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**Sent:** Thursday, 9 August 2001 9:25 AM  
**To:** ecita.sen@aph.gov.au  
**Subject:** Submission, Senate Environment Committee Information Technology and the Arts Reference Committee

Secretary

I write as a member of what is probably a frequently overlooked minority who are virtually dependent on the ABC - the ageing who are losing visual acuity. Like many in my age group, as I age macular degeneration robs me of my capacity to read. I consider myself mentally alert with a long standing interest in current affairs, music and the world around me but I can no longer read newspapers, books and magazines.

For information and mental stimulation I and many of my peers are totally dependent on the ABC, particularly Radio. I have a push button radio which is permanently tuned to, ABC FM, Radio National, Parliamentary and News Network, ABC Regional Radio and the Non ABC Stations 4RPH and 2MBS FM. (2JJJ has not much to offer my age group but my grandchildren are dedicated listeners!) It should be appreciated that many in my age group do not find Mr Laws and Mr Jones, famous though they be, satisfactory alternatives nor, dare I say do we find 60 Minutes a challenger to 4 Corners. There are many more comparisons which favour the ABC of which I'm sure you are aware.

Therefore I and my peers view with considerable apprehension the current debate focussed on the ABC. Media reports seem to suggest Governments are determined to reduce funding for the ABC and continue a method of management which facilitate the politicisation of the ABC according to the political persuasion of the party in power.

The purpose of this submission is to urge the committee to report that funding for the ABC should be restored and the selection of Board Members be removed from political patronage.

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