

From: Greg Tanner [REDACTED]
Sent: Tuesday, 7 August 2001 11:55 AM
To: ecita.sen@aph.gov.au
Subject: Inquiry into ABC Board Appointments

Dear sir/madam,

I am writing to urge you to change the terms of appointment to the ABC Board so that appointment is made on merit and an established reputation in public broadcasting. The present system of appointments to the ABC Board is clearly unsatisfactory.

The current Boards Chairman, Donald McDonald and Managing Director, Jonathan Shier are a good example of political appointments who have shown a subsequent appalling track record. They should be summarily sacked.

Mr McDonald publicly promoted Prime Minister Howard prior to the last election. Such behaviour is entirely inappropriate for the head of a major institution, supposedly independent of government. This is just not acceptable.

Managing Director, Jonathan Shier has overseen unprotestingly Government cuts to the ABC budget of 12% and the replacement of important high quality local content with reruns of Faulty Towers.

This ABC Board has rarely protested at the governments ferocious cuts to the ABC, nor challenged the Governments regular attacks on the broadcasters integrity and independence.

The board sought only partial funds from the government for the ABCs transition to digital technology.

The ABC Board has overseen the loss of talented staff, a decline in quality local production, increased repeats of dated second rate British comedy programmes and loss of important Australian content (Quantum and Media Watch).

All of these lost programmes were an important part of developing the Australian identity.

Please act to restore the public faith in administration of this most vital of Australian resources.

Yours sincerely,

Greg Tanner
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