

02:15 UTC July 30th 2018

TO: ABC

RE: Radio Australia Shortwave service.

Hello.

My name is Ray Lyell. I live in the state of Illinois in the USA. I am 51 years old, and I have been a shortwave listener since 1984.

I have been a Radio Australia listener via Shortwave radio since the mid 1980s. In January 2017, when Radio Australia announced they would be shutting down the shortwave service, I was very disappointed. First, I really enjoyed the programming RA provided. The news was one of my favorite things because it gave me a better perspective on world events than we get here in the states. All the programming, presenters were some of the best on shortwave radio.

But, I think it was a big mistake to shut the service down. Not just for Shortwave listeners around the world, but for all the Australian people that do not have access to internet, local radio and any other sources of information. These people in Australia, and the surrounding areas in the Pacific, were left without valuable information in the event of a bad storm, or any other weather event that if they had access to shortwave could have made a difference and even saved some lives. How much money does it take to make someones death or the deaths of a family a justifiable reason for shutting down and a clear conscience? Is human lives not worth it? I think that Radio Australia should start the service back up. It would benefit a lot more people, make the ABC a credible station again that's at the forefront of information.

Shortwave radio is not dead, or a dying media. Here in the states, during our bad hurricanes it was ham operators, and the people with Shortwave radios that provided information because the infrastructure was knocked out. If the infrastructure in Australia was knocked out, how would the people get any information they need? I personally think it was a mistake to shut RA shortwave service down. I would like to see it start back up in the near future. If people (voters) get hurt, killed because they have no access to information, it should be on the head, and conscience of all the politicians that made this poor decision. I hope to see you back soon bringing great radio via shortwave to the world.

Ray G Lyell

