

**From:** pam and paul [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** Sunday, 5 August 2001 7:12 PM  
**To:** ecita.sen@aph.gov.au  
**Subject:** Senate inquiry into the ABC Submission

The Secretary,  
Senate Environment, Communications, Info Tech & the Arts References Committee,  
S157, Parliament House,  
Canberra ACT 2600.

I believe that the ABC provides an extraordinarily important service to all Australian across this vast continent, whether they are regular listeners/ viewers or not. It is the principal source of intellectual stimulation for many tens of thousands of Australian who rely on it for reliable, unbiased and informative review and discussion. The independence of The Board of the ABC is absolutely essential to the public interest, and to community confidence in and support for the service.

The appointment of Board members must be independent of government, of Party politics, and of commercial interests. Board members must be selected on merit and on a proven non partisan commitment to the public interest. Board membership could be guided by strict criteria and disclosure provisions.

The Criteria could include :

- demonstrated connection to community service / interest (at different levels social organisation:
- local State , national urban/ regional) demonstrated understanding of broadcasting issues
- demonstrated experience in organisation and management
- demonstrated commitment to communicating and consulting with interest groups
- demonstrated commitment to self evaluation and peer review.

I hope these suggestions are useful, and constructive.

Yours respectfully,

Paul Llewellyn