

Dear Australian Govt:

My name is April Ferguson. I live in the State of Michigan in the United States of America. Since about the year 2005, when I first got a shortwave radio, Radio Australia had been one of my constant companions, giving me real news from the other side of the world.

Had been. I had always been able to receive it very well in my area, and then RA was shut down. Many other govt run shortwave broadcasters have been shut down in the past 10 years, seemingly to “save money” when in reality it was a prelude to shuttering their doors. Australia, with its vast territory unserved by media was thought to be an exception.

I have gone through periods in my life where Internet was not able to be had easily. External broadcasters like RA were good companions, reminding me that someone cared and would not forget about me, even if I were far, far off from your target area. Now it's what, China Radio International on all bands? People like Alex Jones? The different perspective is to be had on shortwave, to be sure, but it is not an *Australian* perspective, and even someone in the Australian target areas of Australasia/Southeast Asia would need to know it more than I would. I may not be a Rohingya in Myanmar, but there is no Australian perspective to be had in the USA, save maybe the odd transmission of an ABC program caught off of an FM transmitter owned by the Canadian Broadcasting Corporation on the extreme northern border.

Please consider reinstating RA on the shortwave. If not for someone like me, then for someone very close to your home.

- April Ferguson