

## We The People

Program 150

The ABC of Fact Checking



Like you I enjoy the ABC sometimes but I worry a about how much the ABC network costs to run, relative to all other services in Australia. It costs the tax payer well over one thousand million or a billion dollars a year to keep Auntie on air and all its left wing musing like the audaciously biased Q and A program. Then there are nucleus turbo charged ABC anchor women who seem to have lost all their femininity by choice. This core of Greer like 60's automatons are at the peak of their game in their own minds but sadly are second rate in real terms as they do not accurately represent Australian women. A few are divisive, adversarial, unpleasant and downright rude to people so their contribution is, at best, marginal. Interestingly however ABC radio in part is the opposite with some great programs and talented people who are a little more balanced and humble. Mind you humility and the ABC seldom sit well together.

Now of all the ABC programs that air on television I admit I arc up when suddenly confronted by the relatively new program called Fact Check. This program is apparently designed to check the facts of public matters with a focus on politics. They run a score board of promises kept and broken and the presenter has that same superfluous hyperbole that one develops when craving self acclamation. By hyperbole I mean as is used in media like "It doesn't get any better than this". It's self indulgent claps trap trying to be relevant where humility and reserve are lost qualities. The angst I struggle with and this Fact Check program is that the ABC is in no position to adjudicate anything and especially not politics and what politicians are doing or achieving as its merely bureaucracy versus democracy and of no practical value. The Fact Check program is unfortunately and end in itself as the ABC level of projected superiority rises even higher. How on earth can the ABC possibly be the measure of a nation and clearly they see themselves as the bastion of truth and honesty and they are demonstrably not, where innuendo, racism, sex and vile language are common place on air.

So I want to run my own Fact Check now and let's start with the following countries. Dominica, Samoa, Vanuatu, Tonga, Micronesia, Kirribati, the Marshall islands, Palau, Tuvalu and others. All these countries have a national GDP of the same or mostly less than the cost of the ABC and that's a fact. They run their entire countries for the same or less than the ABC costs to run each year. Now there is something patently wrong with that and its self evident in my view.

Now let's rejoin the narrative about the ABC Fact Check program. I see that they have apparently run out of political matters to check and possibly a malaise has set in and management have told them to become more interesting now the honeymoon phase is over. Not to be out done on minutia they are questioning the notion that we only use 10% of our brains.....that's right 10% of our brains. What on earth has that got to do with supplying an alternate service in the public interest. Its apparently all based on a new Hollywood movie with Morgan Freeman and so the publically funded Fact Check program have thought up a new angle for this micro minded ABC offering somewhat akin to the entertaining Myth Busters elsewhere. They go to some length to explain why it's not true and so I felt enlightened because my ex wife reckons I don't even use 5% of my brain. Fact Check, gives The Drum and Media Watch new relevance in the micro world of unimportance.

I am a fan of the ABC past and the national broadcaster can provide enlightening programs when they stay the course. However regardless of their own self acclaimed noble motives I believe they have wandered off course and away from their charter. It's no longer the ABC I respected as it takes on a national morality role and acts as chief inspector and examination auditor. Put simply they have too much money and power and I'm really over the massive cost of the ABC and some self indulgent programs lit by the subtle light of bias and floodlit with irresolute truth run by a majority of left wing journalists. This political leaning was confirmed by the University of the Sunshine Coast recently. I'm not saying everything on ABC TV is poor, not at all. Programs like Australian Story and Four Corners are marvelous. What I am proposing is that its GPS has failed and its consuming public funds and tax payers hard earned dollars at a rate which is excessive and is now producing silly programs like Fact Check which apparently is meant to spoon feed us the truth, as they see it. It stopped being our ABC a while ago and it's no longer costing 18 cents a day and something needs to change and ..... that's a fact.

**Until next time this is Kent Bayley**