

## **Chelle Destefano - Deaf viewer in Victoria, Australia**

### **Submission:**

I have been watching with interest on what has been happening, and feel more trepidation and worry than anything. Our TV shows have been cut down too much in the last few years, when really they need to be increased.

Dr Scott said "We're losing Australian culture. No one else can tell Australian stories like Australia," and he is correct 100%. Why are we allowing this to happen?

I mean look at All Saints, Packed To The Rafters, Love Child and Blue Heelers for example. Why were these axed when they had the highest number of viewers? Why? Why did the government feel justified not to keep giving funding for these shows?

In my opinion, those shows delivered not only fictional stories, but also true stories of Australian life. They were the lifeblood of our TV and our Australian voices.

The funding needs to be increased for television shows, not decreased just to keep mining in business for the very few elite who do not really live in our country. I will say something on a personal level. I am getting bored and fed up with this. I want all of us to actually be able to enjoy living in our country, as is our right to, as many of us were born here. We want an exciting country, we want to feel excited and enjoyment living here. That includes watching good TV, not just TV shows that are not ours. We want to feel proud of our country, we want to have a louder voice. By doing that, it means we need to support Australian TV. The reality shows do not do enough and really only show the bad side with all the bitching and silly stuff, which is actually quite embarrassing for us. It actually portrays us as a bitching bogan nation which I am not proud of.

I want to be proud of our country. Home and Away, Neighbours, and any other current Australian soapie TV shows I can think of (and that is not that many I can think of, this is how bad it is, too very few now) show great examples of good Australian TV. Home and Away is one of the best shows and is shown all over the world, portraying us in the true light of a good country, and brings us pride. We need Home and Away more than ever now. We actually need more shows like Packed to the Rafters and Love Child too now.

Funding really needs to focus on the arts and entertainment more than ever now. Why? Because in actual fact, the arts bring us billions and billions of dollars to our country and economy and keeps our country running well. Why would you not want that? You live in our country, Minister Paul Fletcher. This is your country.

What does mining do? Just takes money off our country and hides it in the Canyons. Why is this even acceptable? It is not, and I am having my say on this. Stop putting mining above our country. Our country needs a good economy, not an embarrassing one that only thinks of the top end. We don't want to be seen as a boring impoverished country that mines for everything, wrecking our country's beauty and turns it into an ugly barren land. That is an embarrassment to you and all of us. We want to be exciting, and we want to have our voice heard all over the world. And that is through the arts, including the Television shows like Home and Away, Neighbours, Love Child, etc. NOT boring mining.

I have friends in many countries who love our TV shows. What does this say? Please keep our shows on air and please give us more content to enjoy, rather than so much reality shows that are actually unrealistic. Fact is, our soapie shows are more realistic than the reality shows, the reality shows are the opposite. Think about this very seriously. A suggestion: put Home and Away and other TV shows on Stan to get more support. Track online Catch Ups too. This way you can see how many people watch Aussie TV online as well as on the television.

Last but not least, please start making a new legislation to give compulsory Closed Captions to ALL TV shows across every station including sub channel stations to bring equal access into our TV industry. As it is, our Australian Deaf community have been screaming really loudly of late for this. 7Flix for example often fails to CC everything. America has done the right thing and given the Deaf community compulsory equal access. Australia needs to do the same.