

15 March, 2024

Ms Zali Steggall OAM MP
Federal Member for [Warringah](#)
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Dear Ms Zali Steggall MP

Recently NSoS celebrated [World Poetry Day](#) with Northern Beaches poets John Clair, Alan Clarke, and North Shore poet Charles Murray on 14 March 2024. This event celebrated how all cultures' poetry, on every continent, speaks to our common humanity. We were also thrilled to have guests read poetry from their countries of New Zealand, Taiwan and Thailand.

ABC Friends Northern Suburbs of Sydney (NSoS) is a non-partisan, not-for-profit volunteer-based organisation that aims to defend and promote the ABC because of its vital role as a pillar of Australia's artistic, cultural, educated, civil and democratic society.

NSoS is a branch of ABC Friends NSW & ACT and represents over 700 northern Sydney residents who are passionate about the importance of Australia having a strong, well funded and independent national broadcaster. These include members living in your electorate of Warringah.

Poetry programs have always been part of the ABC's Arts programming. Some even say that the ABC is the home of poetry – particularly on ABC Radio National. It is 'a place' where listeners find poets and poets find audiences. Sometimes the ABC has even launched poets' careers.

Our World Poetry Day celebration generated much community interest. However, many felt that there has been a steady decline in ABC programming for poetry and the Arts due to insufficient funding.

We ask that you advocate for more funding for the ABC so that it has the capacity to produce quality programs including those on poetry. The ABC's funding needs to be restored to its pre-2014 levels.

Many of our older members feel that the ABC has become a 'shell of its former self' because of the cumulative impact of decades of cuts to its specialist radio and television programs, live music recordings, musical, dramatic and performing arts programs, state-based television current affairs programs, science & natural history programs, international coverage and analysis; emergency broadcasting services — now more important than ever with increasing frequency and intensity of extreme climate events.

We seek the restoration of funding to replenish the decades of cumulative cuts to the ABC.

Yours sincerely

Janine Kitson
Convenor
ABC Friends NSW & ACT