

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: Wednesday, 8 August 2001 9:23 AM
To: ecita.sen@aph.gov.au
Subject: Submission to the Inquiry on ABC Board Appointments

The Secretary
Senate Environment, Communications, Information Technology & The Arts References
Committee
S 157 Parliament House
Canberra ACT 2600

Dear Sir/Madam

I am writing this as a submission to the Inquiry on ABC Board Appointments. My family are great fans of the ABC. Ninety five per cent of our television watching is of ABC programmes. We are very concerned about the deterioration we see occurring as a result of budget restrictions. These include: less quality Australian productions, more repeats, and the removal of fantastic shows like Quantum and Media Watch. The ABC is crucial to Australia's sense of identity and the expression of ideas unrestrained by commercial influences. It has been a major factor in the development and preservation of our the wonderful democratic nation in which we live.

The current system of appointments to the board of the ABC is not working. Government can fill the Board with appointees who toe the government line and who act in the interests of the government. The current Board and the Managing Director of the Board of the ABC do not have the respect of the public and should be removed. The Senate Inquiry should recommend that the Parliament introduces a system which appoints members of the ABC Board on the basis of their skills and abilities and their dedication to the ideal of independent and comprehensive national public broadcasting, not just allegiance to the government in power at that time.

Yours sincerely

Rhonda Sutton and family

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