

We The People

Program 120

The ABC of the ABC



I am always surprised when I find some things and organisations in our democratic society appear to be above criticism and evaluation. I think the notion that we must not make comment on an organisation or idea cannot be justified in Australia. Those sacrosanct sectors include judges, the Governor General, the Arts, Charities, Aborigines, Muslims, the ATO, the World Bank, the ABC and my ex wife. Freedom of speech laws appear to be selective in their administration and ruling and so the average person treads a perilous path at times if they wish to freely and fairly express themselves. Freedom of speech is not free and one needs a QC at times before we exercise our vocal chords in public. As well as certain structures and groups who it appears are so wise and so noble they cannot be reasonably challenged, it is unprecedented that we now have a contemporary phrase called *political correctness* to label these matters, just as one would slavishly follow the washing instructions on a new garment.

Political correctness is an uncouth term introduced to corral and frighten us away from reasonable commentary even when we know we should speak up. It therefore throttles the truth and prevents society from genuinely moving forward. Political correctness is a con and it's like rising damp on the foundations of society. Of itself it shackles us and prevents the light from entering and often comes about because we feel we have a duty to minority groups to be extremely understanding, accommodating and tolerant. Yet the irony is that as we declare matters out of bounds we hand social precedence and social energy to dubious groups and ideals which then take on a much more presidential status with a voice well above their station. After all, democracy is government of the people, by the people, for the people and the majority are in charge or should be. Political correctness has turned this on its head and forms a grave and hollow destination for a civilised country. Recently I heard a marvelous definition of PC which is a little crude but allow me unfettered license please..... *"Political correctness is a doctrine, fostered by a delusional, illogical minority and rabidly promoted by an unscrupulous mainstream media, which holds forth the proposition that it is entirely possible to pick up dog poo by the clean end."*

Now let's take a quick look at the ABC which many see as unassailable in that they have slowly built a near impenetrable massive bureaucratic castle with invulnerable ramparts and parapets so threatening that no spear or cannon may penetrate the walls. This is very unhealthy for all Australians. The ABC has an annual budget of nearly 1.5 billion or fifteen hundred million dollars and that's a lot of public money in anyone's language. My own view is that arrogance is regularly displayed on their morning television show by the female anchor, on the seven thirty report by the female presenter, on the Sunday programme by the heavily furrowed face of the ex luddite and on Q and A by the bloke who seems to have a degree in nasty superiority with an audience of left wing ideologues. Arrogance is never a strength and always a weakness and in the case of the ABC proof of a fault line in their basic geography.

In the ABC charter and in particular their Code of Practice section 2 requires them not to present factual content in a way that will materially mislead the audience. They failed on the asylum seekers unsupported claims of torture to the measurable detriment of our navy personal and they sensationalised the issue just for the headline. They report in the same way about the homosexual mardi gras and show images unfit for the consumption of minors in contradiction to section 8 of the code. Men feigning buggery is not normal and nor is the over sexualised conduct in the mardi gras. It should barely get a mention but on the ABC it makes the headlines night after night. Section 7 requires the ABC not to gratuitously harm or offend and yet day after day Christ's name is taken in vain on the ABC but never Mohammed because we mustn't offend the Muslims but the Christians are fair game. What's the difference and their blasphemy is in direct contravention of their own charter and the legislation under which they function. The University of the Sunshine Coast ran a comprehensive survey last year and found that over 40 per cent of ABC journalists support the Greens, over 30 per cent support Labor, and just 15 per cent support the Coalition. That my friends is why the view persists they are biased and not serving the nation properly. We the people have the right and the duty to challenge the biased and arrogant ABC and demand they follow their public charter. It may only cost 18 cents a day but that's around \$32,000 dollars over a life time for every man, woman and child in the country. The all powerful ABC is the self appointed bastion of self righteous indignation, political correctness and apparently thriving in self protected isolation. **Until next time this is Kent Bayley.**