

**From:** Lisa Hill [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** Monday, 30 July 2001 2:38 PM  
**To:** ecita.sen@aph.gov.au  
**Subject:** ABC Senate Enquiry

The Secretary,  
Senate Environment, Communications, Information technology & The Arts  
Reference Committee.  
S157, Parliament House, Canberra ACT 2600

Dear Secretary,

I am writing to express my concern about the current methods of appointment to the ABC Board.

I believe that a free and independent broadcaster is essential to the democratic process, but recent appointments to the ABC Board and its choice of a Managing Director with no experience in public broadcasting has compromised the ABC's independence. Clearly the current Board does not have a commitment to quality broadcasting as its primary objective, and it has presided over the systematic downgrading of ABC services, including the destruction of Radio Australia broadcasting to Asia, surely the most stupid decision of them all.

This precedent for political interference having been set creates an unacceptable risk that future governments may continue with it. I urge the Senate Inquiry to recommend to Parliament a system which ensures that Board members are selected on the basis of merit and a commitment to independent public broadcasting.

Yours faithfully,

Rosemary Hill.