

From: Susan Rushworth [REDACTED]  
Sent: Tuesday, 31 July 2001 10:04 AM  
To: ecita.sen@aph.gov.au  
Subject: Inquiry into appointment of ABC board

I am writing to support for the views expressed by the Friends of the ABC organisation regarding the current method for appointments to the board of the ABC.

I feel it is essential that the ABC be seen to be free of political bias. This cannot be achieved if the government of the day is free to 'stack' the board with candidates aligned to its political philosophy.

I am seriously concerned by the cuts that have been made to ABC funding. The ABC is the service I rely on for reporting of news and current affairs and is the only one I feel covers issues in any depth. It is also the only media organisation that actively sets out to stimulate the intellect - and if Australia is ever to be anything more than a 'me-too' follower nation, then we need to support intellectual activity.

I am frankly amazed that the ABC manages to provide as good a service as it does given the cuts it has been subjected to, but I feel that it is running on empty and can't keep going on this level of funding. It needs a board that supports the objectives of the ABC as an organisation rather than one that acts as an implementor of government policy.

Public broadcasting is a service every democratic country needs, especially one where the private media are dominated by so few players. The ABC is a service Australia should be truly proud of. It rivals the best in the world. I believe this is only possible because it is staffed in the main by people who passionately believe in the value of their work. It won't stay that way unless the board supports those people.

Please do not let the ABC become a political tool.

Regards

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