

8 March 2016



ABC
Australian
Broadcasting
Corporation

Office of the
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Mr Barry Redshaw
Blue Mountains ABC Friends
49 Waratah Road
Wentworth Falls NSW 2782

Dear Mr Redshaw

Thank you for raising your concerns about the quality of broadcasting on the ABC.

It is certainly the case that the recent cuts to the ABC's Budget had a significant impact on the organisation, and SCOSE was no exception. In an effort to minimise the impact of the cuts on programs and content, the majority of the savings were made in support areas.

However, in managing the challenge of reduced budgets, the ABC took steps to ensure that its commitment to maintaining and improving language standards at the ABC remained.

The former "Standing Committee on Spoken English" was re-invigorated and re-named as 'ABC Language'.

Like SCOSE, at the heart of ABC Language is a group of ABC staff, supported by expertise from Macquarie Dictionary, who meet on a regular basis to discuss pronunciation, grammar and language usage.

Like SCOSE, ABC Language is assisted by a part-time, dedicated staff member with qualifications in linguistics who leads the discussion and makes recommendations on best practice and appropriate usage. Since the departure of the excellent Irene Poirkin, that part-time role is now filled by the excellent Tiger Webb.

And finally, like SCOSE, ABC Language provides a regular report to staff on language issues.



I have enclosed with this letter an example of the regular reports released by ABC Language. These reports are sent directly to all ABC staff across the country.

I am confident that the new arrangement will continue to allow the ABC to deliver a strong focus on this important issue.

Kind regards

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Mark Scott'.

Mark Scott
Managing Director