

**From:** Gerald Levin [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** Wednesday, 1 August 2001 4:44 PM  
**To:** ecita.sen@aph.gov.au  
**Subject:** Senate Enquiry

The Secretary of the Senate Committee.

Dear Sir,

I am writing to you with reference to the Senate Committee, which is planning ' to examine the development and implementation of options for methods of appointment to the Board of the Australian Broadcasting Corporation (ABC), that will enhance public confidence in the independence and representativeness of the ABC as a public Broadcaster.'

Certainly, the public confidence needs enhancing, and in my view, this is largely due to the fact that the Board is now seen to be dominated by the antagonisms of the present government. However, I do not believe that this would necessarily be improved, should the Labour party attain power.

It is admittldy a difficult problem because in any case the government of the day retains the financial power, and this itself exercises political influence.

May I suggest that the following conditions should be applied to any new Board appointments?

1. Applicants should be able to demonstrate that they have a strong commitment to public broadcastting
2. That they are equally convinced of the necessity of the ABC being fully independent.
- 3, They would be charged with the firm objective of ensuring that the ABC is a comprehensive broadcaster, which means, a country wide coverage, and a range of programmes that will include minority interests.
4. Personally, I believe that active politicians should be excluded from consideration.

I wish the Committee well, and trust that they will come to a satisfactory outcome, because the ABC is a fundemental requirement of a modern democratic society in Australia.

Yours faithfully,

Gerald Levin.

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