



Australian Government

17 September 2004



Mr Rohan Buettel
General Manager
Public Broadcasting
Department of Communications, Information
Technology and the Arts
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Dear Mr Buettel

I am writing on behalf of the Australia Council to provide in-principle support for an Indigenous television broadcasting service. Such a service would contribute to making Indigenous cultures a living part of the experiences of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples, and a source of pride for all Australians.

Culture is central to the social and economic wellbeing of Indigenous communities, and the powerful medium of television is entirely suited to Indigenous ways of transmitting stories, news, knowledge and history. An Indigenous television broadcasting station would assist in maintaining and promoting Indigenous cultures, as well as preserving Indigenous languages.

While an Indigenous television station would deliver information, cultural, and language programs to Indigenous Australians, it would also inform non-Indigenous Australians about Indigenous heritage and culture. Such a service would be a valuable educational tool, fostering deeper understanding within the community.

Finally, there is a solid base of Indigenous creative and technical skills in the Australian audiovisual industries. A number of Indigenous media associations work in film, television and/or media production, and an Indigenous television broadcasting service would provide increased career opportunities for Indigenous artists, including scriptwriters and actors.

If you require further information, please call Mark Stapleton, Manager, Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Arts, on 02 9215 9014.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Jennifer Bott', written over a circular stamp.

Jennifer Bott
Chief Executive Officer