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*The Secretary
Senate Environment, Communications, Information Technology
and the Arts Reference Committee
S 157, Parliament House,
Canberra, ACT. 2600*

Dear Sir/Madam,

I wish to make a submission on the question of Methods of Appointments to the Board of the ABC. I feel that the ABC, amongst its many functions, is an essential element in the democratic processes of Australia - providing an essential flow of accurate and balanced information to the electorate.

I believe that an individual, who has at any time in that person's lifetime been a member of any political party in Australia or overseas should be barred from serving as an Australian Broadcasting Commission Board member.

Decisions made by Board members must be seen by the Australian taxpayer, who funds the ABC, as not condoning or encouraging any sectional interest or bias in the ABC's broadcasting material.

*The positive outcome of this proposal would be to assist in the crucial aim of the ABC to provide **balance** in media reporting and topics of discussion.*

Hopefully Board members from a variety of backgrounds would improve the appeal of the ABC's programming and increase audience support of the ABC.

The Australian Broadcasting Authority could possibly manage the required 'vetting' of potential Board members in regard to Board applicant's previous political affiliations.

Thank you for the opportunity to comment on this issue.

Sincerely,

George Blair-West, MBBS