

We The People  
Program 301 July 2, 2018  
We the People 301 Privatising the ABC



**Good Day to you.** When people refer to the ABC in Australia it encompasses television and radio across this country including some on line services. The Australian ABC is owned and funded by the people to the tune of a massive 1.2 billion dollars a year. This figure is larger than the GDP of many Pacific island nations. Recently the Liberal Party's annual federal council voted to privatise the ABC but the federal government has since said that won't happen. What I find interesting is that this vote was taken at all and it shows there is a real concern about how the ABC is run and the cost and indeed there should be concern. Now of course both government and opposition feigned shock and horror at the idea but this is a conversation this country has to have. In reality the ABC won't be privatised any time soon but a process has now begun to hold this tax payer funded super quango to account.

On the plus side the ABC provides some excellent investigative journalism programs and a few children's programs of note plus an acceptable news service. On the negative side the ABC has lost its way in my view as it's now used as a vehicle to re-engineer society and to subliminally push new standards on we the people. Just watch Q and A or the Drum and note the propensity to go over and over the boring repetitive minority topics of equality, homosexuality, transgender and a rolling narrative on why white people are all guilty of aboriginal extermination, racism, a mountain of phobias and apparently abhorrent colonialism. This unsavoury left leaning biased culture which is measurable within the ABC should not surprise anyone because in 2013 a university survey of 600 journalists revealed that over 41 per cent of journalists support the Greens, over 32 per cent support Labor, and just 14 per cent support the Coalition. While political beliefs do not automatically result in biased reporting, the left-wing dominance suggests that the culture of the ABC is overwhelmingly to the left, so that **many journalists are unaware** that their views are far to the left of the mainstream or believe that they are a vanguard who must "educate" the public towards their perceptions of reality. An example is that in recent times our local Gold Coast ABC radio station responded to a citizen requesting an interview that they would not touch the Cruise liner terminal proposal because it was too hot politically. So much for their local radio independence and impartiality. The current ABC editorial policy requires the ABC gather and present news and information with impartiality and present a diversity of perspectives so that, over time, no significant strand of thought or belief within the community is knowingly excluded or **disproportionately represented**. The broadcaster is expected to take **no editorial stance** other than a commitment to fundamental democratic principles.

When accusation of bias are levelled at the ABC then they deny, deny, deny and keep it up until the problem disappears. There can be no doubt that the ABC would indeed be commercially viable especially with news and current affairs plus some other programming. The ratings indicate this and as a consequence the ABC compete with commercial media for audience and therefore to the disadvantage of commercial operators. SBS for example attracts about \$97 million a year in advertising revenue while the ABC shops attract about \$18 million in profit. We The People provide **1200 million dollars a year** which is a staggering sum to run the ABC and we do this expecting unbiased reporting and that no segment of society is proportionately over represented. The truth is however that the ABC champion certain causes on a regular basis by using news and discussion panels and so on. These include pushing for a republic, feminism, multiculturalism, reconciliation, homosexual marriage and immigration. In my view the ABC should stick to its charter and stop trying to engineer society in a new direction and above all display some humility toward the massive funds it receives. This largesse is shared around generously within the staff where in 2013 the MD received \$680,000, Leigh Sales \$280,000, Tony Jones' smirk earned him \$356,000 and the self serving list goes on and on. I don't want the ABC to be privatised but I do expect it to be unbiased and to keep its bureaucratic nose out of society's personal affairs. It's time the ABC was brought into line and its budget cut back to under a billion dollars a year. This is one Auntie I'm not proud of.

**Until next time this is Kent Bayley**