

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: Wednesday, 8 August 2001 6:04 AM
To: ecita.sen@aph.gov.au
Subject: Submission

8 August 2001

TO:
The Secretary
Senate Environment, Communications, Information Technology
and the Arts Reference Committee
S1.57 Parliament House
CANBERRA ACT 2600

FROM:
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Submission: The development and implementation of options for the methods of appointment to the board of the ABC that would enhance public confidence in the independence and representativeness of the ABC as the national broadcaster.

As individual members of the public, we believe that: (1) the independence of the public broadcaster is vitally important to democracy in Australia or indeed any other country (2) the importance and representativeness of the ABC as our national broadcaster is under dire threat, and (3) criticism of the government of the day has a vital and necessary part to play and should be undertaken by the ABC as a part of its charter and without threat of retribution by nature of slashing funding or by undue influence being exerted upon its staff.

The chairman and members of the board of the ABC should not under any circumstances be appointed by the Prime Minister or government of the day, they should be appointed by a perceived totally independent committee.

We admit we are not knowledgeable enough to determine the composition of the committee, and leave it to others more capable.

As the BBC is the proud flagship of Britain, so the ABC should be in Australia. It is from our perception at the moment a cowed and beaten shadow of its former self.

Phillip & Cynthia Morand