

From: Tim Bastow [REDACTED]
Sent: Wednesday, 1 August 2001 10:49 PM
To: ecita.sen@aph.gov.au
Subject: ABC Board Senate Inquiry

Secretary,
Senate Environment, Communications, Information Technology & the Arts
Parliament House, Canberra.
ACT 2600.

To the Senate Inquiry,

I look forward to the findings of a Senate Inquiry into exploring alternative options for the appointment of members to the Board of the ABC.

The present system whereby the Government of the day directly appoints members runs contrary to basic tenets of political and commercial independence of the broadcaster.

I believe there should be a prescriptive list of qualities seen as essential requirements for potential Board applicants. These should include a commitment and understanding as to the importance of a politically independent and comprehensive national public broadcasting system.

Former politicians and associates of the incumbent Government need not by necessity be excluded. They must however be primarily able to demonstrate a commitment to an independent broadcaster as well as an appreciation of the role the ABC plays both in the democratic process, and reflector of the diversity of culture within the Australian Nation.

Yours faithfully,

Eleanor Bastow,
15 Glen Street,
Hawthorn, 3122