

Response to the Supporting Australian stories on our screens Options Paper from Students of RMIT'S ADVANCED DIPLOMA OF PROFESSIONAL SCREENWRITING

We write to you now as students who are studying writing for Kids TV as part of the Advanced Diploma of Professional Screenwriting at RMIT in Melbourne. We are writing in response to the Supporting Australian stories on our screens Options Paper (options paper).

Over the past few years we (and many others) have immersed ourselves in an education built around the craft of writing for film and TV. Recently we have been learning about writing for kids TV and many of us have developed a genuine passion for creating stories for this audience and market. Internationally the children's and family content market is booming, whilst here in Australia it has been a corner of the industry which has historically provided early career opportunities to many young screenwriters, directors and producers. Learning that our government sees little value or importance in this audience and the considerable industry built around it is utterly depressing and anxiety inducing.

As representative of the next generation of screen content creators to know that we have found our paths in life and to have this path potentially erased before we even get a chance to walk it, is devastating and wrong. Not just for ourselves as writers, but for any creative who wishes to work in this field. Most importantly, it is devastating for the children who will no longer be able to see themselves or their culture reflected on their television screens.

For many of us it was not that long ago that we were watching our own lives reflected on screen in kids TV, one of the reasons we wanted to enter this industry in the first place. The thought that the next generation might not have that same opportunity is devastating.

We, the hopeful future of children's television in Australia, implore you to not only restore but remodel quotas around children's television, and to extend those quotas to streaming services as has been done in other countries to great effect. Not just for our livelihoods, but for our children and our culture.

Yours Sincerely:

The students of the RMIT Advanced Diploma of Professional Screenwriting: Writing For Children's Television class.