

Secretary
Senate Environment
Communications, Information Technology &
the Arts References Committee
S157
Parliament House
Canberra ACT 2600

Email: ecita.sen@aph.gov.au

Tuesday, 7 August 2001

Dear Secretary

I write to urge 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 public broadcasting, not allegiance to the government of the day.

Furthermore, I urge you to ensure that the interest of the Australian Public is foremost in the mind of the board when making their decisions and that funding to the ABC is restored.

Apart from the obvious cuts to our local radio/TV stations there are growing concerns within the community such as the threat / decision of the ABC not to give coverage to netball is a shortsighted approach. The ABC has responsibility to give equal coverage to male and female sports.

I strongly urge this committee to listen to the communities concerns. I wish you well with your deliberations.

Sincerely

Helen Polley