

The Secretary  
Senate Environment, Communications, Information Technology and the Arts  
References Committee  
S157  
Parliament House  
CANBERRA ACT 2600

### **Submission to Senate Inquiry into Methods of Appointment to the ABC Board**

I would like to take this opportunity to voice my concerns about the increasing politicisation of the ABC over recent years.

It is important that the ABC be a neutral, independent broadcaster, free to investigate and report on matters regardless of whether they are favourable or unfavourable to the government of the day. Clearly this cannot be the case when members of the management board are political appointees.

The current system for appointing board members allows the Government, if it so wishes, to stack the board with its allies. For the sake of all Australians, the management board of the ABC, the national broadcaster, must be free of government and commercial influence. Therefore I strongly advocate for the system of appointment to the ABC Board to be re-designed to ensure that board members are selected on the basis of merit and commitment to independent and comprehensive national public broadcasting.

#### **Recommendation**

The system of appointment to the ABC Board should be re-designed to ensure that board members are selected on the basis of merit and commitment to independent and comprehensive national public broadcasting.

Thank you

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