

From: [REDACTED]  
Sent: Tuesday, 31 July 2001 11:49 PM  
To: ecita.sen@aph.gov.au  
Subject: Submission to Senate enquiry on appointing ABC Board.

To the secretary,

To choose people for the ABC Board, let there be very clear guidelines about how any matters are dealt with by the ABC. I remember in the 1950s a reporter could not have any hope of an item reaching the news unless both sides of the house of parliament of the day had been canvassed on the topic. Both sides had to be presented at the one time.

When people are put on the board there needs to be evidence that their word is truth and that they uphold this independence of the ABC as a sacred duty to thus uphold the entity that is the ABC and the Principles which have guided its establishment in the first place.

Should there be any suggestion that anyone with any say in the ABC is in favour of altering this basic thrust of the ABC they should not any longer be allowed by the Government to have any say any longer in the affairs of the ABC.

We must be certain that what has happened to such a cooperative as the AMP that the people running it demutualized it should never happen to the ABC. That is that it should never get to be anything but what it is set up to be. There should be a Royal Commission appointed to weed out any influences that have got the ABC to be in any way financially dependent on anything other than the elected Government of Australia.

In whatever way is chosen to get the board, then this must be in place to guard the ABC from those who influence it away from its charter. It must be in place that a Royal Commission is immediately put to bear to weed out whatever influence which has taken the ABC, as now, away from its charter.

Yours faithfully

Rev Katharine M Davies (Deacon)