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The Secretary  
Senate Environment, Communications, Information Technology  
and the Arts References Committee  
S1.57 Parliament House  
CANBERRA ACT 2600

Submission to Senate Inquiry on Appointments to the ABC Board

I suggest the following:

Any prospective board member should be asked to sign a written statement saying

- they are committed to the concept and importance of an independent public broadcaster in our democracy
- they understand the charter of the ABC and are committed to upholding it.

All appointments to the board should be bipartisan appointments. I think bipartisan rather than tripartisan as that would complicate the process and would weigh the balance at the moment too much in favour of the non-conservative parties. If the Prime Minister and Leader of the Opposition agreed on appointments, we are likely to get more balanced and less politically biased members of the board.

Thank you for the opportunity of commenting. I am very unhappy with what is happening at the ABC. The ABC is one of the icons of our society, culture and democracy and iconoclasts have been put in charge to destroy rather than to build and nurture. This is not good stewardship or cost effective management of one of the best media institutions in the world.

John Woodlock  
23 July 2001