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cc [rachelp@mira.net](mailto:rachelp@mira.net) so we know you have.

Dear Ms Nelson,

As Director of Warawara - the Department of Indigenous Studies at Macquarie University, it is with much passion I write to in relation to DOCITA's current review into the viability of introducing Indigenous Television to Australia - a concept which has been a reality in other countries since 1982 (Wales) and introduced more recently to Canada in 1999 and in New Zealand in 2004.

Situated within the Division of Society, Culture, Media and Philosophy, our Centre knows only too well the significant role television plays in educating the masses on issues of interest, concern, national importance and identity. We also recognise the impact such media has had on the relationship between Indigenous and non-Indigenous Australia and the consequences of misrepresentation of Indigenous peoples on Australian television.

Warawara fully supports the notion of introducing Indigenous Television into Australia as an initiative that will better serve the Australian viewing public, by providing continuous entertaining, educational, culturally relevant and authentic representation of Indigenous society while providing and Indigenous voices to cover our issues, politics and stories. It will also serve as a major employer of Indigenous people skilled in the industry.

As an employer of Indigenous writers for the screen (our writer in residence Dr Anita Heiss will enjoy the premiere of her first short film in Sydney this month), and a provider of education on Indigenous film (in second session of 2004 we will teach our first unit on Indigenous film here at Macquarie University), we are committed to supporting, nurturing and showcasing the work of Indigenous filmmakers. We are also aware, being located adjacent to the Australian Film Television and Radio School (AFTRS), that there is a core group of Indigenous students constantly going through AFTRS studying all aspects of the film and television industry.

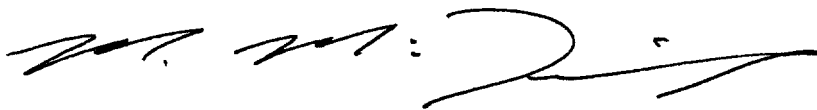
Quite simply, we believe that Australian television and Australians society need Indigenous television, specifically for the following reasons:

- To provide career opportunities for Indigenous graduates and professionals with creative, technical and administrative qualifications and skills;
- To support the reclamation and maintenance of Indigenous languages and language programs;
- To compliment the work of the Indigenous Units at both the ABC and SBS, Imparja TV in Alice Springs, the Indigenous Unit of the Australian Film Commission and the extensive BRACS network who, collectively continue to produce fine television and films, and develop TV and film crews at every level, from executive producers to cable runners;
- To function as a broadcaster designed to inform, entertain and educate both Indigenous and non-Indigenous communities;
- To assist the development of a national identity by showcasing the ever evolving Indigenous societies and cultures and the complexities and dynamics that exist in the collective Australian society;

We trust that DOCITA will listen closely to the educated opinions of not only the Indigenous community and those working within the film and television industry, but also those within the general Australian community who seek to have the best Australian Television service possible, that is, one which is inclusive of Indigenous television.

Please feel free to contact me at anytime to discuss my comments further,

Yours sincerely,



A/Prof Michael McDaniel  
Director

15. 7. 04