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Sent: Tuesday, 7 August 2001 11:13 AM
To: ecita.sen@aph.gov.au
Subject: ABC

To: Secretary,
Senate Environment, Communications, Information Technology & the Arts References
Committee

I am writing to the Senate Inquiry as an extremely concerned Australian. No issue is more important to me than the independence and quality of the ABC, an institution which is so obviously essential to the democratic health and culture of this country. I have enormous affection and respect for the ABC, which, despite attacks from governments of whatever complexion and severe funding cuts, still stands head and shoulders above its commercial rivals.

I have been dismayed at recent appointments to the Board of the ABC, which means that the ABC has to contend with enemies both without and within. Donald McDonald and Jonathan Shier are Liberal government appointees and should certainly go, immediately. The ABC needs an independent Board, not one stacked with government appointees.

A free ABC is essential to all Australians, whatever their political persuasion. This Board brings no credit to the Liberal government as it declares, whatever it may say to the contrary, that it has no care for the democratic health of this country. The Board of the ABC should be appointed on the basis of merit and commitment to independent broadcasting, not allegiance to the government of the day.

Thank you

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