

From: Bob Bunnett [REDACTED]
Sent: Wednesday, 8 August 2001 8:23 PM
To: ecita.sen@aph.gov.au
Subject: Independence of ABC Board

Greetings!

I was very glad to hear that the Senate is conducting an inquiry into the methods of appointment of the ABC Board.

As our national broadcaster, the ABC has a duty to the people of Australia to present news and political analysis that is as objective as possible while giving fair treatment of partisan views on all sides. In particular, it must have the capacity to deliver cogent criticism, where criticism is due, of the actions and policies of the Government of the day, regardless of its political persuasion.

For these reasons, I believe that it is of critical importance that appointments to the ABC Board not be solely at the discretion of the Government of the day or, even worse, of individual Ministers. I would like to see some kind of "bipartisan" appointment system - eg an appointment must be proposed by the Prime Minister, is subject to veto by the Leader of Opposition and must be confirmed by the Senate. Although an entirely "apolitical" process could be superficially attractive, I think that many Australians would mistrust a process that could be seen as supporting an elitist meritocracy.

Good luck in your work!

Regards,

Bob Bunnett