

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: Tuesday, 7 August 2001 5:05 PM
To: ecita.sen@aph.gov.au
Subject: Sentate Inquiry into ABC broadcasting

Esteemed members of the Senate inquiry.

I wish to voice my concerns about the appointments being made in the Australian Broadcasting Corporation.

In my fifty seven years as a sixth generation Australian, I have relied always upon the independence of the ABC and the excellent standard of programmes but have been deeply concerned about the very obvious political interference by the Governments of the day. It is clear to me that the current Government has placed both Messrs McDonald and Shier in to manage the ABC against the wishes of the Australian people. We are not the Labor Party stooges that Mr Howard would have people believe but are responsible and educated citizens who wish Australian views to be respected and communicated in their broadcasting.

The current lack of funding, which has been apparent for many years now, has reduced Australian content to a dismal level and the talent of writers and programmes of Australian content are seldom seen. I fear for the future and would hate to lose the wonderful heritage that the ABC has provided in the past to all levels of community.

When I say that I have fears for this country, this is not an idle comment as in the next two weeks three members of my family are leaving Australia, two permanently, in what we describe as the "brain drain". This is where our young people see the future - overseas. We need to be proud of our broadcasting service and the information it provides. The treatment of the ABC is only one, but a very important aspect, affecting our educated population.

I beseech the Senate to appoint ALL employees of the ABC on the basis of merit and commitment to public independent broadcasting. Do not destroy our heritage and our future. It is in your hands.

I thank you for the opportunity to express my views. I trust you will consider them.

Robyn Ryan
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New South Wales
7 August 2001