

From: Philip McCrory [REDACTED]
Sent: Thursday, 2 August 2001 1:16 AM
To: ecita.sen@aph.gov.au
Subject: Senate Enquiry on the Appointment of the Board of the ABC

To the Secretary,
Senate Environment, Communications, Information Technology & the Arts References
Committee.

I wish you to accept this correspondence as a submission to the enquiry into the
appointment of the ABC board.

It is clear, I believe, that the independence of the ABC is of great benefit, and perhaps
essential, to the health of the democracy of Australia.

It is important that the people of Australia have a means to confidently access information
which is as untainted by political or economic interests as is possible.

For this confidence to exist it is vital that the ABC is not only independent, but also seen to
be independent. It is, therefore, of great importance that the board of the ABC is not seen
as politically manipulated. At present this is clearly not the case. The current means of
selecting the board has left it open to being seen as an ongoing political plaything; selected
to meet the needs of the government of the day.

It is clear, therefore, that the means of selection of the ABC board must change.

While it is understandable that the government would always require some representation
on the board, such representation should be clear and up front. It must also be but one
voice on a board representing a broad cross-section of the interests of the Australian
community.

Thank You

Philip McCrory