

Chris Odgers

Hi

My name is Chris Odgers and I am a 1st Assistant Director . I have been employed in the Film/TV Industry since I graduated from the Film and TV School (Swinburne) in 1983 -37 years . I have been a 1st Assistant for 30 years and in that time I have seen the industry grow not only in size but in confidence in itself . Proud to tell Australian stories . I have been involved in shows such as Flying Doctors Seachange , Round the Twist , Romper Stomper , McLeods Daughters and Underbelly to name a few . All Australian stories that needed to be told . Years after they were made I still find people remember them with enthusiasm and surprise that we could do something that well .People react well to local content and it rates very well . Without it we are all poorer off and ignorant of our history . With more investment in Australian production we strengthen our industry it would be less cyclical and thus retain our trained workforce and it would be an attractive career for many more people . At the moment its fluctuating nature puts people off and we lose people that have taken years to train .

With the changing nature of the media landscape I believe some of our policies need to change such as the Streaming sites being required to produce Australian content . If its popular on free to air it will be popular on streaming services and create more content which they are always after . That way the streaming services have control over content casting etc Another way would be to have a certain percentage of Australian content on their service which they could buy in from other providers .

I believe that incentives for overseas productions are good . More productions here means more work and more expertise rubbing off onto local crews . I believe these incentives could be streamlined and approvals made in a more timely fashion . I have worked on overseas jobs where they have waited too long for a funding approval and this has caused confusion , last minute change of plans and bad feelings .

I have worked at the ABC several times on many productions both Adult and Childrens programmes such as Seachange , Phryne Fisher , Please Like Me and MDA . These shows would never have been made without the foresight , skill and experience of the writers producers , crews etc of the ABC sadly because of budget cuts all this corporate memory has been lost and their ability to create groundbreaking shows severely curtailed .These were shows that were too wierd , edgy or not commercial enough for the free to air channels . If anyone has a mandate to create Australian stories then it is surely the ABC . I look back on those shows I worked on with great pride . They were never generous budgets nor did we have a great amount of time to film in but we came up everytime with something to be proud of and uniquely Australian .

I have been proud to have worked in this industry that does so much to project Australia and its way of life , warts and all to the world . From my travels (both business and pleasure) I can see how we have enhanced how people see us . They appreciate our openess and fresh way we look at things all thanks to our Film industry .

I wish for my submission to be anonymous: No

I wish for my submission to be private: No

Supporting documents:

This submission has been lodged via the [Media, Entertainment & Arts Alliance](#).