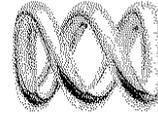


17 June 2004



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The Secretary
Senate Legislation Committee on Environment,
Communications, Information Technology and the Arts
Parliament House
Canberra ACT 2600

Dear Secretary

I am writing in relation to the ABC's recent appearance before the Senate Estimates Committee and to evidence given at the Senate Budget Estimates hearing that took place on Tuesday, 25 May 2004.

During her appearance before the Committee, Ms Sandra Levy, Director of ABC Television, answered a number of questions relating to a response she had provided to a document written by Dr Ron Brunton, an ABC Board member.

When answering these questions, Ms Levy indicated to the Committee that she did not have to hand the relevant document from Dr Brunton nor her response. Consequently, she stated that she wished to check the detail of the communications. (See ECITA Proof Hansard, pp.71-2).

Ms Levy has subsequently checked the relevant documents and is able to reconfirm, as she stated at the time, that Dr Brunton addressed a number of matters relating to a segment on the *Media Watch* program commenting on the Hutton Inquiry and the Iraq War, and other matters relating to a segment regarding ABC radio broadcaster Phillip Adams which included the use of the term "albrechting".

The document from Dr Brunton did not, however, refer to asylum seekers nor to disclosure issues in relation to David Marr's authorship of the book *Dark Victory*.

I would be grateful if you would bring this clarification of evidence to the Committee's attention at your earliest convenience.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Russell Balding'.

Russell Balding
Managing Director