

Submission to the Australian and Children's Screen Content Review

To the Content Review Team,

I would like to make a public submission to the Government's Screen Content Review.

I wrote and directed a children's short film called Bunny New Girl which has played at over 110 festivals in 25 countries, winning 15 awards and is now available to watch for free online. I attended several big international festivals and what was obvious was the lack of high quality live action children's content. This realisation encouraged me to keep making high quality content for children.

I have just completed a pilot for a short live action kids series (funded by Screen NSW) and my hope is to have the opportunity to make this a series for broadcast. Our benchmarks for quality are the live action content I grew up with in Australia in the 1980's and 90's as well as modern shows. This news of potentially cutting quotas and taking funds away from such an important area is very disappointing to me, particularly at this time in my career.

As a female director emerging in the film and television industry, losing quotas on kids content made in Australia will directly effect my chances of getting a break. Children's TV in Australia has always been a launching pad for emerging filmmakers and in particular for women. At a time when there is a push towards gender equity in the TV and Film industry from funding bodies such as Screen Australia and Screen NSW, losing children's content will be a major step backwards on many levels.

Australian children's television content matters. In Australia we are overwhelmed with content that comes from the USA and UK. It is so important that our children also see shows that share Australian stories, share Australian values and mean something special to us. Shared cultural experiences in childhood bring us together and create memories and understanding.

It is important, as a result of this Review, to ensure that:

1. The ABC has enough funding to commission high levels of Australian children's content and it should be required to do so.
2. That Australian children's content is also available on commercial free tv, pay tv and on demand services.
3. That Australian television funding support mechanisms include children's content as a priority.

High-quality, distinctively Australian children's content has a rich history. I want to ensure it has a rich future, too.

Thank you for taking my submission into consideration.

Kind regards,

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