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Sent: Thursday, 9 August 2001 9:24 AM
To: ecita.sen@aph.gov.au
Subject: ABC Board Appointments

The Inquiry on ABC Board Appointments

We wish to add our voices to those with concerns on the present system of appointments to the ABC Board.

The present system allows any government to stack the Board with people aligned with its philosophies, and who act in its interests.

The challenges facing society, eg, globalisation/power and influence of "big"/loss of regional identity/environment, etc., demands open and robust debate by all. It is a matter of great concern to us that the required level of debate is stifled when governments of any persuasion can reduce free expression by "stacking" the ABC board. Criticism, although never welcomed, is a basic of a decent society, and independent broadcasters such as the ABC are an essential watchdog. In our opinion, the sad image of current politicians has in part, been assisted by attempts to ensure an ABC compliant to their agendas!

We feel the present Board and Managing Director of the ABC no longer have the confidence of the public and should resign immediately.

We call on the Senate Inquiry to recommend that the Parliament introduce a system which ensures members of the ABC Board are appointed on the basis of merit and commitment to independent and comprehensive national public broadcasting, not allegiance to the government of the day.

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