

I am writing to you today as a filmmaker, a young one. Just starting his career in the industry. I write as an aspiring writer and director who wishes nothing more than to tell good, honest, heartfelt Australian stories across Australian screens.

Currently, I am in my third and final year of a bachelor's degree in Film, Television and Animation at Deakin University. Despite what some government websites say, my industry is full of exceptionally well educated and talented people.

As a young creative at the start of their career, I worry about the future of the Australian film industry. With a lack of the quotas already in place and added quotas to international companies like Netflix, Amazon and Disney Plus I fear there will be a clear erosion of the Australian film and television industry. This is already causing creatives to move overseas to chase jobs that will actually pay the bills, in countries like the United States and the UK. This brain drain on the industry means there is a clear lack of leadership that is necessary for growth in the film and television sector.

The stories we see are what make us who we are. We learn about our identities, our history and our humanity through the stories we watch. If we continue to lose quotas on Australian content the only stories that Australians will get are stories about other people, rather than learning about what it means to be Australian there is the risk we learn what it means to be American. Our national identity will be lost with lack of Australian stories, about the unique and wonderful place we all live and people we all know.

I don't want to have to leave Australia to pursue my dream, to tell stories about Australians for Australians. The screen stories we watch are meaningful for everyone who watches them. Just beginning my journey into the film industry I can see that the stories we tell in Australia need to be supported, there are a lot of strong willed and passionate people eager to tell stories and shape the nation's identity but without quotas the next great generation of Australian filmmakers and storytellers will be lost to other countries more willing to support their dreams and give them jobs.

- Lachlan Port