

# Stemming the tide of casualisation, fall in editorial standards and the loss of senior staff

Major change is coming – **November 14** is the date of the Content Transformation announcement – and News staff will be impacted. Further job losses are likely – so make sure you are reading your MEAA emails closely over the next couple of weeks.

**MEAA members have expressed strong concerns about further restructures resulting in:**

- ^Shrinking career opportunities and pay increases
- ^A trend towards doing away with senior, specialist positions and staff
- ^Increased casualisation of the workforce
- ^A fall in editorial standards as demands on your time become even greater.

Successive restructures have highlighted that the ABC has not had a comprehensive training plan in place that ensures relevant skills training is rolled out and accessible for all busy staff across the board.

**Since 2013, management have made 646 ABC staff redundant - 173 of whom were content makers in News and Current Affairs, and has spent more than \$75 million on redundancies. In that time the ABC has put more than 1500 jobs out to advertisement - and has redeployed just 17 redundant staff.**

Management's choice not to invest in their people and upskill them for the digital future has proven to be an expensive and wasteful mistake. **The Content Transformation and further restructures are a time for management to turn this around and invest in you.**

**ABC staff need to be union and stand together to protect career progression and editorial standards. And as a first key step we call on News management to build on the recent inroads made with training and commit to:**

- 1. A clear and comprehensive definition of what "future skills" the ABC expects you to have for the digital and silo-free future;*
- 2. A comprehensive training strategy to equip staff with these future skills*
- 3. Rostered time off to attend relevant, upskilling training and rostered opportunities post-training to put those skills into action.*

**Without these bedrocks of change, the ABC is wasting taxpayers money. Imagine if management put just a fraction of that \$70 million into a comprehensive training programme for staff – including training for part-timers.**

## **How can YOU take action and influence change?**

1. Unionise - if you are not a member, join today and stand with your colleagues to build your career and keep editorial standards high. Already a member - ask a work mate to join.
2. Fill in our training survey – <http://meaa.io/MEAASurvey> It takes five minutes and is the best way to show solidarity with your colleagues on these issues. Done it? Check with your colleagues to get them to do complete it.
3. On November 14 and beyond stand for a strong, skilled and valued ABC News team by attending a union meeting near you



**Not a MEAA Member? Now is the time to join your union.**

<https://www.meaa.org/join/>

**NSW/ACT:Charlotte.Clark@meaa.org Vic:Jenny.farrar@meaa.org**

**QLD: Michelle.Rae@meaa.org SA/NT: Angelique.Ivanica@meaa.org**

**TAS:Adam.Portelli@meaa.org WA:Tiffany.Venning@meaa.org**

