

Submission to the Australian and Children's Screen Content Review

Attention Review Board

Re: Content Review of Australian Children's TV

Statement:

By the time I left school, everything I knew - or everything I thought I knew, I had learnt from the telly. The many hours spent in close proximity to characters as rich and varied from *Round the Twist*, *The Girl from Tomorrow*, *Ocean Girl*, *The Miraculous Mellops*, *Skytrackers*, and *Spellbinders* had shown me I could be brave, smart, and creative much like the adventuring girls who spent their afternoons with me. As a latchkey kid in a working class home I didn't have much exposure to the world beyond local streets but the territories of Australian kids tv helped my imagination build new places and spaces for me to explore.

It is vital that Australian media maintain and sustain Australian content creation for children. The characters and worlds, the stories and the voices, need to reflect and cast beyond the many varied worlds of Australian kids today. Please - don't cut back on the hours and please don't let the media companies fill their hours with reality tv. Even as a child, I always switched off the gameshows and 'reality' filler content that commercial tv stations seem so keen on. I wanted story. I needed story. I was lucky enough to live during a period of thriving content production. Now with two daughters of my own I want them to experience the same richness of local production (or perhaps even better) as I did. The end of mandated children's tv hours would be a loss for today's creative workers and tomorrow's creative thinkers whose imaginations are nourished or starved by what's served to them on the telly.

Kind regards,

Kelly Cheung