



**International Association of Music Libraries, Archives and Documentation Centres
(Australian Branch)
www.iamlaustralia.org.au**

To:
The Hon. Michelle Rowland MP
Minister for Communications

I am writing as President of the International Association of Music Libraries, Archives and Documentation Centres (Australian Branch) and on behalf of our members, to express deep concern at the recently announced reduction in professional library and archival staff at the Australian Broadcasting Corporation (ABC). This proposal is made seemingly without a clear lack of evidence for this reduction, with no public plan for the future of the ABC archives, library and information services.

Digitisation of services is recognised as necessary to ensure service delivery in this digital age across the ABC delivery platforms, and considerable digitisation work has already been done. What is also necessary is the need to ensure that digitised material is findable, which requires expertise of librarians and archivists, professionally trained to undertake this highly skilled work. To pass this work onto already-overworked journalists and administration staff is short-sighted and indicates ignorance for the importance and specialised nature of sound information and archival practice. The ABC, as a leading national communications organisation should be providing an exemplary model for this, supporting professional information and archival management practices. It will also ensure the ABC archives will remain searchable, findable and accessible to the nation well beyond its current 90 years of existence.

The ABC Sound Library has undergone major changes in recent years with closures, relocations, staff redundancies and significant collection changes. Further incursions into culling staff will impact on current and long-term support for programming, especially in terms of quality of metadata description, information organisation and support. Please do not underestimate the value these staff provide to producers, journalists, programmers and announcers.

We ask the ABC to commit to professionally managed quality archives and information collections for the benefit of ABC staff and the wider community. Please reconsider this decision.

Kind regards,

Julia Child
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