

To Whom it May Concern

Australian young adult and children's literature is unsurpassed. Much of our visual texts stem from this rich foundation. What doesn't, is multilayered and important in its own right. Our government must not bow to globalization and must ensure that a high percentage of Australian content and Australian narratives are nurtured - ensuring an important knowledge and psychological connection to our multiracial and intergenerational families, communities and nationhood. All multimedia must be scripted and Australian scripts are among the very best examples of the writer's commission, "*dredging up to the light our dark and dangerous dreams for the purpose of improvement.*" (John Steinbeck 1962)

Similarly, if parents and teachers wish to analyse universal themes e.g. racism, relationships and most recently suicide etc, these can be found in our multilayered texts and productions. Our brand of humour and satire (a staple of youth and a basic coping mechanism for adults) is very different from the content delivered in other geographic regions. Our youth stand to lose their identity if we continue to subvert our own unique culture to a new norm of cultural habits, festivals and myriad references to families, schools and communities overseas. Conversely, many of our productions have been translated and resonate with children and teenagers abroad and help to promote our unique human and natural resources. Specific comparisons to overseas content would minimize the contribution of the full wealth of Australian content over time – but we all appreciate and take pride in our creatives.

A largely foreign diet of entertainment, education and values education will alienate future generations from their parents and grandparents. Without important social comment, heritage and traditions; the pressures and lack of wisdom gleaned only from equally immature peers abroad, will not be balanced by both modern and traditional stories of characters and homelands.

The future won't be about television but about the evolving platforms for media distribution – regardless, our combined eclectic, secular and humanist voices must be heard both within and outside Australia, and it must include the voice of youth and it must be aimed at youth. I urge the government inquiry to nurture, protect and incentivise Australian content ongoing and via all distribution channels.

Yours very truly

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