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Sent: Monday, 30 July 2001 2:35 PM
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Subject: Senate Inquiry on ABC Board Appointments

The Secretary
Senate Environment, Communications, Information Technology & the Arts References
Committee

This is a submission to the Senate Inquiry on ABC Board Appointments.

The appointment of the current Managing Director, Jonathon Shier, has been a disaster for the ABC. In particular, the standard of ABC TV programs has markedly declined under his management. The public has no confidence in his ability to manage the ABC and he has become an object of public ridicule. He should resign immediately.

As Jonathon Shier was appointed by the present ABC Board, all Board members should share the responsibility for the current disastrous situation and should also resign immediately. The participation of the current Board Chairman, Mr. Donald McDonald, in the last Federal Election Campaign, by publicly endorsing the Leader of the Liberal Party, was outrageous. The obsequious language he used to praise Mr. Howard was quite nauseating.

I call on the Senate Inquiry to recommend that the Federal Parliament introduce a system which ensures that members of the ABC Board are appointed on the basis of merit and commitment to independent quality broadcasting, rather than toadying to the government of the day.

Tim Harding