
More funding cutbacks to 'Our' ABC will leave me with no links to our culture at all.

Suzi C
QLD 6333

I beleive it is important to keep an independent government funded media source that is not influenced by private funds. Australia requires the freedom of independent reporting.

Suzie A
WA 4212

I rely on the ABC everyday and do not want to see any more cuts being made. The ABC is a service to ALL Australians and is very dear to me. I find the content to be invaluable, and in times of need I go to the ABC to find out what is happening.

Suzu S
QLD 6286

As a teacher/teacher aide I relied heavily on the professional, timely and trustworthy delivery of the ABC news and analysis to inform myself, my colleagues and thus our students during the first wave in Queensland. I cannot imagine getting through the pandemic crisis so easily without the ABC!!! Plus, the wonderful selection of entertainment programs to help relax in the down times!

Sybil M
NSW 4552

The ABC has been a part of my life from the time I was a primary school student to today as a loyal adult listener, viewer and podcaster . As a child after school I would hurry home to switch on the radio to listen to the Argonauts, a fun program with competitions hosted by Mac and Jimmy. This was a great opportunity to have my poems, stories and ideas broadcast to all Australia. Essentially it was education with fun and a wonderful part of my childhood. In later years as a teacher I used educational broadcasts produced by RN as a welcome resource for my lessons. I was able to order the taped programs to be used in class. The ABC has been there since its beginning to provide educational resources for teachers from the long lasting Looking Behind the News to a variety of broadcasts for schools over the years. All these wonderful high quality programs were free and naturally with an Australian perspective, telling us our history in creative ways, reminding us of our literature and our contributions to the world and always made accessible to everyone at no cost. Why do some people want to destroy the most precious icon we have? The ABC brings us together, unites us as Australians, keeps us up with the times, doesn't distract us with stupid commercials and caters for all generations and minor groups in our community. What other broadcast medium does this? Who else can inform us without bias in this age of fake news? Tell me what other media has a mandated common charter for all Australia? One can only wonder the secretive and destructive intentions that some have to destroy the ABC with their hundred cuts over time. The ABC is definitely a force that makes us all one and one that makes me whole as well. Please don't destroy something that is us.

Syd Smith Turramurra NSW.

Syd S
ACT 2074

I love the ABC and have done so for more than 50 years. It is the most reliable source of all my news, television, culture and community. I have listened to ABC radio RN ever since coming to Canberra back in 1973 and had it as the back drop for my life as a worker, mother and now retiree. It has made my everyday life fun, full of wonderful educational benefits and full of wonderful culture.

I can't stand advertisements and I dread the day that the ABC might have to have commercialism spoil their presentations.

I also mourn the loss of lots of good presenters and programs due to the disastrous cuts inflicted on the ABC by the present government.

Australia desperately needs the ABC to support us in these difficult times with COVID-19 and with the threat of more climate change disasters. Please don't cut it further -- it would be tragic for Australians.

Sylvia C
NSW 2605

The ABC in our town of Newcastle continues to bring community up to date with important issues that effect the community. During the pandemic they are quick to broadcast venues that need to be avoided due to infection.

Earlier in the year while the bush-fires where raging around the country the ABC kept the community informed as to where it was safe to travel and where it wasn't.

Their ability to respond quickly and broadcast information almost instantly makes the ABC invaluable to our community.

I urge that the funding that has been stripped from the ABC be replaced and expanded.

Yours sincerely
Sylvia Ray

Sylvia R
QLD 2289

I rely on the ABC every day for a myriad of reasons. All of the ABC programs are indispensable everyday of every year.

Over the years and in recent times the ABC news programs have provided reliable and far more in-depth coverage of the news, especially national and international news, than any of the other television stations.

Recently, I have relied on the ABC during

1. The Royal Commission into aged care
2. The Royal Commission for disabilities
3. The fires, to help me locate friends affected by the fires and to locate the proximity of our family's holiday house to the fires.
4. In addition to this, it has kept me up to date with the Covid-19 news, especially in regard to hotspots and the latest updates with respect to the border restrictions and everything else.
5. The rural programs are essential for obvious reasons; as are the children's programs; Insight; Catalyst; Foreign Correspondent; One-on-One; just everything/every program because Australians need to be informed for our mental health and our well being. The ABC programs bring us the inter-connectedness which is needed in a successful, functioning society. For these reasons the government money spent on the ABC saves the government money.

Very often, I relay alerts regarding various informative programs of relevance to my family, which consists of four generations.

People of all ages 'always' find the ABC to be not just informative but educational; thought provoking and a positive, shining light, especially in times of crisis.

The ABC is a Life Line for countless numbers of Australians. It would be a travesty for the government to impose funding cuts to the ABC.

Sylvia R

NSW 4213

The ABC is hugely important to me. I mainly listen to ABC FM, which provides a wonderful selection of music and other programmes. It is important that there is a non-commercial source of news and other programmes in this country. The ABC is an irreplaceable resource.

Tad B

VIC 2025

OH MY GOD! There is no other channel worth watching apart from ABC (and SBS). We need the ABC to be fully funded and supported by the government to deliver even handed, honest, trustworthy, independent, local and international news with integrity and humanity. Defunding the ABC subtracts all of these important attributes from our press and disconnects the Australian community. But perhaps that what those with the power and big business want. It sure looks that way.

FULLY SUPPORT OUR ABC, RE-ESTABLISH FUNDING. They are like family, the smarter ones and our country depends on their output.

Taffy A

QLD 3025

This year with all the coronavirus misinformation out there, my 83 year old father was completely confused. He would not stay at home, because he watches Sky News, and the messages he got from that made it seem like it wasn't much of a risk. He thought that he wasn't at risk because he hadn't travelled overseas, and he wasn't "sick". I had to get him to watch Dr Norman Swan to learn about the risk factors, including age, before he would even consider curbing his behaviour. We need independent sources of facts - now more than ever. We must increase funding to our ABC.

Tamara C

VIC 4810

Our ABC has been 'there' for me most of my adult life. It was there when i was driving alone through bushfires over summer to get home. Now, as someone who lives alone, during Covid our ABC has literally been a lifeline. As Sammy, Virginia, Raph talk us through the day, they are my 'friends' during the work day (i work for myself, which is isolating in itself, let alone during actual iso.) It is the only radio source i trust for fact checked news.

Our ABC is one of the best things about Australia, shining a light on the important issues. Democracy dies in darkness. ABC is essential to the Australia that has Australians interests at heart, as opposed to media barons who care only for profit at the sake of our people and planet. A government that increases ABC budget has my vote. A government that cuts ABC will be actively campaigned against.

tamara d

VIC 3142

This year, more than any other year, our family have turned to the ABC for the most reliable and comprehensive news channel. During the bushfires and now throughout the Coronavirus pandemic, our TV is only on channel 24. So up to date and that is what we appreciate. Thank you ABC.

In the evenings, part of our daughters bedtime routine is to watch channel 22, ABCKids, from Bluey to Andy. A great way for the kids to unwind after a day of activities.

Cuts to the ABC, in our opinion, are criminal. We need an objective news channel. The commercial channels just do not provide that. Those who love what the ABC provides do not want to be kept in the dark about certain issues, or only provided with some parts of the puzzle. We deserve to hear it all.

Sincerely,

Tamara.

Tamara L
VIC 3107

I rely heavily upon the ABC to get facts to me quickly, so that I can make decisions and give advice to business on how to respond the changing world around them. The mega crises of bushfires and COVID have only served to highlight to me how Murdoch owned papers are unhelpful in such situations. Much of the conservative media headlines ideology and opinion which is increasingly presented as emotive, negative and free of journalistic integrity (which you can seemingly do if you have a tranche of guest columnists and few journalists). I pay for four papers, because I need to engage with a broad range of views. I do not believe the news should be owned exclusively by the private sector. The ABC is a service provider for the people and paid for by the people. It is usually the fastest way I and my clients can get across key issues that affect us and our businesses. The quality of reporting, interviewing and hosting is high and the guests are qualified experts in their fields. I believe the arguments about the ABC being left leaning are the unfortunate outcome of an alignment between a conservative government and a conservative private media monopoly. In this situation, retaining the ABC is the only way we can offer the Australian public a balanced view.

Tamsin M
VIC 3006

I always watch the ABC because it is honest in its reporting, some good local drama (not enough nowadays) and no advertising commercial products (I can obtain what I want online without all the dross.) Bushfire and Covid 19 reporting on TV and Radio excellent!

Tania C
NSW 3121

The ABC is such an important portal of truth and understanding for us. Without Q and A, the Drum, media watch, 4 corners, insight, foreign correspondence and the list goes on.

We would be left in the dark on the most important issues in our time. The mainstream channels give us a portion of twisted reality controlled by gov bodies,

We have the right to truth and clarity.

Not only for world news but Australian series and movies filled with local talent.

The ABC are the eyes of the world for us and we appreciate their dedication to keep us informed with all that is real. They need support and financial backing from our gov. As such a huge part of Australian cultural expression and understanding.

Tanya D
WA 2031

I just wanted to let the Federal Government know how much I have relied on the ABC for factual, easily understood information during the coronavirus crisis.

Over the decades I have also depended on the ABC to hold those in power accountable, at a time in history when deception is easily overlooked and 'fake news' is the catch cry of many. The ABC offers the very antithesis of 'fake news'.

And importantly in an English-speaking world whose entertainment is dominated by overseas content from the USA and the UK, the ABC helped me connect to our own stories through its drama, music, comedy and commitment to Australian content like 'Operation Buffalo' and 'Backroads'.

Please keep the ABC strongly funded, for the sake of all Australians.

Tanya M
VIC 6076

The ABC has always been part of my life - sure as a kid it had lots of boring things like the news and documentaries, but it also had awesome shows like Pay School and Romper Room.

As I've got older I have appreciated the ABC even more, and in 2020 it is a lifeline.

There was comfort in knowing the ABC was there to tell people when their area was under threat of fire.

And throughout the following months, the ABC has reliably told us what is happening with COVID-19 and how many fellow Victorians were infected. And given us funny shows to help keep our spirits up amongst the fears and lock down restrictions.

As a business owner working from home whilst helping my children learn remotely, the ABC has also been there by providing educational shows that engage my kids while expanding their brains during a time of restricted borders. It has given me safe time to work and the reassurance that my children were being given more opportunities than I could provide alone in lock down.

And it is with great sadness that during lock down, I don't have access to Gardening Australia each Friday to learn some skills and inspiration to use in my garden whilst I am stuck at home. A lack of funding has removed information for a hobby that could be helping so many people in this time of uncertainty and risk to mental health.

So, please. Please protect our ABC and reinstate decent funding to keep our broadcaster functioning.

ABC funding means jobs. ABC broadcasting means engagement, education, connection and entertainment during these tough times. ABC communications means lives saved during emergencies.

Funding and maintaining the ABC means supporting Australia and Australians.

Tash H

WA 3147

I trust the ABC news. I find it accessible and check it regularly. I do not have free to air TV and live in a remote and isolated town. I am able to keep up with news but also covid restrictions through my phone at anytime. I followed the fire news to track my family's safety. The recent east coast low caused damage to my family community and I accessed the ABC for up to date information.

Taz M

NSW 6721

I cannot trust private sources like Murdoch publications to offer unbiased reporting ,only the ABC can be trusted so should be supported.The quality of their investigative journalism is unequalled and by comparison their operational costs seem reasonable so any budget cuts affecting this quality would be tragic

Ted A

NSW 2101

I live at Katoomba and during the Bush Fires we were in a pincer movement with fires on all sides. The ABC radio Broadcast's were essential to our safety and planning in that uncertain environment.

The daily broadcast's on ABC TV were also helpful and showed in detail what was happening with the Bush Fires around Australia.

The ABC is a godsend for parents with young children i.e. The Wiggles etc.

The ABC has brought lot's of issues to the forefront in Four Corners that State & Federal Gvts have needed to respond to with Royal Commissions.

The ABC is owned by the people and delivers honest and reliable reporting to all Australians.

The ABC needs more money not less.

Kind Regards

Ted Manners

Ted M

VIC 2780

Hi there.

the ABC has been critical to me during the past 12 months. While I was travelling across the southern states at Christmas, we were evacuated on Kangaroo Island, and then again at Binningup - both times, I was totally reliant on the ABC being providing me with the information I needed to keep my family safe. When the pandemic hot and we were in lockdown, my 7 and 10 year old children were able to watch informative television - with program content that was appropriate and entertaining, and a lifesaver to give me the time to get my own work tasks completed. I turn to the ABC everyday to look for up to date information on what is happening across Australia with COVID - and the stories of Australians in amongst the chaos of it all, what people are suffering and hw they are feeling, and the Australian comedy shows that make it all seem ok....I value the ABC so much - please don't undermine its capacity to do its job - we all need it.

Tegan C
VIC 3070

The ABC has been the only trustworthy News Source worth consulting during all of COVID19. Other News Sources are intent on instilling fear and making clever headlines but the ABC provides the facts, and always delivers news in a manner that explores all sides of all stories.

Tegan F
NSW 3021

ABC news service is the only one i trust.

I have found the daily briefings on the coronavirus best viewed via the ABC because of the non biased commentary after the broadcast.

The ABC have terrific programs with Australian content also BBC shows which are great.

Teresa H
VIC 2335

Like millions of other Australians, I rely totally on the ABC to keep me informed and educated during national and local crises. Without the ABC - both radio and television - I would have very little idea about what is really going on in this country, whether it be bushfires, pandemics, elections, crime, politics, the environment, climate change, education, the arts, current affairs and much else besides. It is essential that the ABC is funded adequately to continue and expand the extraordinary work it does to keep this nation informed and educated as well as entertained. PLEASE, PLEASE don't starve the ABC to death. We need it. We need it badly. The ABC is nothing short of a national treasure that must be supported at all costs.

Teresa P
VIC 3068

I rely on the ABC to provide accurate, unbiased and timely information on a daily basis. My mother lives in a rural district, so I was pleased with the ABC reporting on the bushfire crisis during Summer which informed me on fire locations to assist my mother with decisions on whether to stay or leave her property. I have depended on the ABC reporting of the coronavirus pandemic to provide accurate information on how to prevent the spread of the disease and updates on the effects of the disease Covid-19, especially via Dr Norman Swan's podcast. In an era when there are so many media outlets pandering to sensational claims by conspiracy theorists, the Australian ABC is a trusted and reliable public news provider that should be funded adequately so the reporters can continue to provide the high quality reports Australians have come to depend on. The ABC also provide numerous high quality dramas, comedies, and special broadcast shows that are available live or via the invaluable iview service. Mystery Road, Micallef, 7.30 report etc are all excellent quality productions. I was saddened to hear of the budget cuts to the ABC by the Federal Govt over the preceeding years as I value the Australian ABC as an Australian institution that should be protected along with Medicare and public education. These institutions are what set Australia apart and above such countries as the USA where the focus on private enterprise has left a population who do not know which media outlet to trust, leaving the information vacuum to be filled by unscrupulous media outlets that disseminate misinformation, leading to the widespread misunderstandings about Covid-19 to just name one, but highly significant issue.

Teresa P
NSW 3188

My generation (born 1939) has always relied on the ABC. We were Argonauts - I was Theramenes 22 and always devotees. Evening family routine revolved around the 7 pm News on ABC RadioEven more during WW2 and continues in the era of TV. For our kids Playschool, Sesame Street and so on. We've learned how to use the wonderful IView, never miss Gardening Australia, 4 corners Q and A, great drama and Arts programs and lately vital news on bushfires and now Covid. We have joined protests and become Friends each time govt has cut funding: TOO OFTEN! and demand funding be restored to better level. We all need the ABC!

Terry C
QLD 2011

The ABC is the most reliable and accurate source of news and information. I use it every day. Funding cuts have and will play a part in my voting decisions. I am not a supporter of just one party. Every election decision is made shortly before voting day.

Terry D
QLD 4051

Fortunately I was not affected by the bush fire crisis as I live at Redland Bay Qld. However the coverage during the bush fire crisis in the numbers of locations by A B C announcers was not matched by any other media outlet. The A B C is the only reliable & informative media outlet for not only reporting on national disasters but honest reporting on political & social issues. What I am concerned about is that the Morrison government will continue to reduce A B C funding to the extent that it is no longer a properly functioning broadcaster. Then in accordance with the wishes [demands] of the I P A & other conservative organisations & individuals sold off at a give away price to the foreign media owner Murdoch. This must not happen.

Terry N
NSW 4165

Since the bushfires that started last year, to the pandemic, the ABC has been a reliable source of information and comfort. please remember all those relying on the ABC when planning the budget. Further cuts will make life harder for money Australians, and may well put some in danger

Terry O
NSW 2008

I am convinced that the influence of my age and education makes me find little on the commercial programs.

Terry R
VIC 2795

There is so much nonsense written and broadcast , you have to have a source of news that you trust. I have always turned to the ABC for news and I really worry that in the future I will not know where to look for trustworthy news reporting when I hear of more budget cuts for the ABC. Don't let this happen PLEASE.

Tess A
NSW 3284

The ABC is on every day in my house because I trust their educated and well-trained journalists to bring me their programmes. Since the bushfire tragedies and the onset of Covid, my listening has increased to find out information about our national crises.

When I need to relax and clear my head of the present horrors of the world, I turn to the calming music played on ABC channel 27.

I grew up with ABC. It's our national treasure, our heritage and our beacon of independence against Ultra conservative interests.

Tess E
VIC 2199

I am writing to you to urge the Morrison government to not increase additional funding cuts to the ABC. My family and I live In St Andrews-the community which was severely effected by the 2009 bushfires. During that time the ABC was a life line for its up to date essential information regarding fire activity in our area as it is every fire season. During the fire season our radio is always tuned to 774 which keeps the public advised about any fire threat. Melbourne is currently facing the severe threat of COVID 19 and again the ABC provides unbiased up to date reliable information. Today I listened to the ABC as we in Melbourne went to stage four Corona Virus restrictions. Having the AbC on in the background as I waited for our Premiere news conference offered solace and comfort in this very difficult time. No other organisation has presenters like Jon Faine, Raph Epstein, Virginia Trioli and many of the myriad of outstanding radio voices which have been a major part of our lives for decades. The ABC is the most beloved Australian institution and an Organisation most Australians would fiercely defend from those such as the IPA and the Murdoch press who for political and financial reason seek to destroy our wonderful ABC. Whether Australians vote left or right, live in the bush or our major cities our ABC is a trusted source of news and is essential for its community announcements during times of crisis. I think it would be suicide for any government contemplating further cuts to the ABC whose content has been severely depleted by constant cuts to funding. I personally will join any campaign to prevent any further cuts to the ABC which is akin to family to me.

Tess F
QLD 3095

I constantly rely on the ABC to provide sound, balanced reporting of current events, particularly over Corona and the Bush Fires. I value the reporting and frank interviews that try to keep our elected leaders accountable when other media sources are biased and allow deceptions to continue: Sports- Rorts being one of the most important issues that the ABC covered recently. This needed to be covered and explored to the fullest to show how our leaders use public monies to secure their re-election. The vital work of the ABC needs to be fully funded.

Tessa B
NSW 4105

Dear to whom it may concern

I am a woman with a range of complex care needs.

I have come to rely on The ABC for up to date reliable information in relation to the pandemic as well as the bush fires.

Without the ABC I would have been unable to make decisions in my own best interest.

I believe the Australian broadcaster provides a comprehensive range of services that have been cut back to the detriment of our culture.

Please please provide a greater round of funding to improve our national

Treasure .

Therese Findlay

Therese F
NSW 2049

I live in a regional area. The bushfires came very close. I live in Merimbula. I had the wireless connected to the ABC everyday. What a great source of information they were. From weather forecasts, traffic information, road closures and local news. I could not have survived without the regular informative broadcasts.

And now during COVID from the ABC news at 7pm each day, the Country Hour, Landline. I only listen to the ABC.

Regional Australia relies on the ABC everyday.

Therese O
NSW 2548

Dear Sir/Madam, I am writing in regards to funding for the ABC. In a democratic country such as Australia we need to have the ABC for reporting that is uninfluenced by advertising and vested interests. I rely on the ABC for independent news reporting - in fact, it is pretty much the only TV channel I watch (occasionally SBS movies). I feel I trust the news they deliver and the Australian content of their shows. It is my go-to TV channel for news and information and investigative reporting. As a medical practitioner, I have relied heavily on them for accurate reporting of the Coronavirus Pandemic. I believe that funding for the ABC should be increased and definitely NOT reduced in any way. I also believe journalists should have freedom from suppression to report. Australia is a democracy and we MUST keep it that way. The people must have a voice in the media. Sincerely, Dr Therese Wales

Therese W
VIC 2065

I am writing in appreciation of the vital role played by the ABC in the life of Australia. As a seventy-four year old aged pensioner who lives alone and is therefore in the cohort of those more susceptible to the virus, I rely on the most trustworthy media outlet in the country to keep me up-to-date with regard to the COVID-19 pandemic. That's the ABC.

As a citizen of Australia concerned about the state of the nation and the world, I look to the investigations conducted by programs such as 7.30 and Four Corners to uncover uncomfortable truths. I am especially appreciated the Four Corners program on Climate Wars earlier this year.

The ABC connects me with the life of the nation in a way that no other media outlet does. It broadens my factual, cultural, critical and social horizons. It makes me a better citizen, and it makes the nation a community.

The ABC is a vital element of Australia's socio-cultural life. Its role demands adequate, reliable and predictable funding.

Yours sincerely,

Tom Knowles

Thomas K
VIC 3052

I have always relied on the ABC as the most reliable provider of honest, unbiased information and also its capacity to hold governments, organisations and individuals to account. I massively relied on the ABC during the Black Saturday fires as I was in the country at the time of these horrendous fires. I tune into the ABC every day for the coronavirus provided by the premier and the chief health officer. I have always enjoyed the ABC's provision of Australian stories, current affairs and entertainment. It is INDISPENSABLE to our way of life.

Tim D
VIC 3942

please increase and improve funding to this vital service

Tim F
NSW 3264

We live on the South Coast of NSW. During the bushfires we relied extensively on the ABC for accurate, up to date information to keep us safe. We found the fire maps and other sources often not applicable to us or unreliable. When we packed up ready to leave and put our animals in a neighbouring paddock for safety, it was the ABC we turned to both to let us know that the fire was heading our way, and to tell us when the wind changed and we could come off high alert. This is just a stark example of how the ABC informs and amuses us every single day - especially during Covid. Cutting their funding feels like an insult to us, our neighbours and our community.

Tim H
VIC 2535

Hi

I listen to ABC National News daily.

Now than ever I require to be connected and informed by supported investigative national media organisation to ensure the values of integrity, and accountability, exist to ensure work-ability of society, a future that is equitable, respectful and sustainable.

With ABC funding being reduced (it must be increased), I fear for the future of my children, Australia, and ultimately the world.

Your sincerely,

Tim Laurie

Tim L
NSW 3013

I am a casually employed journalist with the ABC and I have been with the broadcaster for seven years. During that time I have seen forced losses of jobs because of the Federal Government's budget cutbacks. Despite all this I have helped deliver news national wide on emergencies that have hit the country, including horrific bush fires, floods and now the corona virus pandemic. I have been told by a number of people when they find out I work for the ABC that it is the only news source they trust and to keep up the good work. I urge the government in these dure financial times to reconsider its budget cutbacks and reinstate the funding not just to keep people in jobs but also to keep the nation informed.

Tim W
VIC 2017

For years and years the ABC has stood by all Australians, weathered attack after attack and like a flogged horse, keeps plodding along, doing amazing work. There ABC is simply irreplaceable. I love the ABC because I feel like there is always something I can connect with be it on radio or tv: intelligent, whimsical, insightful, questioning, never banal, idiotic, hysterical or boring. In isolation local radio has often been the pick-me up I've needed to help me through, with the impression that you are being spoken to directly. And time after time, the ABC has shown how Australians love to see/hear their own stories, something the commercial and subscription stations don't spend time doing.

Put your ridiculous ideology aside, turn a deaf ear to the irrational critics of the ABC and listen to everyday Australians who value the ABC as an organisation worthy of being properly funded.

Sincerely,
Timothy

Timothy P
VIC 3058

Now retired, we spend about a third of our time, including most of the summer, at our house in the Kiewa Valley, where we are visited for extended periods by our children and grandchildren. Over the past summer, to keep our extended family safe, we relied extensively on the ABC for news of the catastrophic bushfires in our area (and when we evacuated to Melbourne). Now, during Victoria's COVID lockdown, we do the same -- as well as relaxing to Classic FM and ABC Jazz. In these days of "culture wars" and fake news on social media, the ABC is one of only a few news sources on which we feel we can rely.

Timothy T
QLD 3044

The ABC has been a vital source of essential information for me and my family during the past year. An unprecedented year of bushfires and pandemic. My children love the ABC children's channel.

It is vital that Australia has a vibrant, living public broadcaster.

This is clearly contrary to the horrendous plans that the LNP hold for the ABC with their gratuitously vicious and wholly ideological budget cuts - whilst handing out corporate welfare to Foxtel - to which have already gutted the ABC.

Timothy W
WA 4101

I love the ABC I can rely on it having the integrity to provide me with unbiased news, provide my grandchildren with educative programming Not just during times of crisis but all the time. Please please don't sell it out to the highest bidder or we may have "Clive Palmer News "

tina m
VIC 6020

As a politically and socially engaged young man, it is vitally important to me to have news sources in Australia that I know I can trust. In an era of widespread, easily accessible fake news, the nation needs the ABC (which through multiple inquiries has been shown to be professional, exceptional and completely without bias) to inform and hold to account our society and institutions.

A strong, well funded public broadcaster in Australia, is an incorruptible broadcaster motivated to investigate and report on any truth in the national interest.

An increasingly monopolized and corporatized news media in Australia is willing to forgo the truth and the national interest to chase increased profits.

With a defunded ABC comes an erosion of accountability within our democracy, an unacceptable cost for Australians to bear.

I demand that no cuts be made to the ABC in the October 2020-21 budget. I demand that past cut funding be restored.

Tom D
WA 3216

I'm really not at all sure that the ABC is any more honest, unbiased and factual in their reporting than most of the other Mainstream media outlets. Once upon a time media reported facts. Now they seems to mostly manipulate and brain wash

Tom K
VIC 6566

The ABC is a safe and secure friend during these uncertain times. We can depend on it to give us information which we can trust, and to calm us down in these anxious times. Each morning, through Radio National, we hear the good and the bad news, and also what to expect for the days and weeks ahead. During the day, Classic FM provides us with music to keep us on an even psychological keel. During the evening ABCTV provides us with prompt analysis of what is happening in our country. And to add to this, the work that the ABC does in keeping the arts alive through the classic concerts and digital concerts, is just another way in which the ABC enhances my life. It astounds me that our government seeks to cut funds to the ABC - especially since it depended on it so much during the bushfire crisis of late 2019. The ABC is a stabilising foundation for our society, and I cannot understand why the government would not want to keep an independent voice to the public. What would happen if commercial interests took over the information being disseminated in Australia? What would happen if the national broadcaster became just a mouthpiece for the government of the day?

The ABC's independence gives me comfort.

Tom. (A superannuation supported retiree)

Tom M

NSW 3280

Over the Christmas period, fires came within a km of our home. We had our son and family visiting. The ABC kept us informed every half hour but also kept us entertained. It was obvious that some of the senior ABC correspondents were working overtime to cover the bushfire tragedy. They are continuing to supply measured updates on CoVid 19.

Rather than decimating the ABC, it would at least make sense to demand that Google etc be expected to pay for the ABC's remarkable content.

And please restore funding. We are feeling it in the regions

Tom M

VIC 2444

This year I was forced to evacuate from bushfire threat, and now I am trying to keep myself, my family and my community safe from Covid 19. In both of these critical events this year, the ABC has provided the most trustworthy and accurate information to help me and the ones I love.

The ABC provided by far the most accurate and comprehensive information both in terms of being able to respond immediately to critical events and threats, but also in follow-up analysis and discussion regarding these events and the options for responding in the future.

The ABC was by far the best source of information to help me make healthy, ethical, and informed decisions. A fantastic example of this is the current "Corona Cast" featuring information and analysis from Dr Norman Swan.

This has been a critical service from the ABC and should be awarded a medal of service!

The fact that the ABC is directly responsive to the "Common Good" and has such values and mission to the welfare of the common good in Australia, makes this service utterly essential.

That the ABC has been defunded by the government (and attacked by for-profit media), is a shame on Australia's government. In my opinion this shows a deep and concerning disregard and possible hostility to notions of the common good in Australia by the government, and by for-profit media. My Australia puts far more value on the common good of our nation!

Sincerely

Tom

Tom M

WA 3068

i live overseas and i rely on the ABC in order to keep up to date with Aust politics and sport,, the ABC is my life line with my country

tom w

SA 6001

I have depended on the ABC to hold those in power accountable at a time when deception is easily overlooked?

The ABC helped me stay connected through its drama, music, comedy and commitment to Australian stories?

Tom Y

VIC 5453

ABC has been a part of my life for all of my 61 years . Watching the news every night on ABC and having the ABC as an erstwhile friend has been part of my life and embedded in what it means for me to be an Australian since my childhood . It is as Australian for me as the gum tree, our flora and fauna , mateship.It is an intrinsic part of our culture and I , and many other Australians would be bereft without it .
As a child living on a cane farm in North Queensland in the 1960's and 70's the ABC brought culture, the world world , politics , the arts , comedy, public issues to me .I feel a deeply personal relationship with the ABC , it is in my bones ,part of what it means for me to be an Australian citizen .
It is an integral part of our life as public libraries, Medicare ,public art galleries,an essential part of my life.

Toni H
NSW 3147

Please support the much enjoyed and respected ABC.

toni m
VIC 2780

To whom has the power to decide the fate of the ABC. I cannot stress enough of the importance and reliance on the ABC for current news especially when there are critical events unfolding. I live in metropolitan Melbourne and am dependent on the Trusted government broadcaster for accurate information on prevailing urgent situations /events. Eg the extreme bushfires earlier this year and now the pandemic. People in regional areas are even more reliant on such accurate information as they may have less options for escape or movement from threatening situations. Profit based news operators are just that, profit based and may decide providing detailed information relevant to an area of sparse population is not cost effective or worthwhile. Only a government broadcaster can be held accountable to provide coverage to all regions. Particularly with such devastating situations arising in this country, and so many unexpected events a guaranteed well proven news service is essential. Now is definitely not the time to reduce funding Outsourcing to private concerns is no guarantee of quality (eg look at aged care) If there are any changes to funding of the ABC it should be increased to provide further trading for to produce future excellence Thank you Toni Phillips

toni p
NSW 3205

I have been listening to the ABC since I was a kid, as my parents always listened to the news. Ever since, I've been a committed ABC viewer/listener, eschewing commercial radio and television. The ABC's variety of cultural, intellectual, aesthetic and entertaining programs rarely disappoint, to which I as a taxpayer am more than happy to contribute. Though Australia's commercial media has the ear of government and works relentlessly towards de-funding the national broadcaster until it will no longer offer any competition in the ratings, this is a short-sighted and ignorant view. Commercial media have their own axes to grind - to maximise profits, undermine critical inquiry, and manipulate fact and opinion to their own ends, even working towards determining who will govern our country. Unless there is a strong, unbiased and well-resourced public broadcaster, our society will be greatly diminished.

This year in particular, the ABC was vital in explaining to all Australians the apocalyptic bushfires and their relation to climate change, and locally providing critical information on the spread and rate of fires. It has brought us the Covid-19 pandemic and its many complex implications, as well as the floods that hit the east coast in between these two disasters. The organisation is not only valued but trusted and necessary. It must continue.

Tony C
QLD 2110

As a concerned senior citizen I am finding it more and more difficult to get information I feel i can trust on a range of significant world and local issues. Sifting through the information bombarding me from various media sources including TV and radio news as well as online newspapers and email from friends can create a significant level of confusion. In the past newspapers were staffed with ethical and dedicated journalists who, in general, fact checked articles before publication. These days with cut down resources we are fast losing any past trust we had in mainstream journalism. The one organisation that stands above the rest in the trust stakes is the ABC. Since an independent press is a key part of our democracy we need to have government continue to support the ABC.

Tony D
ACT 4169

The principal reason I rely on the ABC, in preference to commercial and SBS news sources, is that the ABC better understand the linkages between democracy and good government. The ABC also devotes more resources to this area of news. Some might be fascinated by news about disasters, crime, celebrities, and there is a place for such, but good government and its impact on our society is more important and thus more valuable for me. Unfortunately, it is this very area of ABC interest and coverage that causes the government such pain as to lead to funding cuts and retribution, whoever is in government.

Tony H
WA 2604

The ABC is the only news I trust. It is not compromised by commercial interests and their priorities. Everything from nursing homes to banking problems have been exposed by the ABC doing its job. It is an essential component of Australian democracy we can't do without it.

Tony J
NSW 6158

The ABC is our voice and a service to our community since its creation and even plays a more crucial role today with its bushfires and COVID-19 coverage. We need to stop the government's cutting in funding and restore it to it once was.

Yours Sincerely
Tony Konjarski

Tony K
QLD 2502

I rely on the ABC to provide factual and non sensational NEWS. News I can trust is vital to feeling informed and able to make sound decisions and stay informed in a rapidly changing situation.

Regards,
Tony Kozera

Tony K
QLD 4034

I do believe that the ABC has an immeasurable value to Australia as a trusted resource for news, entertainment and information. It goes where other media don't go and for that it needs to be enhanced not degraded via funding cuts through accounting "anomalies". Trust is the key here for all of Australia, don't let it die from a thousand cuts. Index and increase the ABC budget and stop the divisive and blinkered culture war associated with its broadcasting, it does a fantastic job with proven accountability of no bias through numerous investigations so do the right thing, protect and enhance it.

tony I
VIC 4061

I have always relied on the ABC to provide my news services and entertainment, discovery and information needs via excellent and interesting television programming.

Now more than ever, with the recent Covid19 pandemic, I am making use of my ABC news app to provide me with up to date information on the latest developments. The 7pm news bulletin is rarely missed, for the simple reason that I can rely on unbiased coverage without the spin or hyperbole of the commercial networks. Of course, being advertisement free is also a huge incentive to tune in.

All in all, I am so grateful that in these uncertain times I can rely on the ABC to tell me all I need to know about what's going on in my world.

Thank you Aunty.

Tony L
NSW 3216

I'm a 58 year old male living in Legana, TAS. Although, like many I watch Channel 7 and Channel 9, I only trust the ABC with news. Their news is unbiased, factual and without sensationalism. It appalls me how recent LNP governments have defunded the ABC. Encouraging better use of public funds is fine, but cuts in excess of \$783M since 2013 is cruel and a disgrace. I doubt many LNP voters want to only receive their news content from 7 & 9.

Tony M
WA 2567

You may be not aware of the fact that the ABC, radio and TV, are a staple diet of unadulterated information for a majority of the Australian population. We know that you don't like the ABC because they do not lean right like your mates at the Murdochs. I consider your way of cutting the ABC's funding and reach, a cynical act of corruption and voters will punish you for this. If there'd be a God she would punish you too.

Tony S
QLD 6019

As Mayor of Noosa Shire in 2019, I very much relied on our local ABC to disseminate crucial information during local bushfire disasters.

Noosa was one of the first regions on the eastern seaboard to experience bushfires in catastrophic conditions during the winter of 2019. This resulted in two separate mass evacuations of thousands of residents.

As Mayor and Chair of the Local Disaster Management Group, it was my responsibility to provide the community with accurate and timely messaging. The local ABC radio service was critical in helping disseminate this information.

This was never more important than when we had to evacuate the entire Tewantin area - some 8,000 residents - in a matter of just a few hours.

There was no other news service that could be relied upon to deliver not only accurate information, but also consistently critical and timely information to our residents. Whereas other news media provided occasional updates, the ABC put out regular emergency bulletins, most particularly at critical stages during these disaster events.

I have no doubt that the ABC played a large role in our good fortune of experiencing no fire-related deaths. Put simply, the ABC helped save lives.

Tony Wellington
Former Mayor of Noosa Shire Council

Tony W
NSW 4563

The ABC has been a trusted source of news, information, current affairs and analysis all of my life.

None of the commercial stations (beholden their advertisers and vested interests) come close to delivering the public interest stories and investigations needed to hold government and the private sector to account, so critical to a properly functioning democracy.

Starting with the bush fires and floods of late 2019, all the way through the current pandemic and economic crisis we are experiencing today, the ABC has been there for us. Keeping Australians informed and helping us to make decisions about our safety, security and helping, with their regular and reliable broadcasts, to calm the anxieties and fears that such uncertain times inevitably bring out.

At this difficult time when the public is at its most vulnerable, we need sources of news current affairs and other programs that bring people together with a sense of common purpose and trust in each other and their government, particularly when governments are so prone to the siren call of political point scoring, blame shifting as they struggle to manage the very difficult task of navigating the nation through this crisis.

Our national broadcaster, the ABC is one of the best tools we have in the box for the rapid dissemination of critical and trustworthy information.

I call on the L-NP not to cut off our nose despite our face, at this crisis point in our nation's history, by further depriving the ABC of the critical funding needed to fulfill its public service according to a charter that has served us all so well for so long.

Tor L
SA 2204

The ABC is such an important source of information for us in emergency situations. My family, with two primary school aged children, depended on the ABC alerts during the bushfires that affected our area in the Adelaide hills, we are also dependent on the ABC for the up to date information on Corona virus situation in our state. When we were in lockdown earlier in the year the ABC children's channels were such a great help for homeschooling. My daughter and I are both at risk so there was 4 weeks where they were not a school when we were in lockdown. It is imperative that you do not reduce funding anymore, in fact I would like to see the funding for the ABC being increased so we can continue to rely on it's really important functions.

Thanks
Tori Wilckens

Tori P
NSW 5151

ABC provided important information on the bush fire situation down the South Coast. In November 2019 we were going to travel to Kioala for a long weekend. We relied on the ABC news coverage that advised not to travel due to bush fires.

In fact ABC provided information on radio, TV and online fro regional areas that were not covered by commercial media.

Also ABC has provide reliable facts on the Covid 19 crisis by broadcasting the Prime Minister and various State Premiers announcing latest figures and safety requirements.

I would not trust any other media to provide unbiased facts.

Some other media such as Murdoch press and Skynews did not take the Covid 19 crisis seriously.

Regards

Tracey Hamilton

Tracey H

VIC 2022

Hi,

My name is Tracey Kyle, I'm married and have 3 children and 3 step children and in total we have 7 grandchildren.

My husband and I live on 5 acres of bush in Beaconsfield.

During the summer we rely heavily on the ABC in relation to bushfires.

I rely on the ABC for Covid-19 updates and restrictions,

I rely on the ABC to keep me informed about current issues facing Australians, and Australia.

I rely on the ABC for children's program when the grandchildren visit.

I rely, and I trust the ABC!

Stop funding cuts.

Stop giving tax payers money to private Murdoch enterprise.

Regards, Tracey

tracey k

VIC 3807

We live in a bushfire prone area, and although we were spared any fires this past summer, we relied on the ABC for up to date information for our safety. Additionally, the ABC is one of the only news sites that I would trust to give me unbiased information. We rely heavily on the ABC for coronavirus information. Living in Victoria, both bushfires and coronavirus information is so important to us.

Tracie A

NSW 3160

From the time I wake up in the morning and throughout the day, when I need real news I go to the ABC. Either on my iPad, Mac or on the TV whichever is closest. I do this because I know my news will be up to date with no advertising or subversion. I know that the ABC won't be telling me 'their version' of the news. It's important to me that a News provider doesn't have an agenda. The ABC was my go to throughout the Bushfires last Summer and now through Covid 19 when we really need facts and good advice.

Tracie T

NSW 2750

Earlier this year the mid north coast experienced some devastating bushfires. I thank the ABC for their comprehensive coverage so I knew where the fires were and the correct action to take. Well done ABC.

Trev B

NSW 2428

Funding cuts to this media organisation is akin to sawing off your right arm because you have a splinter in your finger. It's crazy to curtail the most reliable, objective, expert information platform in Australia. It has potentially saved my life and the lives of my family throughout this horror 2020 by timely information and splendid light entertainment. We were under attack here on the south coast of NSW by the Crown bushfire. It was the ABC who provide they best and most timely information so we could prepare and hope. DON'T CUT THE ABC ANY FURTHER...PLEASE!!!.

Trev E

VIC 2536

We used to have great shows like the earlier series of Media Watch, which helped people understand deception and fraud in the media. Long before that we had great shows like Hypothetical, which really made people think. More recently and very long running was ABC Catalyst.

All of this and a whole lot more has been sabotaged and destroyed by imbeciles who think their insane ideology constitutes 'leadership', and quite frankly we'd get a better and more intelligent debate against a piece of poo.

The fact that you've already sabotaged and destroyed everything so much is not a valid argument to destroy what remains, it is instead an argument to have the lot of these people arrested for their corruption and sabotage of things desperately needed for a stable and healthy society

Trevor R

VIC 3088

I am writing in regards to our precious voice - the ABC, which has been there for the people of Australia, in these times of great need, as a neutral & honest view, of the Bushfires this season, & in the past. A vital means of communication, linking us to the forefront, of this ongoing environmental disaster, that will not go away, & is not accepted by our government, that it is a sign of global warming!!!The people affected directly by these fires, could not do without "Auntie", our national broadcaster! Reporting important messages from the frontline, with warnings, stories of loss & devastation, heroism of our firefighters, & of ordinary people, who volunteer to help, in whatever way they can.

In these unusual times of the Corona Virus pandemic the stories, & programs such as, Q&A, Four Corners, the Drum, Foreign Correspondent, the ABC news channel, Media Watch, gives us an unbiased & honest insight, into what is really happening to us in Australia, & around the world.

My husband & I are dedicated viewers of our ABC. We are totally

disgusted with the current government, cutting the funding & reducing staff, to this very vital connection, for the people of this nation. The episode which stood out for us, in Q&A earlier on, when the pandemic was starting to become serious, were medical professional guests, Dr Lucy Morgan, Respiratory Physician, who cares for Covid patients, & Disaster Management Nurse Diane Austin, who is working on the frontline. Their accounts were truly moving, & brought me to tears, especially Dr. Morgan's description of what happens to the body, when the virus is contracted, & the immune system breaks down.

God bless all our medics, in these challenging, & death threatening times in our Global World. We love you ABC.

trevor s

QLD 3223

The ABC has provided me with a wealth of unbiased well researched information on health, social and political issues of the day, COVID 19 coverage, environmental issues and solutions. I access this information daily through both radio and TV including ipods. I call on the government to properly fund the ABC as one of the few independent sources of reliable information and news.

Trevor Berrill B

QLD 4160

I would like to voice my concern over the ever increasing budget cuts to the ABC and SBS. There was a time when these channels aired innovative and challenging programs and documentaries. However, this is unfortunately no longer the case. Although they do their best, they are seriously hampered by deleterious budgets.

I rely on ABC and SBS news to give me reliable, honest and balanced reports on current issues both in Australia and internationally. Right wingers like Pauline Hanson and Andrew Blunt would like to take this right from me. I am especially interested in Business News and previously watch Emma Alberci on Lateline and Dateline.

I would like to add how essential the ABC was during the horrific bushfires if 2019/20 were invaluable and I'm sure helped to save lives. We can expect more horrific bushfires again this year and years to come due to increasing temperatures.

At the moment every day I watch the updates on COVID-19 from both State and Commonwealth governments. As I family in other states this information is important to me. I also have relatives overseas and need updated information on other countries. I especially find Ben Lewis' reports from London helpful.

I would like to conclude that it is dangerous to put media completely in the hands of businesses as they will let "the market decide" rather than being guided by truth.

Yours
Tricia Feely

Tricia f
QLD 4215

I live in the heart of the Wet Tropics and am a bit reclusive, and without Television.

Without the ABC Radio broadcasts the outside world could pass me by at my great risk. ABC keeps me informed of local, national and international events that impact me and my family.

trish c
NSW 4856

We need the abc to give us the news as the main channels are so biased especially the Murdoch press that you only get one side all the time and it really makes you angry. We rely on the abc to give us up to date reliable news that we can believe

Trish F
VIC 2444

I am just about to turn 80, and have been more cautious about my exposure to my valued social and intellectual communities because of Clovis 19.

Listening to the ABC both keeps me well informed and allows me to stay connected to the world in so many ways.

So many favourite presenters feels at times like family, and they and their interesting and informative guests make up for the loss of my usual outlets.

The defunding of the ABC in recent years is a travesty. The ABC is a national treasure and should be treated as such, especially in these difficult times where it is life saving also.

The funding needs to be increased at least to former levels that allow wide national and international coverage without having to reduce its excellent reportage. We as individuals need the ABC as does our nation.

Trish M
NSW 6018

Without the ABC my life would be so much poorer. Particularly now when personal interaction is so restricted. Every morning I turn on to ABC FM Music and that stays on all day. In the evening Channel 2's The Drum gives a broad view of social and political issues followed by News - and what makes such a lot of difference is - NO ADS! The ABC is a flagship that gives so much and without it I for one would be so much emptier.

trish s
VIC 2073

As an Australian living overseas, you might think that the ABC is less important to me. However, I have found while living previously in England, and now in The Netherlands, the ABC is more important to me than ever.

Even if one compares the ABC to the seemingly more prestigious English news services such as the BBC, I feel that the ABC is more important and in fact, superior, for a number of reasons.

Firstly, in my opinion, the ABC News website and App, are the most trustworthy news source on the planet. This is because the ABC has government funding, and does not rely on the funding of billionaires like Rupert Murdoch. I therefore know that the ABC is the most truthful journalism available worldwide.

When one leaves Australia, one becomes aware of just how incredible this quality of impartiality is. Even the BBC is now forced to include advertising on their Podcasts, bowing down to the grinding materialism of neo-liberal madness that is enveloping all things good and free (like the ABC) on this planet. Yet the ABC is ad free, a factor that cannot be overstated in its importance for myself and other Australians.

Secondly, the content of the ABC is incredible. I love Podcasts personally (but I know from my family in Melbourne, who watch ABC TV, that they love ABC Television too, and the content is also outstanding). I still listen to shows like 'The Minefield', 'Coronacast', 'The Signal', 'Hack' and I also stream Triple J and ABC Radio Melbourne, my home stations that are still close to my heart.

In addition, I have been recommending shows like, 'The Minefield' to friends in The UK and The Netherlands, and my international friends have been blown away by the journalism and quality of discussions about global ideas in the ABC programs I shared.

For the above reasons alone, it would be a national and international travesty to cut any funding for the ABC. I believe that even in the current, challenging times that include Covid 19, bushfires, floods, the ABC is sacred, and without a doubt helps Australians and global citizens through such crises.

Funding should be increased and cuts by the (neo)-Liberal government who despite being hardworking and well intentioned politicians, have become lost in the cycle of materialism and neo-liberalism, need to be reversed!

I hope that truth, love, and respect for independent journalism can win out in the end.

Protect and grow the ABC!!!

Tristan

From Melbourne, living in The Hague, Netherlands

Tristan C

NSW 3042

The ABC has always been a source of news for our family. We have family that live in rural and remote areas that rely on the news daily to know what's happening. The ABC is an ESSENTIAL Australian service that we all need! Decreasing funding will hurt Australian families!

Tristan T

NSW 2082

The ABC is critical for our democracy

Tristan W

NSW 2099

The ABC was there for us every minute of the bushfires last summer, which started in July. Reports of where the fires were, the action on the ground and in the air were important for all Australians trying to come to grips with the immensity and unprecedented fire behaviour. And then (now) there is the Corona virus pandemic, and again the ABC is there with up to date information on how this is travelling in Australia and around the world. No other media outlet is tasked with addressing the public interest at the forefront of every news bulletin. Please fund the ABC to do this job for all of us..

ursula b

TAS 2204

The ABC has been amazing in keeping us up to date with emergency warnings and situations. I had a brother at Baffle Creek during the Queensland fires in 2018. He was fighting to keep his Lime and Mango farm safe and stayed to fight the fire. I was so scared for him as the Premier kept saying the whole of Baffle Creek needed to evacuate. The ABC updates were so important to me at that time. And in the 2020 fires on the mainland (I live in Tasmania) it was so reassuring to watch the ABC for updates at such a terrifying time. I cannot imagine not having the ABC with the capacity to do that.
Regards

Val Boyd
Tasmania

Val B
QLD 7050

I am now 83 years of age and I have had a lifetime of being an avid fan of the A.B.C. Their news is the only news I can trust, their coverage of the arts in all its forms is always the most professional. From the days of Blue Hills to the current Australian shows has always been of the highest input. I just hope that I can see the remainder of my years, with the knowledge, that my friend the A.B.C will be with me. "Hands off the A.B.C

val F
NSW 4020

I live in a regional area, South Coast NSW. My radio is never off the ABC. It was, during the fires the only station that had a real coverage. Whilst I was safe my friends down the coast weren't so I for one was grateful for the constant updates provided. As well now the only station I listen to is ABC Classic.
Gave up watching TV some years ago but when I did it was the only station I watched ...Love the ABC

Val O
NSW 2525

Last year while travelling through northern NSW, well before bushfire season, we relied on the ABC to advise us where roads and fires were, as we tried to travel south. No matter what crisis we are suffering, the ABC gives current and constant information no matter where you are in Australia. There is no sensational headline. The story is presented factually.

valda a
VIC 2714

I'm letting you know why I feel the ABC is so important. They have quality programmes that aren't available on commercial TV. 7.30, Australian Story, 4 Corners, Insight, Landline, Gardening Australia, Foreign Correspondent (to name a few) as well as wonderful documentaries and series. The news service is second to none. In times of crisis it's most important telling us what the situation is. The radio keeps us up to date with current news. I feel the ABC is essential in Australia, and funding should always be increased, not decreased or frozen.

Valda D
TAS 3810

I am now retired and live in Hobart. I have also lived in Sydney and Canberra. To me the ABC is a vital part of Australia's culture and a vital part of my life. All my life it has provided me with insights about Australian life, culture, arts and lifestyle. It has been a vital source of education for me and has been like a companion in my life. The ABC is Australia's most trusted source of news both in emergency situations and in life in general. I value the fact that it is and always has been the most unbiased news source in Australia. In a world full of fake news and disinformation the ABC can be relied on to deliver the facts. I love the ABC and I trust the ABC. I ask the Federal Government to ensure that it does not deliver any more financial cuts to the ABC. Please support this vital source of information and entertainment.

Kind Regards Val Noga

Valentine n
QLD 7007

I depend on ABC Radio National and ABC TV for information, culture, music and fun. I can access it anywhere in the world and it is always a comfort to me. It borders on imbecility to apply razor cuts to its budget, when so much in the world is uncertain, inhumane and we need the voice of reason, impartiality and scientific data.

Valerie J
VIC 4121

right now in all over Australia especially in Victoria all eyes and ears are focused on the ABC radio stations or ABC TV that is where the true, accurate, information is found. It's where we get upto date interviews from the experts. real information real news, not paid for comment.

valerie k
WA 3235

There should not be cuts to the ABC and, in fact, they should be given more. We trust and rely on the ABC and are not distracted by adverts during important information. It is also about Australia and things that we need to know.

VALERIE K
NSW 6147

My husband and I rely daily on the ABC for reliable, unbiased, factual information provided by its News Team. We were particularly appreciative of the on-the-ground information coming through at the time of the devastating bush fires, impressed by the fact that many newsreaders seemed to be there in all situations to provide up-to-date reports from where they actually were, usually quite risky positions. We recognised news personnel that we had not seen for some time being called to duty. That was impressive. We now continue to look to the ABC for honest up-to-date reporting on the coronavirus situation, with essential factual, non-emotional information for the whole country.

Valerie P
VIC 2077

In brief, I live alone and even my dear old companion border collie died in April. My children and grandchildren live in Europe and the only other family is in NSW. So, 2020 and covid has been the loneliest time of my life and I have relied upon the ABC daily for reliable news, for the interesting conversations and podcasts on a range of topics on RN. When the covid news is too much I am happy to be able to listen to ABC Classic FM. ABC TV also provides thoughtful polite conversations on the Drum with a balance of views. Then, for entertainment there are a few comedy and drama programmes I like to watch although not so many these days due to government cutbacks. The ABC's emergency reporting was essential to me during the fires as I live in regional Victoria. In fact I do not know what I would do without the ABC. It is the only broadcaster without a barrow to push because it belongs to the public and serves and informs them.

Valerie T
TAS 3996

The ABC is patently the only major news outlet that is politically neutral. All the privately owned news outlets are business oriented and use their media outlets to give biased opinions on news in order to preserve businesses or government instituted offices that are primarily concerned with profits and do not care about people. I rely on the ABC to protect my interests as a citizen of this country.

vandan m
QLD 7185

I don't know what my life would be without the ABC

It's been there forever, first the radio when we were kids and families listened to the news and all sorts of children's programs serials weather reports and plays to name just a few

Although television offers a wide range of programs on the ABC to the whole nation and regionally, radio is my first love and the most important

No I wasn't affected by the worst bushfires ever experienced here, but found the reporting of warnings and action on the fire fronts , the many acts of bravery, and human solidarity throughout, compelling listening

This is my country and my ABC brings me news and weather and human stories to keep me connected to community, regionally (in North Queensland where I live) and nationally, especially politically, informing me of Parliamentary events, inquiries and investigations, and outcomes, economic information and science and environmental news.

It's all relevant, because we're all connected and affected by the same events such as bushfires, cyclones, and now the biggest challenge of all: the pandemic

The ABC keeps me aware of developments, statistics, and the human stories playing out through this massive challenge for us in Australia and the world

The ABC is our anchor, our voice our heartbeat

From our First Nations People to the new born next generation citizens, and all in between, the voice they listen to and learn from and trust is the Australian Broadcasting Corporation and all it has to offer

Its value to this country is far beyond the budget assigned to it: it is a reflection of ourselves, past and present, and represents true democracy expressed through a free media, untrammelled by oppression and interference seen and heard around the world

Vandhana n

VIC 4819

The ABC has been a lifeline for me during the bushfires and Coronavirus pandemic. Knowing I can be informed every hour on ABC news and also rely on informative journalism gives me a sense of relief, especially as I'm challenged with using the internet. Please, please support ongoing funding for the ABC.

Vanessa H

NSW 3030

The ABC is the news source in Australia which I have the greatest trust in. No news source is completely independent but the ABC comes about as close as you can get. At a time when we are facing existential climate change and pandemic issues, we need information based on scientific expertise, not opinion. I have been upset that loud voices in the very biased media are calling for defunding of the ABC and the government gives far too much attention to these voices - they represent Murdoch company and other corporate interests that are at odds with the wants and needs of the Australian people. I listen to ABC radio (RN, ABCNews and 702) and podcasts such as Conversations and CoronaCast and watch ABC news and ABCiView daily. It's an important part of my life - a measured, unemotional, clear catchup on what is happening in the world. I think the people who would defund the ABC are ignorant and un-Australian. As a tax-payer, I call on the government to show its support of independent journalism, one of the blocks in the foundation of our democracy. An attack on the ABC is an attack on Australia's democracy and that hurts everyone.

Vanessa J

VIC 2230

I only watch the ABC the only channels I can rely for seriously informed without interruptions .bay this bay that and all that.

vasilios s

NSW 3021

I grew up with my grandparents listening to Blue Hills on local radio out on the farm East of Dubbo. They were kept informed and in touch by the Country Hour and entertained by the wonderful radio serial.

Now, I am retired and living in the beautiful Blue Mountains of NSW. I relied on the ABC during last summer's horrendous bush fires to keep me safe and informed with regular emergency bulletins. Now Dr. Norman Swan is the voice of reason and common sense as the ABC is the trusted source of news and advice during the Pandemic.

Times are tough but the people of Australia love and cherish " their Aunty" and further Government cuts to the broadcaster will reap a whirlwind of discontent at the ballot box!

Vaughan J

QLD 2780

Dear Minister,

While I haven't listened to ANY radio for the past 4 months other than the rugby league coverage that has recently resumed because all I hear is Covid 19, the ABC has been an important element in my general knowledge base, from raising kids to keeping healthy just name a couple of subjects.

If the Murdoch journos devoted/had devoted just a bit of of their time to sussing what Rupert Murdoch is about then just maybe Murdoch wouldn't be running Queensland.

Being anywhere to the left of Genghis Khan these days gets you labeled a screaming leftie.

Vaughan Mayberry

Vaughan M

NSW 4179

When the sky went dark orange and then black and the heat enveloped us all and the charred leaves fell out of the sky, when there was no power, no telephone and no internet, we sat huddled by the sea with the battery radio. News and information flowed regularly out of that little box bringing reassurance and comfort and we trusted what we heard because we knew it was the ABC! Thank you ... Long may the ABC last we can't do without you!

vera m

NSW 2545

With no local daily paper for the last five years ABC North Coast is absolutely vital to keep up to date with local Council and community news. More, not less funding, please. Radio National and News Radio are also essential for provision of unbiased and informative programs.

Veronica H

NSW 2485

I have tracked the ABC for many years. During this time I have depended on the accuracy of the news programmes. Unfortunately ABC's drama has all but vanished and a large injection of funds is desperately needed to keep up our standards.

veronica p

QLD 2259

The ABC is the only media outlet that has been able to guide me and to inform me of what was critical in my community and how I could best respond and deal with the problems in my immediate vicinity. I knew I could trust the news totally as I knew it is accountable to us and independent of profit and politics. And that's why I can say, undeniably, that the ABC is there for me and those that are close and dear to me.

Stories this government can't ignore.

Veronika P

WA 4101

Why do you want to defund the ABC? It can only be political, particularly as you are handing millions to Fox to broadcast minority sports. Would it not have made more sense to assist that policy by engaging the National Broadcaster. Your policies are flawed and political and I can see you paying a political price.

Vic E

NSW 6285

As residents of Wollombi we were completely dependent upon the ABC broadcasts for up-dates on the three fires in our vicinity; how close they were and what road closures would affect our departure if and when the fires came too close for us to stay on our property. As we did not have internet here, and no mobile or TV coverage, the radio was the only method for up to date information for our area. It was consistent, constant and correct. Their assistance cannot be praised enough. Mobile coverage for those that had it, failed. Everyone was dependent on the ABC. Cannot thank them enough. More funding needed for them to continue their vital services, certainly not less.

Thanking you for your attention.

Vicki B

TAS 2040

I relied heavily on the ABC radio and television during the 2020 bushfires, the coronavirus pandemic and THE extreme weather conditions that affected me in the past six months. I was most confident that the ABC information shared regularly, (often on the hour, every hour), was accurate and reliable, to ensure my safety and peace of mind. I have never been let down, in all the years I have been listening and watching. I love my ABC!

Vicki C
VIC 7315

Every morning we listen to the ABC radio and my husband listens to it all day while he works. At night we watch ABC news as our main news source. It is a vital part of our life, we turn to it for the latest news because we know that it can be trusted and truthful. We watch it for the Australian programs which we learn from...Gardening Australia, Landline, Backroads as well as the top quality dramas ect. Stop ripping the heart out of our National Media organisation as it is a vital part of Australian life!

Vicki J
QLD 3568

Only place in the world with funded station I first watched bellbird on abc as a child Play school with my children We have the best informative channel bar none Plse don't take it away We are known world wide Thank you

Vicki M
VIC 4823

The ABC is a necessary service, especially in a disaster for trusted news and information, there is no alternative.
The government need to stop cutting funds to the ABC and put funding back to fully support the fabulous essential trusted service which the ABC is
SINCERELY
Vicki Sullivan

Vicki S
NSW 3941

The ABC played a very vital roll in developing my life. I am now 82, but learned to talk, many values and How to be proud to be Australian.

It is essential and I will vote against any one interfering.

Victor cusack. (0408 897 214).

Victor C
NSW 2430

I had to evacuate my home due to encroaching bushfire in Goonengerry in late November 2019 - during that period and ongoing throughout summer I relied solely on ABC for information. The RFF app was not up to date in the way ABC was. It is imperative LNP properly fund the public broadcaster. Australians rely solely on ABC in many more ways than monitoring personal danger. For me ABC is the single most important information source in this country and crucial to rural residents.

Victor M
NSW 2482

My husband and I have watched or listened ABC since we were introduced by our parents 60years ago. My family were refugees and learned to speak English watching programs on the ABC.
To this day we watch news and current affair programs on the ABC.
Our grandchildren have not been introduced to commercial TV, just ABC Iview or DVDs.
Our family is bilingual so ABC and SBS are the two stations we watch. We are interested in fact not fiction, reality not sensationalism and being treated as intelligent humans with imagination.
Thank you ABC

Victoria J
TAS 2482

I depend utterly on the ABC for accurate information in these troubling times. I try to plan a safe time to get together with my family in New South Wales. It is information from the ABC I most depend on to make sensible decisions. I expect them to give me information that is in both my best and public best interest. It is for nobody's long term benefit to defund this. We need the best we can get. We also depend on it for quality entertainment. There is so much really poor quality films and series around on the various financially based providers that once again we look to the ABC to provide worthwhile discussion, information and cultural entertainment, much of it locally based.

Victoria v
TAS 7008

The ABC has offered us all 'up to date, local, national & international news.
In times of crisis we go to the ABC for support & help. The local touch given when needed is critical.

wiki c
QLD 7250

My Sister lives in Narooma NSW and my mother is in a Nursing Home in Dalmeny. These were areas seriously affected by the recent bushfires. All communications were cut off, and were it not for the ABC reporting these events my stress levels would have been even higher. The ABC is a lifetime to ALL Australians and should be protected. None of this vital information was available on the Commercial channels here in Brisbane. Sincerely,
Victoria Henry

Vikki H
VIC 4065

I am an old widow in a isolated rural are, that I love, But the nbn is a white elephant, no mobile access and adsl & fixed line phone are my only devices, I depend so much on the ABC, for news and especially in emergencies, like last summer, when a fire threatened my area. With Covid now a constantly changing threat, I am glued to either my radio or television. To defund the ABC, will be a dreadful and worrying prospect for me & the rest of my community.

Vikkie D
TAS 3328

Was caught in the middle of the bushfires in NSW south coast - without the ABC I'd have been stuffed.

Vince M
VIC 7250

I am Vincent Morand, and I live in northeastern Melbourne. I rely on the ABC for news and informed opinion on both TV and the ABC website. During this pandemic I have been using the ABC website to find out about the latest statistics, the latest government information and instructions, news of any outbreaks in my area, and reliable news from overseas. The ABC has experts on staff, and also interviews acknowledged medical and other experts to provide considered opinion and unbiased information.

ABC investigative journalism is second to none, and is a necessary part of a healthy democracy. We need people to watch over those we have elected.

In addition, I watch comedy on ABC (which produces the best comedy in the country) as a welcome break from the bad news constantly bombarding us. It helps keep me sane and lifts my spirits.

I demand that there be no cuts to the ABC in the upcoming budget. The ABC has had so much money ripped out from it over the last 7 years that it is struggling to do the bare minimum that we expect from it. It's not just a media organisation: it's an essential part of Australian society and our way of of life.

Vincent M
VIC 3088

I am now retired but I continue to want to learn and stay abreast of what is happening in the world today. I use the ABC as a trusted information source and it is providing my continuing education.

I prefer the ABC TV news and Current affairs to all others and appreciate movies and other programs not being interrupted by ads.

I listen to Radio National every day and some of the programs I love include RN Breakfast, Late Night Live , the Science show, The World Today, The Economists, The health report, The Law report etc etc. The ABC offers what no other organisation offers and should be supported and properly funded.

vincent m
NSW 3184

Living in Canberra the ABC was my only source of information during the bushfires. Problem's with destroyed internet infrastructure and poor reception in my area meant that at times all I had was the ABC. JUST to reiterate, I LIVE IN CANBERRA, not a blink town off the beaten track. Unrelated but still important; if we want to combat the propaganda of certain problematic nation states, perhaps we should think about refunding the ABC to get radio Australia back to it's former status in our region.

Vincent P
VIC 2906

My name is Viona Lowenthal, and I have tuned into the ABC since returning from Europe in the 90's. Since then I have relied on the ABC for "real" news, that I know I can trust. Right now we are in a very critical time due to this major pandemic, Coronavirus,, especially in Victoria where I live, and without the expert coverage from presenters, Doctors, live interviews with people directly affected by COVID-19, I feel I would be in the dark. They are the most informative broadcaster, reaching out to regional areas as well. NO cuts should be made in October!!!
Thank you,
Viona Lowenthal

Viona L
WA 3130

I am nearly 70 years old and now live in Perth but I have lived in Sydney, Armidale, the Gold Coast and Brisbane, and have many friends living in NSW, Qld and Victoria with whom I like to keep in touch, despite the physical distances between us. I rely and throughout my life have relied on the ABC for accurate, up to date and comprehensive news coverage, for reliable current affairs reporting and analysis, for intelligent entertainment programmes with plenty of Australian content and for educational children's programmes (originally for my children and now for my grandchildren). Recently I have heavily relied on the ABC to keep me informed with what has been happening in Australia during the bushfires in Qld, NSW and Victoria last summer and what has been and is happening in Australia and overseas during the coronavirus pandemic. The ABC has always been and continues to be a very important part of my life and a strong influence on my sense of what it means to be an Australian in modern Australia. My submission is that there must be no further cuts to the funding of the ABC and that recent funding cuts should be reversed and the ABC budget restored to previous levels so that the excellent work of the ABC is able to continue.

Virginia C
VIC 6009

The Australian Broadcasting Commission is a vital part of my life, and that of my family. It has kept us reliably informed about the bushfires, the pandemic and so many other critical issues affecting us and the world. I trust the ABC. I listen, watch and read ABC information everyday. It is a critical part of the fabric of life in Australia. If we didn't have this quality source of information, our lives would be much the poorer for it. It needs more funding, not less. And no ads, ever. It adds to my quality of life immeasurably and I rely on it to help me not only with daily information but it's health and wellbeing and educational resources have helped me enormously as well.

Virginia R
NSW 3095

The ABC has provided the best coverage on the corona virus covid 19. I felt that without sensationalism the ABC kept us up to date and well informed. This was the case on the radio and the television. Without Norman Swan on the ABC I wouldn't have got the unbiased and critical information. It is vital to retain the broadcaster as Australia needs a non-biased radio and television channel.

Virginia T
NSW 2121

During the past year, I followed and listened to the ABC every day when we had the biggest bush fires ever and it made me feel connected and safe. During COVID-19, I read the news every day to stay u-to-date with how it was going, to keep our family safe. I watch ABC TV and no other channel and often watch things through iView, if I have missed a program. It is great to watch it when I have time, at my own time!! Having the ABC without advertisements makes it so much easier than commercial stations/broadcasters. Please No Cuts To Our ABC

Virginie S
QLD 2518

When I want Watch the news to find out what's really happening. I only watch the ABC news

Vivian A
NSW 4073

The ABC has proven its worth to the wellbeing of Australians this year in two vital ways.

During the bush fires the ABC broadcasted life saving information on active fire fronts. We watched hour by hour as fires threatened then devastated areas where family or friends lived. Afterwards the ABC showed us how regional areas were suffering and told their stories, then told us what we could do to support them.

During the first Covid lockdown the ABC brought physically separated Australians together, giving us great comfort that although apart, we were still together and our isolation was helping to stop the virus. We heard and saw funny, heartwarming stories that lifted us and introduced human connections we could participate in. Such as grandparents and grandchildren sending video messages to each other via the ABC. They were funny and heart warming. Norman Swan became our voice of reason and reliability amid a time of heightened anxiety, providing comfort via information in a way we could understand.

Apart from the two obvious examples in 2020 of ABC's vital role, our national broadcaster speaks to and entertains all age and interest groups.

ABC brings us together from diverse backgrounds all as Australians with programs such as the internationally popular Aussie cartoon, Bluey on the ABC Kids channel, as well as Comedy, News and great foreign films and TV series.

I vote for my tax \$\$ to fund Our ABC.

Vivian C
NSW 2085

I have personally relied on the ABC broadcaster for information that relates the up to the minute news relating to the Covid virus. I am health impaired at it is important that I can rely on the directives I follow are accurate information from The Health Department. I'm not confident in receiving this kind of information from commercial. I also get my entertainment from The ABC programmes i.e. Landline, Australian Story, Insight and more. The ABC is the most important source of information and news for me. Thank you for reading my submission.

Vivian C
NSW 2747

As a resident of the Blue Mountains, I relied heavily on the ABC for constant updates on information about the movements and extent of the fires surrounding my house and in my local area, earlier this year. Throughout the COVID pandemic, I watch ABC TV to learn about how each state is progressing and what the latest restrictions are in my state. I have also used ABC resources to help home school my granddaughter when she is not permitted to attend school. I heavily rely on my ABC to stay informed and I trust that I am always provided with honest and objective reporting of critical events.

Vivien G
VIC 2783

In our household the ABC is the go-to channel for reliable and relevant news and updates of current happenings, Fires, floods and Covid19. We love the choice programs including interviews, documentaries and the well-written detective series, though we need more Australian content in this area.

Vivienne D
NSW 3931

I have watched the abc since I was a child watching the news ! Over the years their money has been cut and more cuts !! The abc is only channel I trust with the honest news without the commercial stations hype !! Through the bush fires corona virus they are needed we don't need more of Murdoch's influence!!!

Vivienne j
NSW 2121

I so rely on the ABC for thoughtful programs on current affairs, history and society. Rear Vison, The Minefield, Late Night Live, Future Tense, so many great prgrams. News radio for immediate connection with breaking neews.

Vivienne P
QLD 2010

My name is Yvonne McLelland-Howe (VMH). My husband and I live in Bendigo, Victoria. I am a mother and a grandmother. I am a lawyer and a concerned citizen. I am also running for council in the upcoming October elections because I care about my community and the impacts of climate change and covid19 on our community and indeed the nation.

I rely on the ABC for factual news. I cannot imagine how our society would survive in these times, without the information that is provided by the dedicated journalists that do the reporting, especially during times of crisis. My heart goes out to them during these times and I see that they are working long hours.

I am concerned about the stress of reporting on the tragedies because at times it must be very depressing, but I see them persist to still keep us informed. They are amazing.

I listened to the reporters during the bushfires last season and I am concerned about what the cut backs would do. We will need their presence when the next bush fire season begins. Once power goes in disasters a little battery held radio and the ABC is the only communication some people have. This I know from the following personal experience.

My husband and I lived in far north Queensland, Garradunga, 80kms south of Cairns for 12 years. During that time we suffered through cyclone Yasi in 2011, it was terrifying and we were in the direct path of it when it was classified as a category 5. It eventually moved south and landed at Mission beach, but during the peak as it came closer to our home, the winds were in excess of 200 kms . It was like listening to a rocket just outside the window. The wind was deafening. Our house was built to cyclone standard and had slate floors, but we could feel the floor moving from the impact of Yasi. There was a lot of damage to our house and our trees.

About an 15 minutes into the cyclone we lost power and the only connection we had with the outside world was a tiny little battery operated radio and the only station we could hear was the ABC. The comfort of that report still brings me to tears now, just to know that they were there for us and with us as they worked long hours to keep us informed.

I submit that no more cut backs are made to the ABC in the October 2020-2021 budget and that the funding that has already been cut, be immediately restored to prevent further tragedies that will occur as a result of these cut backs.

Yvonne M
QLD 4860

During times of crisis, as earlier in the year when bushfires raged, and also during the current Covid-19 pandemic, I rely on the ABC for reliable up-to-the-minute coverage. And in Cairns during Cyclone Yasi, the ABC was the only source issuing constant warnings and informing residents of every development. The ABC is a vital service which must have adequate funding.

W. M
NSW 4870

Hi.... PLEASE Take the time to read this.

Story 1. 2012

I was walking in Wuhan, I Yichang near the town square.

A middle aged man sitting on the edge of the road said "Hello, where are you from", this surprised me as I hadn't heard anyone say more than Hi in 6 weeks or so.

I stopped and the man continued to talk to me in Australian English. I said when were you in Australia, he said he had never left Yichang but taught himself to speak English by listening to Radio Australia..... he asked me to get our government to start it up again because it had been stopped.

I often wonder if Radio Australia still existed in China if relations may be better now than they are.

Story 2 2019.

I was in Vietnam in October & November 2019. I relied so much on the ABC to get information re the Old Bar fires. My wife and son were in Old Bar and the information given by the ABC was by far the most reliable, especially when contact with my family by phone and Internet was impossible.

Is the government really that afraid of the ABC?

Would you want the fickle commercial News stations to be the only ones giving limited information, especially to Regional areas where News is disappearing?

Please do not cut funding especially at a time such as now with covid19. Restore funding to real levels to the ABC Service that we trust.

Thank you for taking the time to read this.

Take Care and Best Wishes

Wal Dixon.

WAL D

WA 2430

My wife has a serious breathing problem and must stay at home, specially during this time of Covid. I do the shopping and pursue various other volunteering and exercise activities and do not get much time to listen/view the news updates so we rely on the ABC to keep my wife informed about just what is required in this time of crisis.

I am totally mystified as to what it is that various political types have against the ABC. Are they fearful of the truth? I will certainly join any protest movements that aim to restore funding for our national broadcaster and against further funding cuts. Surely they must realize that they will be losing votes??

Walter A

VIC 6330

Ever since I have been in this country I have watched the ABC and SBS to the exclusion of commercial television. I live in the Glass House Mountains and I am a retired environmental scientist committed to volunteering much of my time to the conservation of koalas and the habitat upon which they depend.

The reason for my loyalty to the ABC is because it is the only channel besides SBS that provides news from overseas. It keeps me abreast of what is happening in Queensland and Australia without sensationalism or fear mongering. The ABC shows both sides of the political spectrum in an open, transparent and accountable fashion.

The viewing of series, dramas and cultural events have an Australian flavour and the ABC supports the making of and viewing of Australian artists, actors, journalists, documentary makers and does more to maintain the cultural diversity in a positive manner of this country than any commercial channel.

I trust the ABC as do many others. As our public broadcaster, the ABC is the only media outlet accountable to the people, independent from profit and politics. The ABC is there for all of us which is why I ask in the strongest possible terms that no cuts be made to the ABC in the October 2020-21 budget. In fact I would urge the government to restore any and all funding cut to date.

As far as I can ascertain, the only reason the government has cut funding is because politicians and bureaucrats don't want the Australian public to know what is actually going on. They don't want other opinions to be aired, they don't want to be criticised and they don't want to be accountable.

Wanda G
VIC 4518

It would be unthinkable if we were not able to rely on the ABC at any time in a case of emergency.

Currently we are gathered before ABC TV each morning to receive the latest reports from the coronavirus fronts. We are all kept fully informed and more particularly instructed and reminded of the latest guidelines we are requested to follow. Now that Victoria is in stage 3 and greater Melbourne more restrictively in stage 4, the dangers threatening our lives and our way of life are evident and can only be overcome with dedicated responses and involvement from us all.

Similarly during the infernos of the last fire season; the ABC was the trusted and reliable communicator enabling help to be directed where it was needed and informing those participating in the fight while remaining empathetic in the face of overwhelming grief and loss.

We are blessed with Radio National and its many specialist broadcasts to satisfy its wide audience: The Science Show; Law Report, Saturday Extra, Off the Beaten Track, LNL, etc etc.

And ABC TV: Monday nights fully booked, Australian drama, BBC series etc etc. And FM Classic providing food and joy for all the music lovers amongst us. The ABC is comprehensive in its coverage and reach and continues to be an indispensable part of our lives.

wanda n
NSW 3377

Do I want to watch Sky AfterDark? Surely not! All the ads and many poor commentators on 7, 9 and 10? Only rarely!

Do I want to watch the ABC Morning News or News 24 or Q & A or Four corners or other such ABC programs? I do and I resent the Murdoch Press and the IPA always suggesting defunding or privatising. It makes me angry really.

Warren D
WA 2260

The Science Show and Dr Norman Swann's journalism have been very important to me in particular this last financial year. The Science show has highlighted new technologies, issues with current practices and celebrated the lives of talented and passionate individuals. Norman Swann has warned us about the need to act fast when it comes to halting the spread of the novel coronavirus. As one who takes notice of experts who give good explanations for their views I feel as if even if the authorities failed to take notice I and those close to me would be a lot safer following his advice rather than not worrying much about various precautions.

I always like to know what President Trump and the Chinese are up to and the ABC's Late Night Live and Planet America programmes have been very good in keeping me abreast of developments and possible consequences. ABC's foreign correspondents also give me confidence that I am well informed about other issues around the world.

Unfortunately for Australian issues I've noted considerable emphasis on Eastern States issues in news and current affairs programmes. So much so that in one programme (The Drum) comments relating to Western Australia seemed quite strange! Oh for the days of a better funded ABC when we in WA got more of the coverage we appreciate.

Regards, Warwick

Warwick B
ACT 6152

My wife and I watch Foxtel mainly because we are forced to pay to watch the National Rugby League NRL which at one time was free to air on the ABC. This and a range of other sports were bought by the Murdoch organisation, which has caused us to pay Foxtel so we can watch our sport. We don't watch Foxtel news and current affairs as their commentators are ipioniated and have a very biased against certain groups but particularly Aboriginal people in Australia. We find their commentry biased toward certain political parties and anti others. We watch the ABC to get a balanced view without the spin. We are very concerned that we will only get the Murdoch biased commentary. We are old aged pensioners that have seen a continuing erosion of fair and balanced reporting in Australia we fear further funding cuts to the ABC will further continue the erosion of balanced reporting.

Wayne A
VIC 2603

I listen to the ABC because it is neutral and rational. Because it is government funded it is able to present issues free from political and commercial interests and no doubt at times upsets all. This is the way it should be and demonstrates it is serving its function. Its contribution to emergency services "goes without saying."

Wayne A
QLD 3930

The ABC is essential for a free, democratic and progressive society. Rupert Murdoch and his Institute of Public Affairs want to shut down the ABC because it does inconvenient things like telling the truth and investigating political corruption. With the ABC gone he imagines he can brainwash everyone peddling his lies and propaganda. However we can see Murdoch's utopia in Trump's America. The public is misinformed on critically important issues and driven by division and hate. They elected a psychopath for President who is intent on allowing catastrophic climate change to cause the collapse of our civilization and the deaths of billions of people. While neo-conservative loonies like Murdoch might think that is ok, I think that if the public were properly informed, most would choose to live on a planet which is habitable. In these times of Covid 19 and climate emergency, we only have to look at Trumps incompetent handling of Covid 19, to know that an informed cohesive society is a good thing. Boycott Murdoch. Save the ABC!

Wayne B
VIC 4870

The ABC has provided a reliable source of news and information for as long as I can remember, fires, floods, current affairs, quality children's TV, the list goes on and on. I'm 68 and the older I get the more I realise the value of the contribution. The ABC needs to exist and that takes funding. Simple as that.

Wayne H
NSW 3195

The ABC provides independent, diverse and up to date news and current affairs analysis across Australia. Millions of hard working Australians rely on the media services it provides. Without the ABC news updates during the recent Australian bushfire crisis and the COVID-19 pandemic Australians in cities and the bush would have been left in the dark. It's fact checking unit, it's fearless reporting domestically and internationally is second to none. Australians want quality serious independent news and current affairs, quality Australian drama content shows and the ABC provides it. Any politicians that think they can nobble the ABC by selected cutbacks will face a backlash at the ballot box.

Wayne M
NSW 2770

I cannot live without my ABC and am very disappointed at the constant cuts to its budget by the current government.

In 2020 alone, the ABC has kept me reliably informed about the bushfires and the COVID-19 pandemic. During this pandemic, the ABC has helped many people stay sane by providing great shows and in so doing provide many jobs by creating wholly-Australian content.

Australia must have good, reliable and trusted news broadcasts, showing even-handed stories. The ABC will often criticize themselves when they could have done better. Criticism can also be directed to the government when necessary. This is true democracy at work. Cutting funding to the ABC will be the destruction of our precious democracy.

In the budget, be kind to the ABC!

Thank you.

Wayne N
QLD 2131

To Whom it may concern..the ABC TV and Radio is and has been a part of my life since I was a kid and to see it slowly eroded away is a travesty of common sense and is just a non caring attitude by the government towards the people who pay for it and vote to elect polities to take care of the culture we have created in this land ..we don't need cuts we need expansion of our national broadcasters..hope this can touch a few caring cells in the part of the collective Canberra brain..cheers to you all ..Wayne Reid ..Sunshine Coast Qld

wayne r
VIC 4551

During times of uncertainty the ABC is always there keeping us informed in a factual, non-partisan and non-sensationalist manner. The ABC should be adequately funded to ensure it can continue to provide its essential services to all Australians, especially those in rural Australia.

Wendi N
WA 3068

During last summer we took care of friends small property near Denmark on south coast ofWA. We were very concerned about threat of bushfire as it was a very bushy area. So we tuned into the local ABC station in Albany all day monitoring any warnings.

We've always lived in remote/rural areas & have relied on ABC & Radio National for reliable news, discussion of current events & entertainment.

Without the ABC our lives would have been much less amenable & we would have felt very isolated. And we know how that was true for so many people in the regions.

Already we can tell how reduced the ABC budget is by the amount of repeats.

Please do not reduce the funding any further!!

Wendy A
ACT 6233

I am at a complete loss to comprehend the fixation of the current liberal government to cut funding to the ABC. Although not personally affected by the devastating fires I tune into them for the facts, not always being sure of other broadcasters' coverage but relying on the ethics and quality of information given by the ABC.

Similarly with the Coronavirus-up to date FACTS.

At this time I don't mind sharing my political preferences. I am and always have been a Liberal supporter but the current attitude of the government I am at a complete loss to understand and dare I say it is more an attitude I would expect from those in opposition supported by their faithful voters.

To be able to watch a channel not influenced by the advertising dollar is heaven. Please do not take that freedom from us or I fear a lot of voters will remember these cuts into the next election whilst now more than ever we need consistency of leadership to help get us through the current crisis. However, with so many like minded voters also querying the huge cuts being made to the ABC I am starting to fear the next election results already.

Just WHY does Liberal seem so determined to keep cutting that funding. Please NO!!!

Wendy A
QLD 2602

My husband and I are older citizens living on the north side of Brisbane. We've grown up with the ABC and trusted its reporting. The impartiality of the ABC has always been a hallmark of that institution & though some government ministers over the years have objected to comments made by the ABC, the ABC's opinion has been vital in the community getting a clear picture of what is going on. The ABC represents the voice of Australian people and scholarly, researched, factual debate should always be welcome. We have gone to the ABC every day through the coronavirus epidemic, expecting and receiving honest reporting. We've acted on the advice of medics interviewed by the ABC including Dr Norman Swan and the ABC has helped us in our own personal research on the pandemic. We think that cuts to the ABC represent cuts to Australians' conversation with each other. Natural disasters and pandemics highlight how important honest truthful communication is and we limit it at our peril. Were the ABC to be weakened by further funding cuts, we will be left to the malevolent devices of other news media who both encourage complacency where danger abounds and stir up discontent. Please do not cut funding to the ABC.

Wendy C
ACT 4012

I have found that only on the ABC have I received trustworthy information regarding the bushfire emergency and Covid 19 facts and information. I do not trust information on the commercial media as their focus is, and has always been, drama focused. And at times has needed to be fact checked. Rural areas rely on the ABC for up-to-date and well researched and investigated topics, as well as well balanced bushfire tracking. I also rely on ABC classic and other programs for mental health during Covid 19 restrictions.

Wendy C
QLD 2640

The ABC is a treasure, it keeps me both informed and entertained. What has been listened to or viewed is almost invariably a topic for stimulating conversation among my friends. As a source of information during the pandemic it has proved invaluable in a world full of false news and nutty conspiracy theories. The quality children's programs, free of advertising are an exemplar of what is the best of this genre. Bluey is genius!

I am old(84) and live alone and ABC music and information is my lifeline surely this wealth country can afford this institution. I get little else for the. taxes I still pay , I think the Government will defund at great peril .

Wendy E
NSW 4068

The ABC has been part of my life for 48 years since I started watching children's TV shows like Play School and Rompa Room.

I rely on the ABC for entertainment and particularly enjoy Australian and British drama, documentaries, news and weather.

My mother is currently in a nursing home and I am extremely anxious that she does not get the Coronavirus. The ABC News service provides the current Coronavirus information I need not to mention unbiased news coverage on all other news topics.

I think it is disgusting that the Australian Government keeps cutting funding to a channel that Australian's love and trust. The ABC is an Australian icon that provides a worthwhile service and is politically neutral. Perhaps that's why the Government is eager to close it down!

Wendy G
WA 2800

ABC news broadcasts have remained a reliable source of valuable information particularly this past year. The ABC's ability to deliver relevant, informative news without sensationalising and dramatising the facts has remained a reason why they play such an important broadcaster in Australia.

Wendy H
NSW 6003

We rely on the ABC for unbiased news and current affairs. We also enjoy mini series, gardening and Australian dramas. It is not in the interest of Australia to underfund the ABC. Their coverage of the recent bushfires and the months of Corona 19 problems, has been outstanding.

Wendy H
QLD 2450
Hello

Please keep the ABC.

They have great TV shows, and the News is the best there is!

Thank you Wendy

Wendy H
NSW 4000

The ABC is, was, and always has been, the only form of visual media a truly trust. I'm amazed how its managed to carry on with all the fierce cuts of the last few years. I entreat those with the power to truly consider the importance of this magnificent corporation and give it the support it needs

wendy J
VIC 2782

The ABC is a source of so much more than the provision of accurate, clear, independent, current news and comment. The ABC is a source of learning for the community that is not found anywhere else - and can be accessed by any financial level. There are programs on philosophy, science, health, law, history, travel, books, music, drama, family and life matters, gardening, physical health, sport, overseas programs, investigative programs eg Background Briefing, ethics, religion, and more.
This is a resource that no other media could consider providing - and the community would be much diminished without the ABC.

Wendy L
NSW 3155

Early this year we were caught in the midst of the bushfires on the south coast. First we lost power then we lost all communications. We didn't know what was going on and how or when we should leave the area as we were surrounded by fire. We sat in our car with the radio on multiple times a day listening to the ABC coverage of the area. Without their service we wouldn't have been able to plan a safe exit, know where to buy fuel and the direction we had to take to get home safely. There is no other service like ABC and we need it more than ever as we navigate our way through more uncertain times. It was those local voices reassuring us that made us feel that we were not forgotten. I am very grateful for their hard work over that period.

Wendy M
VIC 2043

I do not waste my time with commercial news which I feel is biased & often leaves crucial information out or over dramatises the negative aspects of a story. I rely on the ABC for all my news, facts & solid information regarding what's important to me. They were vital during the bushfires for many many people, I watch the Premier's news conferences through ABC news to get Covid info & to reduce their funding would border on criminally negligent. The ABC is part of the fabric of Australia & I need them to be a healthy dynamic well funded organisation.

wendy n
VIC 3782

for as long as I can remember the ABC has been a part of my life. As a teenager I learnt that objective reporting was to report in a truthful, unbiased and non emotive way. This is one of the reasons I love the ABC. No-one has the power to influence voters, or opinions on current affairs. The story's are told and we make up our own minds. The children's programs are absolutely fantastic. The evening programs are generally very good, especially when compared to the commercial stations. All in all the ABC is my favourite station.

wendy o
VIC 3350

We live in rural Victoria and we are in our 70s. The ABC increasingly plays a pivotal part in our lives. It keeps us reliably informed and connected to our society and world events.

Last summer illness kept us home, which is 13 k. South of Bendigo. Our children and grandchildren always go camping in Croaingingalong National Park. As fires began around Christmas we were kept up to date with the fire situation in Gippsland through the bulletins on ABC radio and television. ABC reporters on the ground and their no nonsense counterparts in the studios with maps and interviews informed us of our family's likely movements and hence greatly relieved our anxieties. For instance, we understood that Mueller Inlet where they were camping was evacuated, and the road to Canberra was open. We could not speak with them but correctly assumed they would most likely be safe. And thank heavens they were. Without the ABC we would have been completely in the dark.

Likewise, the calm and unbiased reporting of the Covid-19 pandemic, especially on RN 621, has been essential for us to know exactly what the government has required us to do. Outstanding in this regard have been Fran Kelly and Norman Swan and their team.

When we cast our votes we will be looking at the way the various parties intend to support the ABC. It is a fantastic and home grown institution, unparalleled in terms of truthful and trusted media in this country, because it is supported by public funds and is not beholden to sponsors or the whims of powerful, privileged, profit seeking white men with their only too transparent self seeking agendas. We urge you to increase ABC funding so that it can continue to improve its service to the Australian people.

Wendy R
NSW 3551

I can not say enough how important the ABC is. a reliable trusted source of essential information always .. even more so during a crisis, (bush fires covid) . I am so dismayed but the constant cuts to ABC RADIO and television.. terrible reduction in funding where innovative Australian programs and content has been cut. especially drama and arts.

Wendy S
TAS 2043

Two years ago my 63 husband died within a few months notice from cancer. During his illness I slept in our bedroom, while he had to sleep downstairs in a hospital bed. The only way I could sleep was to have Radio National or News Radio on quietly to listen to interesting programs and as I could get absorbed in listening by straining to listen I could sleep off and on. His unexpected sad, horrible slow death hit me heavily and so since that time I rely on the radio for sleeping. Every disaster that Australia faces such as long term droughts, the bushfires that burnt sad, sad images into our hearts and now coronavirus- they disturb me greatly because I have no one to share my worries with and I feel I could drown from one disastrous event to another. I can honestly say that the ABC keeps me sane and sleeping and entertained. I get joy from learning and from watching TV programs via streaming or TV that my husband and I enjoyed together over 25 years. I don't do Facebook or read newspapers so I can honestly say the ABC is my lifeline for news, entertainment and learning. I never watch or listen to any other channels.

The ABC should always be given the budget it needs so that it can keep on informing everyone, especially regional areas during times of crisis but also for the lifeline it throws to people like me. I am going to go back to live in NZ to be close to family and friends and the first thing I will have to do is find out how I can access Radio National and News radio from there, I could not imagine life without them.

ABC listener and viewer for 33 years.

Wendy Stothers

Wendy S

NSW 7000

We were without electricity and phone reception for a couple of weeks over 2 periods and we absolutely relied on our (battery powered) radio and the local ABC for updates and information. It was up-to-date and reliable (unlike the FiresNearMe app) and LOCALLY focused. We had no other source of information at that time. We would have been much more worried and feeling lost without it. It was reassuring and incredibly helpful.

Wendy T

NSW 2030

I can't recall a year in my life so far that I have depended more on the ABC to deliver me the news about our everyday life without sensationalism but with measured information given with great empathy and compassion. Balancing the giving of much needed information we have wonderful presenters who manage to lift our spirits. I love my ABC and this year more than ever!

Wendy T

VIC 2213

As a resident of East Gippsland, the ABC was a vital (and sometimes only) communication link during the 2019/20 summer bush fires. ABC was the only station broadcasting continuously with updates relevant in our area. And now during the pandemic, we rely on the ABC more than ever, as the place of truth. We rely on the ABC to keep us informed and know that the ABC is a trusted source of information.

Wendy W

WA 3880

I have been an ABC fan for over 70 years, I don't watch or read commercial based news or programs. The ABC does not deserve any cuts to its funding, so please ensure that they can continue to provide world class journalism and programs. NO CUTS TO THE ABCand you will have my vote!

Wes C

NSW 6163

Quality journalism is a rare commodity.

The ABC provides quality journalism which assists in holding many organisations and political groups accountable. Add to that the educational programming and stimulating content both in TV and Radio and community emergency services support, we can't afford to stretch to ABC further.

We certainly need to avoid further budget cuts and in fact we should increase funding to ensure ABC TV and Radio receive the support they need and deserve.

Thanks

Wes Dickson

Wes D

NSW 2105

Like everyone living in the Far South Coast of NSW I endured the most dreadful fire season. The ABC was THE reliable broadcaster with sufficient reach to get to even the remote communities and outlying properties. I was isolated 18km west of Moruya. Roads in and out were cut. Internet and mobile reception was patchy at best and non-existent at worst. The ABC did not fail us. I can't believe the government is again intent on making cuts to this lifeline. Bloody idiots!

Will D
NSW 2537

In these troubled times, accurate and impartial news and reporting is vital. There is no other news and media organisation in Australia that isn't heavily biased and selective with the facts. Truth and verifiable facts are becoming rarities, and people like me rely heavily on the ABC to get a realistic perspective and understanding of what is going on in Australia today.

William D
QLD 2040

The ABC is a central pillar of Australian democracy and it makes a profound contribution to our collective well-being and to the social fabric of our polity. The reason for the LNP's animus against the ABC was summed up by John Howard's former chief of staff, Grahame Morris, who described the national broadcaster as "our enemy, talking to our friends". That serious, intelligent, evidence-based journalism is perceived as "the enemy" tells us a lot more about the LNP than it does about the ABC. Polling consistently shows ABC news and current affairs is Australia's most trusted media outlet. The ABC is my primary source of news, entertainment and enlightenment. It is a bulwark of civil decency in our society.

William G
NSW 4121

The ABC was a lifeline for us in the Blue Mountains as bush fires closed in from the north and south. Their lovely, educational programming is also wholesome and helpful. I especially adore and highly value Gardening Australia as both a resource and an entertainment.

William M
NSW 2087

As a very concerned Australian I shudder at the disgraceful treatment metered out to our ABC with the cuts in financial budget, for many years I lived in Far North Queensland & the ABC was our only lifeline in times of cyclones & flood, only recently the catastrophic fires showed the massive benefit of local reporting by the dedicated ABC journalists & of course their crews, the likes of the Murdoch press pale in the comparison to the responsible work of the ABC. The Government's example of the sports rorts & of course the disgraceful Robo Debt scheme surely shows what ordinary Australians have to put up with with this conservative neoliberalist fiscally irresponsible coalition government. Save OUR ABC

william m
NSW 2450

The ABC was integral to maintaining my family's safety during the bushfires earlier this year. Information was vital to keeping alert to circumstances as they rapidly evolved. We kept informed through the ABC reporting of events specifically in our region and locality. I can't stress the importance of this enough. Beyond the role of communicating during disasters such as the bushfires, as a former university professor I view the ABC as one of the most significant sources of education for Australians of all ages. It is a window through which we view the current state of the world and our place in it. It holds up a mirror enabling us to see ourselves as well as how others see us. In my view the ABC is the most trusted institution in Australia and its importance appears to be underrated by government. It needs the support of government not just to survive but to thrive. It cannot do this while it is under constant threat of funding cuts. The government should restore its funding and watch it develop the capacity to serve Australia to an even greater degree.

William D W
NSW 2536

I packed up and left twice in The January fires I'm 83 and the ABC regional radio was my lifesaver. As fires threatened my suburb I was able to get emergency bulletins continuously. I had my dog and the car packed. My dad's WW2 service records and my granddad's WW1 photos and service records all ready to go. I've lived in Darwin Kalgoorlie Tennant Creek Onslow and ABC radio and ABC tv is our only reliable source for emergency news and factual current affairs. We cannot have further cuts to this invaluable organisation. Wilma Spence, Conder A C T 2906

Wilma S
NSW 2906

Being an moldy of 72 yrs I found ABC television so necessary to my mental and physical well being. Being locked down for so long during the first faze of the pandemic I turned to the ABC to keep me informed as well as good programmes. Kept me from going around the twist, as I live on my own, ABC was a God send to me.

Winifred M
QLD 2794

The ABC ARE THE PEOPLES NEWS THEY ARE THERE ON THE SCENE AND KEEP US IN TOUCH WE NEED THEM TO STAY ON AIR ESPECIALLY AT THE MOMENT SO DIG DEEP AND SUPPORT THEM LIFE WITHOUT THEM WILL BE A DISASTER

wyn m
QLD 4152

Hi, I am a mother with an 11yr son with Autism. It is vital to me and my family that we have access to the ABC as they have demonstrated time and time again to provide accurate and less sensational news programs. They have also provided entertainment for all types of Australians and are more inclusive in content and characters. This is extremely important as my son grows as he can see he is not alone. The privately owned channels have there own agendas and that is to make money regardless of the emotional and social consequences. If the ABC goes so does balance in our community. Aren't things already out of balance enough! Please reconsider. Thanks Kindly a Very Very Concerned Mum.

Yasmin E
NSW 4500

I listen or watch the ABC everyday, because it is the highest quality news/ information. Nothing else comes close. It has an undeniable place in our social conscience, and we would be hugely poorer if the ABC were limited in any way. The ABC deserves more support, not less.

YihLin W
NSW 2066

Do not cut more funds to the only true news source we have. We deserve some trustworthy news.

Yoko F
VIC 2482

The ABC has been the most accessible and consistent source of support throughout the coronavirus. It has gone out of tis way to provide the things that we all need during lockdown and isolation and uncertainty. Personally, ABC Classic has given me music to dance to, lifting my spirits and helping me to maintain some physical activity in my day.

It has provided me with more familiar music at night, giving me the comfort of the well-known and well-loved. Damien Beaumont has made a special effort in this area to offer the familiar and the uplifting. I am touched by the dedications between families that the ABC has facilitated, allowing grandchildren and grandparents, and friends separated by long distances to share a moment of connection together. I have been so impressed by the way Greta Bradman has integrated her skills to bring us calming programming to promote our mental health in very stressful times. Her use of psychological insight and music therapy are a highlight for me.

The bushfire coverage was also stellar, and I am sure saved many lives. Jon Faine's contribution was amazing and deserves a medal.

This year, the ABC has demonstrated the best in public broadcasting, the critical role it plays in our national life, and the practical support it provides to all Australians. It is one of the institutions that has made the most impressive contribution to Australian society in a very challenging year. We would be lost without it, and its capacity to step up when needed.

Yolande M
NSW 3163

Without a well funded ABC I, and many people like me, would lose: a pertinent trusted news source for state, national and international current affairs; accurate, detailed weather reports for my locality, which are crucial to my oyster farming business; and, most of all, a source of information in natural disasters when no other source is available. I live in a rural, mobile black spot area and during last summers bushfires it was the local ABC that kept me connected. While at home on my own 4-6km from the fire front, I had no contact with my husband or his RFS brigade who were fighting the fire. Without the ABC's fire coverage, already heightened levels of anxiety, would have been totally unbearable. The Morrison government can't justify cuts to the ABC in the next budget or thereafter. If anything it is a funding increase that should happen.

Yvette B
SA 2550

When the bushfires raged through SA in December 2019 I only had the ABC radio on my TV to give real time information on the progress of the fires which helped me decide when to leave my home to move to a safer place. And then I had to rely on the ABC to get continued information.

When I want quality programs, current unbiased news, and current affairs I always go to the ABC.

Yvette T
ACT 5244

The ABC has been every day during this virus with accurate info for all Australian also with the bush fires your cuts have decimated this our A BC

Yvonne C
VIC 2642

The ABC is always there for me, both radio and TV. I use the Listen app and iView. The ABC is our cultural icon. Without it I would be lost. It is my door and window to all that happens in this country and the world. There are world class interviewers and programmes every day.

I am in an older age group but even so I am able to tell my children and grandchildren things that they have not been able to pick up on social media.

The ABC is Australia. During COVID Dr Norman Swan has been a lifesaver with up to date information. During the bushfires I felt in touch with those who were being devastated.

Please do everything that is possible to support this essential service.

Yvonne H
NSW 3228

The ABC has always been my first choice for reliable news. During the bushfires I constantly listened to the ABC with fires becoming closer to our home in St Georges Basin than was comfortable. Following RFS advice, we packed our car and headed to the highway to be turned back as the road was blocked. We then again relied upon the ABC for the latest information. My son was to be married on a farm on the Colo River on 23 November, 2019. Three days before the wedding, due to the Gospers Mountain fire, the farm was closed to visitors due to hazardous fire conditions and the wedding had to be re-located and 150 guests notified of a new venue which was identified and re-organised within the 3 day timeframe. Our accommodation had to be changed - that booking still has not been able to be used as a result of Covid-19 restrictions. We constantly listened to advice and information on the ABC radio and television to assist in our decision making. The ABC also had programs which helped us look on a brighter side of all this disruption and devastation through the fires and Covid-19 and still does by providing quality radio and television.

Yvonne L
VIC 2576

We had to evacuate due to the East Gippsland fires. The ABC kept us informed as to what was going on, where and how close to us.

We rely on the ABC for our all our news, both TV and radio.

Thank you,

Yvonne Renfree

Yvonne R
NSW 3909

I consider myself a 'news junky.' But feel that commercial channels sensationalize the daily news, dwelling on local stabbings, shootings or road accidents. It's one of the reasons I turn to the ABC for the news that matters. I do have access to CNN, BBC and Aljazeera and am aware of the quality of news which is available. I find that ABC not only disperses the news which matters to Australians but also via news programming like 4 corners, & Foreign correspondent, it delivers a high quality of relevant documentaries. Weekly favorites like 'Insight', 'Backroads', & 'Australian Story' are not only informative but also of a very high standard.

I for one would be very disappointed if any of my favorite programs is cancelled due to lack of funds.

Australia needs the ABC to disseminate the news which matters in an objective way. In my opinion The ABC does this extremely well,

Yvonne R
QLD 2021

I thoroughly believe that the ABC is vital to Australia as part of our identity as a nation and as a reliable source of news unfettered by the bullshit and bias of corporate media. I consistently look to the ABC for a real view of world events through an Australian lens. There are never ridiculous puff pieces about Brad and Angelina played after an important piece on world or local events to distract or marginalise the importance of current events and there is real journalism, something the world and particularly Murdoch media are short on. If you cut the funding for ABC you've lost my vote and won a big "fuck you" from the right minded people of Australia.

Zen M
VIC 4124

The ABC is OUR ABC. It is the only service I trust and rely on for unbiased news and current affairs programs and a host of high quality series. I also find the ABC the most informative source of public service announcements in time's of emergencies such as COVID - 19 and bushfires. No other media can match the ABC on these and many other criteria. The ABC is an integral part of Australian culture and they deserve an increase in funding.

Zerin K
NSW 3551

I would like to advise that in my view & that of almost all my associates & friends it is imperative that Australia has a strong and independent ABC
Any party that offers to increase funding of the ABC after all the recent cuts will probably get my vote & I know as well that many others are of the view

Zita S
QLD 2223

The only television channels I watch are ABC channels. I certainly don't trust the other channels to keep me informed and up-to-date on Corona Virus and, before that, The Fire Crisis. And it has also helped me to stay informed about what my family who are scattered around Australia are experiencing, so that I can lend them support. For these reasons and more I am very grateful that the government funds ABC - and it needs to urgently increase its funding. It's a big part of keeping Australian's right across the board in what is happening throughout Australia. Thank you ABC! Zohl

Zohl d
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