

From: [REDACTED]  
Sent: Monday, 30 July 2001 11:15 AM  
To: ecita.sen@aph.gov.au  
Subject: Senate Inquiry into the ABC

Thank you for the opportunity of being able to comment for the Inquiry. I have high regard for the quality of programs on ABC radio and TV. I believe from our travels overseas that there is very little in the media of other countries that questions, throws a spotlight and challenges our current thinking. The ABC is a wonderful facilitator in discussing public issues with other members in the community. It is the sign of a healthy democracy to be given information and allowed to think about it, discuss it and take action on it should one think it appropriate. In my previous visits to USA I have had a hunger for quality TV and radio interviewing and been so pleased to get home and catch up on current matters that have some factual content. In my last visit to USA it was so glaringly obvious that interviews were conducted as a thinly disguised avenue to sell a product.

So we have a quality broadcaster here in Australia which allows our nation to be in touch with current matters and to have a factual basis in our community education of listeners.

I consider that although it is hard for the government of the day to be challenged publically on some matters through issues raised on radio or TV it is what gives us our ability to move through issues say like Hansonism. It is beneficial as more people are aware of the flaws and lack of reasoned thinking in an issue and can understand and so reject (or accept if that is their value system) the platform proposed.

I believe that as a democracy we need to be aware of glitches in what is going on.

Keeping the Board of the ABC as directly unpolitical as possible allows the broader perspectives of matters to be explored. This keeps us a better informed and progressive country.

Thanks again for the opportunity to comment.

Sincerely

Beverley Pavey