



MEDIA RELEASE

Wentworth: Vote for the ABC

Many in Wentworth will wake up to the ABC's Fran Kelly and go to bed with Phillip Adams. They will savour the delights of ABC Classic FM during the day. They will watch 4 Corners, Mad as Hell and Rake, either when broadcast or on i-view. There will be many rusted on to JJJ. Play School will have touched many lives. The Wentworth by-election provides a most important opportunity for electors who care deeply about the ABC to send a message to government. As Kerry O'Brien, former host of 4 Corners, so succinctly put it to the packed Friends' Rally in Sydney in July: "Stop Screwing with the ABC".

The Friends of the ABC was established in the mid-1970s in reaction to the then government's cuts to the ABC. It is an independent and non-aligned organisation with the mission of fighting for a properly funded and independent public broadcaster. Its importance has never been greater than now; in a world where 'fake news' proliferates and where science and truth are under attack. The ABC is among Australia's most trusted institutions and by far the most trusted media organisation. And yet, 2018 has been its grimmest year with monthly attacks from federal government ministers, major budget cuts, a string of inquiries designed to weaken and undermine it, and, calls from the Liberal Party's National Council in June to sell-off the ABC.

Friends of the ABC will be active in Wentworth, interviewing candidates and providing feedback to voters on their views and the policies of their parties on the ABC. We will be urging electors to 'Vote for the candidate you trust with our ABC'.

Emeritus Professor Ed Davis AM is President of NSW ABC Friends and has lived in the Eastern Suburbs since 1980.

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