

To Whom It May Concern,

I am a fourth year teacher of Year 5 and 6 students in public education. I graduated from the University of South Australia in 2016 with Master of Teacher (Primary & Middle), and I am a 40-year-old father of two daughters, nine and six. I am also a local SA Council Member for the Australian Literacy Educators' Association (ALEA).

During my last year of study in 2016, I attended a PD session run by the Australian Children's Television Association (ACTF). This PD had a profound affect to my professional life. I became aware of the purpose of ACTF and what the association stood for; promoting and ensuring Australian children have access to high quality rich Australian screen content.

The high quality Australian children's content that the Commonwealth Government invests in – shows like My Place, Little Lunch, Lockie Leonard, Little J and Big Cuz – are incredibly important to educators and the audience and stay in circulation in schools long after they go off air. The content should be considered as a long-term investment in Australian culture and the children's audience, and not a short-term fad.

In my four years, I constantly revert to Australian staple shows; at the moment, we are engaged in a My Place writing competition; to connect our International Baccalaureate Unit of Inquiry into Aboriginal culture, we viewed Double Trouble; Backyard Science allows my students to connect with scientific knowledge and understanding; and Dance Academy has successfully connected with the Australian Curriculum's Health & PE and Arts bands. By far, this isn't an exhaustive list, but demonstrates the importance of quality rich Australian content and its value to educators.

Not only as a middle years teacher, but as a father, I see it essential that children and young people grow up with a positive sense of identity and culture, and that they obtain so much information about their culture from screens. As an active Council member of ALEA, I witness that screen culture is now playing a huge role in literacy and education; now more than ever. Many PD sessions use Australian these shows as an anchor point for learning and teaching; Little Lunch to show the features of a narrative, if just one example.

Despite the shows being commissioned by different broadcasters, what they all have in common is that the Australian Children's Television Foundation supported them and promoted them, that the ACTF acts as a bridge between the screen sector and the education sector and the role it plays should be highly valued and supported.

The Government must support Australian stories on our screens; and prioritise content and support for programs for the children's audience, as this is such a vital audience, and ensure that the ACTF is well-resourced to continue to do its vital work. The children of Australia deserve nothing less; my students and my daughters.