

August 1,2001  
The Secretary  
Senate Environment,Communications  
Information Technology & the Arts  
Reference Committee  
Parliament House  
Canberra ACT 2600  
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**Re:ABC FUNDING AND CONTENT**

On the 13<sup>th</sup>.April, 2000 I wrote to Mr.Jonathan Shier to encourage him to resist government pressure to decimate the ABC. It seems he has failed.

The ABC is essential to Australia's culture and democracy. It must be maintained as a well - resourced and comprehensive national public broadcaster which is independent from commercial and political influence.

The present Board and Managing Director of the ABC no longer have the confidence of the public and should resign forthwith. I urge the Senate inquiry to recommend that the Parliament introduce a system which ensures members of the ABC Board are appointed on the basis of merit and commitment to independent and comprehensive national public broadcasting, not allegiance to the government of the day.

Savage funding cuts and the loss of many talented staff has resulted in a decline in quality local production and endless repeats. A thirty minute program on a Sunday morning cannot make up for the axing of Quantum and Media Watch.

I would appreciate it if you would pass on my views to the reference committee.

Yours sincerely

Margaret Donagan SRN DC CHN BSSc