

From: Gwen Crawford [REDACTED]  
Sent: Monday, 6 August 2001 5:58 PM  
To: 'ecita.sen@aph.gov.au'

I am writing in relation to the Inquiry on ABC Board appointments. My interest is that of an interested consumer; I have no political affiliations or special case to put. But I am very concerned about the continuing dilution of the resources allocated to the ABC, which I believe threaten its fundamental viability.

The Radio Australia transmitter was disposed of some years ago, and now we seem to be trying to fund a pale imitation of a replacement, while someone else has our perfectly good Cox Peninsula transmitter to play with.

As well, I have noticed a tendency to have longer shifts on ABC Radio, presumably reducing the number and variety of announcers and programs. Why are we, as taxpayers, seeing the move to digital technology (an entire debate in its' own right) being paid for at least in part from the already diminished ABC budget?

ABC Board members should be appointed in as "politically-free" a manner as is possible. While we all can and should have our opinions, I do not believe the Chairman should be so clearly partisan as Donald McDonald. The independence of the ABC is vital, and could not be maintained with the current Board or its Managing Director.

I like to listen to 3LO, and 3AR as well as view ABC television. I find the current cross-promotions more than enough irritation and do not wish to see these continuing; presumably they are to obtain funding which should be coming directly from government sources at a level commensurate with the aims and achievements of the ABC.

The next Federal election will see my vote go to those who can demonstrate that they also value the independence of the ABC, to those who understand sufficient about corporate governance principles to appoint Board members and a Managing Director who are not part of a "political sweetheart deal" and who will implement strategies which will lead to the survival of the ABC.

Yours sincerely

Gwen Crawford  
9 Bronwyn Court  
Research 3095  
Tel: [REDACTED]