

From: Robert Edwards [REDACTED]

Sent: Thursday, 26 July 2001 7:14 AM

To: ecita.sen@aph.gov.au

Subject:

SUBMISSION TO THE SENATE INQUIRY - APPOINTMENT TO THE ABC BOARD

The Secretary,  
Senate Environment,  
Communications, Info Tech & the Arts References Committee,  
S157, Parliament House,  
Canberra ACT 2600.

#### APPOINTMENTS TO THE BOARD OF THE ABC

The ABC is a mainstay of Australian society and must not be allowed to be continually weakened by political appointments to the board or by commercial influence.

At the moment the system of appointments to the ABC Board allows the party in power to pack the board with those who will support their ideology. The appointments should be on the basis of merit and only of people who have shown that they want to maintain an independent national public broadcaster that is not afraid to cover ALL stories.

Board appointees should also have demonstrated a commitment to keeping commercial influence at bay. Already too much of Australia's media is distorted by the wishes of owners to retain advertising revenue and ratings/sales. The result, as we are seeing, is an increasingly dumber, biggoted and insular society.

Yours sincerely

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