

From: Julie Conway [REDACTED]
Sent: Monday, 6 August 2001 2:37 PM
To: ecita.sen@aph.gov.au
Subject: Submission: Inquiry into ABC Board Appointment System

Secretary
Senate Environment, Communications, Information Technology and the Arts Reference
Committee
S157 Parliament House
Canberra ACT 2600

Dear Sir/Madam:

I write to add my voice in support of a less party-political system of appointment to the ABC Board.

Amongst many others, I am very saddened and angered by the cutbacks to the the ABC (and Radio Australia). These are iconic cultural institutions - what this Government in particular has done to these institutions is vandalism.

To me the ABC is a lifeline - it enrichs, entertains, informs, challenges, and allows discovery. I am a particularly devoted Radio National listener - more so as TV has declined in its appeal, including decent Australian content. Current affairs, social issues, political analysis, entertainment, music, books, discussion - the ABC natures head and heart and I love it .

The party politicisation of appointments is a threat to public confidence in as well as the quality and existence of the ABC. Politicisation by both major parties had meant that the organisation is more vulnerable to the whim and ideology of the government of the day.

I would like to say to political parties that the ABC is OURS, not YOURS. You need to demonstrate your respect for the ABC as public institution. As a demonstration of good faith, I strongly recommend support a more arms-length and objective appointment process.

Your sincerely

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