

# **GETTING THE MOST FROM YOUR TOUR – A Teacher’s Guide**

## **Understanding ABC News and Current Affairs**

- ✓ For secondary school, TAFE, university and private colleges, ensure your students watch some ABC News programs prior to the tour such as the 7.00pm News, 7.30, Lateline, Media Watch or Q&A – these are all available online at iview.  
<http://www.abc.net.au/iview/>.
- ✓ For primary school students, watching Behind the News is a great way for them to make a connection with News and the ABC. This program can also be seen on iview.
  - For an Ultimo Centre tour, students will likely see the studio where 7.30, Lateline and Media Watch are recorded. In other states, tours usually visit the 7.00pm News studio.
  - A quality, balanced news and current affairs service on free to air television is a priority for the ABC. Wide coverage is available on ABC1 and ABC News 24, ABC Radio and abc.net.au. Parliament is also broadcast when it is in session as part of the ABC charter so a familiarity with these services is beneficial to understanding what drives the ABC.
  - Q&A is a unique program where the audience both in studio and at home determine the questions asked of the panel, and live tweets about the discussion are broadcast on screen [www.abc.net.au/qanda](http://www.abc.net.au/qanda). The panel is made up of high profile thinkers, writers, politicians and artists engaging in lively and robust debate about the day’s issues. The program often has a theme, which can become a great topic for discussion and debate in the classroom. The program is broadcast live to air and is usually recorded at the ABC Ultimo Centre although there have been Q&A specials in Melbourne, Adelaide, Hobart, Darwin, Perth, Brisbane and Canberra. Monday groups coming to Ultimo in Sydney will see this set on their tour.

## **Understanding ABC International Services**

- ✓ See how the ABC can have relevance and impact on your student’s country of origin <http://www.abc.net.au/international/>. The ABC offers radio and television services directly into many countries in the Asia Pacific and Indian sub-continent region. Find out more about Radio Australia which broadcasts into the Asia Pacific <http://www.radioaustralia.net.au/>. You can listen live to Radio Australia online through their website. Similarly, Australia Network is a television service beaming 24/7 to more than 44 countries across Asia, the Pacific and Indian subcontinent. You can find

out more about it here <http://australiannetwork.com/> however this service is not available to watch in Australia. Discuss the key features of their country of origin's media so your students can understand distinctions between the ABC and roles, funding, independence, target audiences etc.

### **Understanding Australian Media**

- ✓ It is helpful to have a basic understanding about the media in Australia. More information can be found at:
  1. <http://www.acma.gov.au>
  2. <http://www.mediamonitors.com.au/>
  3. <http://www.law.uts.edu.au/comslaw/factsheets/media-ownership.html>
  
- ✓ There are many differences between the ABC and other Australian commercial media outlets as well as government media organisations in other countries. More useful and relevant information about the ABC's service commitment and Charter can be found at <http://www.abc.net.au/corp/>

### **Engaging your students in their ABC Tour**

- ✓ We have developed basic quiz questions that junior or ESL students can ask the tour guide while on the tour. This helps to encourage engagement between students and their tour guide, build confidence and promote active participation on a tour. If your group is an English language college it can also stimulate development of English language skills. Please download the questions from the teacher's resource page.

Teachers – we welcome your feedback. Please contact us to add your suggestions and comments and help us to make the tour a useful addition to your curriculum.