

28th August 2013

Letter to the Editor, Age



Dear Editor

Re: **The ABC remains essential**

Public broadcasters are not responsible for the print media's financial predicament. (*The Age* 28 Aug, Jonathan Holmes 'In lean times, underdog looks more like fat cat'.) Newspaper companies are struggling in the United States too, where public broadcasting is small and no competitor for commercial audiences.

The media is more than a business or a provider of employment for journalists. It provides information and analysis critical for the healthy operation of our society and political processes.

Not only is the shedding of journalists jobs by the commercial media not a reason to cut the ABC, it highlights the importance of ensuring the public broadcaster flourishes.

Uncompromised by commercial imperatives, the ABC is essential for the life of the country and its citizens. It is a service that must remain accessible to all Australians, not just those who can afford to pay for news and culture.

Yours sincerely

Gael Barrett
President
Friends of the ABC (Vic)

GS: media folder