

From: Aileen Vening [REDACTED]
Sent: Friday, 3 August 2001 2:05 PM
To: ecita.sen@aph.gov.au
Subject: Submission to Inquiry on ABC Board Appointments

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2 August, 2001

Secretary
Senate Environment, Communications, Information Technology & the Arts References
Committee
S157 Parliament House
CANBERRA ACT 2600

Dear Madam/Sir,

I wish to submit the following comments to the Inquiry on ABC Board Appointments.

To the extent that the ABC board influences programming, it appears to me that they are allowing our ABC to sink to a level of ordinariness comparable to commercial channels. It has no appreciation of the unique role the ABC plays in the culture and lives of Australians. It should provide us with new talent/innovation/new ideas.

Almost daily this year I have become frustrated/annoyed with programming, for example:

- In the last week on more than one occasion, there have been two sporting items in the non-sport part of the news
- Why is there a Sunday morning current affairs program? - aren't the commercials covering that adequately?
- Where are the Australian shows? British TV is good but we're not in Britain
- I have all but given up listening to 3LO - I won't list all the reasons - but do you think that interminable happy chat about the state of the money markets is necessary?
- I am a sports fan & not of AFL overkill driven by mega \$. The ABC currently provides a valuable, informative and entertaining service showing minor sports and it's good to watch.
- New shows this year are obviously cheaper productions and inferior eg the replacement for Quantum

I get some satisfaction on SBS - thank heavens. I will not be getting Pay TV. I don't want to tune into ABC on line: it's my phone line.

The ABC managing director and Board have allowed the demise of the ABC to occur.

They should resign. Parliament should introduce a system which ensures members of the ABC board are appointed on the basis of merit and commitment to quality independent and comprehensive national public broadcasting.

Yours sincerely,

Aileen Vening