

From: Ken Wells [REDACTED]
Sent: Thursday, 2 August 2001 3:47 AM
To: ecita.sen@aph.gov.au
Subject: Methods of Appointment to the ABC Board

Dear Secretary -

I am very concerned about the future of the ABC. This stems from two facts,

- 1) The current Howard government's serious restriction of funding for the organisation, and
- 2) the stacking of the ABC Board by the same government with sympathisers, many of whom are not appropriately qualified for the task.

It is essential to the integrity and credibility of the national broadcaster that it is free of commercial and political influence.

I am unable to suggest the mechanics of how freedom from political influence might best be achieved. Guaranteed non-commercial funding would be a first essential, and no doubt parliamentary draughtsmen would be capable of working out how this could be realised. We also need a new system which ensures the ABC board members are appointed on the basis of merit and commitment to independent and comprehensive national public broadcasting, and not for their allegiance to the government of the day.

Strenuous effort should be directed towards methods of appointment to the ABC Board that would enhance public confidence in the independence and representativeness of the ABC as a national broadcaster.

I beseech the members of your Committee to do their utmost in devising the means of reinstating and preserving the status of the ABC in its rightful place as a national institution to be trusted, enjoyed, and treasured.

Yours sincerely

Kendall Wells