



Parties to the Nauru Agreement

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The Director
National and Community Broadcasting,
Department of Communications and the Arts,
Canberra, ACT

Re: Submission to the Review of Australian Broadcasting Services in the Asia-Pacific

Dear Director,

The role the ABC plays as a regional broadcaster of news is a vitally important one. Pacific Islands communities need access to news to stay informed of issues and debates of national, regional and international importance.

At a time when values of democracy and truth are being challenged all over the world, and fake news sites and sources abound online, the Pacific needs access to credible, responsible and critical reporting that is not dictated by political interests or hamstrung by funding constraints. We need re establish a credible regional source of news under the ABC, and not see media degenerate to just the influence of social media.

The removal of ABC services has critically undermined the Pacific family connections, that the service provided to many parts of the South Pacific region, and their relatives overseas. The Pacific should feel part of the international community.

Much like the Pacific Ocean which connects us all, ABC services can also bring us closer together through the dissemination of independent news services and sharing regional Pacific stories tailored to regional audiences this were key strengths of your service.

I would urge the Australian Government to restore and revamp and even expand its ABC services to the region including short-wave, FM, television and internet streaming services.

Yours Sincerely

Maurice Brownjohn
PNA Commercial Manager

Federated States of Micronesia, Kiribati, Marshall Islands, Nauru, Palau, Tuvalu, Papua New Guinea, Solomon Islands