

Dear Minister Paul Fletcher, et al,

My name is Brian Pribble. I have been a freelance Grip in Melbourne's film & television industry for over two decades. (A Grip's duties are broad and varied, but they generally come under the umbrella of "camera support": cranes, jibs, tracks, dollies, and other unusual camera rigging.) I've worked on a multitude of ABC-produced (and ABC-coproduced) programs over the past 20 or so years, including Something In The Air, MDA, The Miss Fisher Murder Mysteries, The Slap, Clifty, The Secret River, Seven Types Of Ambiguity, and Glitch. If I had to take a guess, I'd say that 85% of my income since 1999 has come from working on ABC-affiliated projects.

I'm writing to say that the only way forward for our screen industry is to adopt ACMA/Screen Australia's Option 3: "**Significant change**".

Our screen industry is overflowing with Hollywood-standard creatives & technicians, but without a Local Content Quota, we'll be doomed to making American/Chinese/Korean/British blockbusters for peanuts, on "offshore agreements" that further degrade our already degraded rates and conditions.

Without significant change, we'll lose the ability to tell OUR stories, and it'll be M*A*S*H & Seinfeld re-runs on Free-To-Air TV 'til the cows come home. Nobody wants that.

The "streaming giants" (Netflix, Stan, Disney, Amazon, etc) are making untold millions (billions?) of dollars from Australians, especially during the COVID era. Some of them make some of their programs in Australia, but mostly they don't. (I don't know if any of them pay taxes here, but I suspect they don't.) Let's change that. There are thousands of film & TV creatives & technicians in Australia ready and raring to go.

Finally, you may have guessed from my introduction that I have a fondness for the ABC: I do, but not only for the employment opportunities it has provided me over the years. The ABC is a vital resource for millions of Australians. It has produced countless hours' worth of home-grown content, ranging from high quality news & current affairs, to world-class educational programs & documentaries, to gripping drama & laugh-out-loud comedy. The ABC is what springs to mind when I think about "Australian culture". *Please restore proper funding to the ABC and SBS.*

Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

Brian Pribble.