

**From:** Elizabeth & Mike Russell [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** Tuesday, 7 August 2001 8:08 PM  
**To:** ecita.sen@aph.gov.au  
**Subject:** Inquiry into ABC Board Appointment System

We wish to make the following submission to the Senate inquiry "Methods of appointment to the ABC Board.... that would enhance public confidence in the independence and representativeness of the ABC as the national broadcaster."

We are gravely concerned about under-resourcing of the ABC and its consequent deterioration in many directions. We attribute this in large part to the Board whose members do not appear to be committed to an independent and comprehensive national public broadcasting system.

It is essential that the present system of appointments to the ABC Board is changed so that our national broadcaster is independent of government and commercial influence. Only a Board composed of members appointed on the basis of merit and commitment to genuinely independent and comprehensive national public broadcasting can possibly extricate the ABC from its current warp into mediocrity.

Mike & Elizabeth Russell