

From: Osborne Keith [REDACTED]  
Sent: Thursday, 9 August 2001 4:54 PM  
To: 'ecita.sen@aph.gov.au'  
Subject: ABC

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

Dear Secretary,

I am particularly concerned about the indirect Government bias and control over the ABC broadcaster, via pressure and influence exerted through the Board. I consider the Board's Chairman, Donald McDonald and Managing Director, Jonathan Shier, to be influenced by the current Government. This is inappropriate for a national television broadcaster and is unacceptable.

I feel that The ABC Board has overseen:

- loss of talented staff, decline in quality of local production, the news and current affairs
- loss of important programs such as Quantum and Media Watch

The ABC's focus has been diverted from producing quality programs to raising funds from outside commercial sources in ways which risk the ABC's independence.

In short, I request the removal of these Board members and a reversal in the ABC's budget cut. This will enable the talented and dedicated staff of the ABC to maintain the high level of professionalism required while being independent of the Government's influence.

Regards,

Dr Keith Osborne

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