

From: Margaret Shaw [REDACTED]
Sent: Tuesday, 7 August 2001 6:13 PM
To: ecita.sen@aph.gov.au
Subject: Submission to the Inquiry on ABC Board Appointments

I am a life-long listener/viewer of the ABC [57 years] and one of the many members of the public who are increasingly concerned by the reduction of resources available to this key cultural [in the broadest sense of the term] institution and the erosion of its independence from political and commercial influence.

The present Board and Managing Director of the ABC no longer have my confidence or that of my colleagues and friends. The philosophies and policies espoused, appear to have more loyalty to political and commercial imperatives than they do to the maintenance of high quality, independent Australian broadcasting.

The disturbing pattern of loss of talented staff, axing of, or decline in support for, quality local programmes dedicated to scientific, literary, current affairs, arts and high quality Australian drama is cause for great concern as is the reduction of international broadcasting.

It is to be hoped that the Inquiry will recommend a system of appointments which will emphasise the creation of a Board and management which is involved, experienced, representative of all sectors of Australian society, independent and courageous in fighting for the rights and independence of an institution which has been, in the past, a cause for great pride. Sadly, this pride seems now to be misplaced.

The ABC belongs to, and should be empowered to represent, without fear or favour, the Australian taxpayer. It should represent and incorporate the best of Australian freedom of thought and expression. It should be a show-case for Australian talent whether scientific, artistic or on the sports field. Sadly, under the current management and in the current political climate, it can no longer claim to meet these ideals which in the past made it a source of information and enjoyment and a matter for pride by its owners, the people of Australia.

J. Margaret Shaw
1 Biraban Place
Macquarie ACT 2614
Australia

Tel: [REDACTED]