

Gerard Brown
MEAA

Gerard Brown: Film and Television Screen Crew Union Oganiser at the Media Entertainment and Arts Alliance (MEAA).

In 1983 I studied Film and Television at Charles Sturt University in Wagga Wagga NSW and in 1986 I became a stage hand at the ABC in Sydney. I then worked in Screen Art Departments for over 22 years. I also managed a regional community media organisation in Lismore NSW for two years and became a screen crew union organiser at MEAA in 2013.

If Australia doesn't protect our industry, media production courses will close. There will be no opportunity for young people living in regional Australia to tell their stories by studying media production at regional Universities like Charles Sturt.

Without Government support there will be no opportunity to start a career in film and television and no reason for someone like myself to assist people in the regions increase their abilities and contacts through community media.

I've come into contact with producers, actors and crew in all facets of the film and television industry, from the internationally recognised to teenagers wanting to make their first short film. It's their passion to tell Australian stories the best way they can, that is at the heart of our industry. Crew in Australia have seen rates of pay stagnate for over ten years. Only passion for their industry can explain why they still work in the industry.

It's important that the ABC and SBS are supported. They bind our communities by broadcasting to the regions during natural disasters and broadcasting non-English speaking material which allows migrants to feel that Australia is inclusive of everyone, no matter where they come from.

Australia kicks above its weight when it comes to attracting large scale offshore productions here. The government incentives for offshore films benefit our local industry by value adding to our screen industry and creating jobs. The special affects crew that work on a US production like Thor are the same crew who work on a local production like Operation Buffalo.

After working for over 30 years in Australian film and television my most cherished memory was putting paper hats on Big Ted, Little Ted and Jemima back in 1983. I want my children to have that opportunity when they grow up. Children need Australian television like Mr Squiggle it becomes part of every adult Australians psyche.

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](#).