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## Raechelle Banno

Hello, my name is Raechelle Banno. I am a proud member of the Australian film and television industry. I have worked professionally since I was 9 years old and have worked full-time in the industry for the past 5 years. Now, by full-time, of course, I mean that this industry is my main income as it is near impossible to work the definition of full-time in the entertainment industry; but especially here in Australia.

The closest I have been to working full-time was during my three year contract on Channel Sevens long running soap 'Home and Away' between the years 2015-2018. A national treasure, an amazing opportunity for me as an actor, but mainly a huge education on the ins and outs of my role in the industry. On that show I learned to have a voice in the industry I love so dearly. I had the honour of working with crew members day in and day out and saw how many were unable to step away from such a staple in our culture because the opportunities outside of it were so unlikely as well as unpredictable in income. I was also witness to what happens when a network that has already been defunded beyond repair has to please its advertisers to the point of avoiding critical storylines that would be inspirational to minorities, educational to the public of all ages, challenging (as entertainment should be), as well as a proper representation of Australian culture as it stands today.

While I am primarily an actor, I am also a writer and a hopeful director and producer and I want to be able to exercise those skills and interests here on our home soil - where we have such rich stories to tell.

I wholeheartedly believe that if we can make significant change within the industry - internationally competitive tax incentives, stricter obligations for Australian broadcasters (streaming services included), proper funding for educational material for all ages (more importantly children) - we could not only sustain our industry but secure jobs for all of those who put their hearts and souls into telling Australian stories with authenticity.

We have just had the Black Lives Matter marches throughout our country. People

of all walks of life, together, contributing to the largest civil rights movement in world history. Imagine if the messages we sent out into the world, be them fiction or non-fiction, represented what our country actually looks like and also educated those generations growing up to help shape the country we want to live in.

With the right funding, obligations, tax incentives, and the opportunity for more Australian stories told (by Australians, for Australians); I believe we could be one step closer to this. The power lies with you. During the COVID-19 Pandemic, we praised our government for listening to the experts in order to make the right decisions. We are the experts on our industry. You may consume it, but we live it each and every day.

We vote for you. We look to you. Please listen to us.

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**I wish for my submission to be anonymous: No**

**I wish for my submission to be private: No**

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