

From: Anna Clabburn [REDACTED]
Sent: Monday, 6 August 2001 9:52 PM
To: ecita.sen@aph.gov.au
Subject: Senate Inquiry into ABC Board Appointments

Secretary
Senate Environment
DOCITA
References Committee s157
Parliament House, Canberra ACT 2600

Dear Secretary,

I am writing to express my sincere support for the ABC as an independent broadcaster dedicated to the egalitarian ethos underpinning democratic principle. From this perspective I wish to voice my concern about the current Management and Board of the organisation. Over the past few months I have observed budget cuts forced on the ABC with distress and felt disgusted by the commercial flavour imported by J. Shier.

It is my opinion that something should be done to remove the potential for political bias from the Board appointments process and that the organisation's Management team should begin to take seriously the widespread public grievances about the level of cutbacks wrought in recent times.

I would like to see Government reinstate its full financial and philosophical support for the national broadcaster. The ABC is a rich source of educational and emotional sustenance for Australians all over the country, as well as a vital ingredient in our relations with near neighbouring countries. Taking funds and standards of impartiality away from its base is a short-sighted act that, in recent times, has reflected poorly indeed on the integrity and self-confidence of the Federal Government.

Yours in anticipation of positive change,

Anna Clabburn
Freelance Arts Journalist