

From: richardstrzelczyk [REDACTED]
Sent: Monday, 6 August 2001 8:48 PM
To: ecita.sen@aph.gov.au
Subject: Inquiry on ABC Board Appointments

Importance: High

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

As an Australian taxpayer and frequent user of ABC services I am concerned in the direction the ABC is heading. I am concerned with the Governments attacks on the broadcasters integrity and independence. This ABC Board has overseen the loss of talented staff, decline in quality local production, increased repeats, the news and current affairs budget cuts and the loss of important programs such as Quantum and Media Watch and television's only dedicated book program. The ABC's focus has been diverted from producing quality programs to raising funds from outside commercial sources which risk the ABC's independence.

The present Board and Managing Director no-longer have my confidence and I call on the Senate Inquiry to recommend that the Parliament introduce a system which ensures members of the ABC Board are appointed on the basis of merit and commitment to independent and comprehensive national broadcasting, not allegiance to the government of the day.

Yours truly

Richard Strzelczyk.