

22nd September 2014

Letter to the Editor, Age



Dear Editor

**Re: 'BBC shames our ABC' – letter of Richard Patterson, Age 22 Sept**

It is hardly surprising that the ABC's services are not as extensive as BBC offerings. ('BBC shames our ABC', Richard Patterson's letter, 22 Sept).

The BBC gets six times the funding to service a population that is only three times greater and not spread across a huge land mass.

ABC operational funding has declined by more than 23 per cent in real terms since 1986 – a period that entailed expensive technology change and in which audience access was extended to Online and mobile devices.

Furthermore, the ABC is not responsible for gaps in regional reception. The Howard Government privatised the national transmission system.

Despite being seriously underfunded, Australia's national public broadcaster still manages to provide some marvellous programs and services – independent news and current affairs, programs of cultural and intellectual integrity, quality entertainment, and crucial information in times of crises like fire and flood.

However, the broadcaster's operations are about to be further diminished. The Coalition, which promised pre-election not to cut ABC funding, has cut the ABC's budget and is threatening further drastic cuts.

It is the Federal Coalition Government, not the ABC, that must be ashamed in any comparison of Australia's public broadcaster with the BBC. And in the end, it will be to the shame of us all if we allow any government to destroy a cultural institution which is so important to the life of the country and its citizens.

Yours sincerely

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National Spokesperson  
ABC Friends

GS: media folder

*ABC Friends is a national campaign. It comprises ABC Friends and Friends of the ABC organisations across Australia.*