

From: Brad Sherman [REDACTED]
Sent: Thursday, 9 August 2001 10:23 PM
To: ecita.sen@aph.gov.au
Subject: ABC Board appointments submission

Dear Sir/Madam:

I have been extremely disappointed by the present government's treatment of the ABC. It appears to me that the savage funding cuts and the partisan appointments of the managing director and members of the Board of Directors are to blame for the loss of quality drama (Janus, Brides of Christ, Harvey McHugh, Phoenix, Sea Change) and science (Quantum) that I have come to expect from the national broadcaster since I migrated to Australia from the USA in 1983. It is positively scandalous that the Board could allow the atmosphere within the ABC to degrade to the extent that they lose their best talent such as Sue Masters. One could be forgiven for suspecting that the government is trying to destroy the ABC by creating a demoralizing work environment while it has the chance.

Surely, if these appointments must be made by politicians then they should be made by a committee comprising representatives of Liberal, Labour and Democrat parties with no one party constituting a majority. Personally, I no longer trust either Liberal or Labour on their own to do the right thing by the national broadcaster. Together they should keep the worst aspects of cronyism in check.

The ABC's role is not to be a mouthpiece or a lap dog for the government of the day. Nor should it be punished for criticising the government of the day - that's its job.

Sincerely,

Dr Bradford Sherman

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