

**From:** Romola L Martin [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** Saturday, 11 August 2001 3:39 PM  
**To:** ecita.sen@aph.gov.au  
**Subject:** appointment of ABC Board

The Secretary, Senate Committee.

I submit that appointments to the ABC Board made by any government in power are almost certainly going to undermine the independence of the Board required by the ABC Charter. Both the Labour and Liberal parties have appointed people to the board who have strong political allegiances. At the moment we have a particularly dangerous situation. The Chairman publicly promoted the present Prime Minister before the last election. The Managing Director appointed last March by the Board is an ex-member of the Liberal Party. Both of these men often appear to me to be bringing about change in the ABC, not for the good of a mightily respected and loved public institution, but to be in line with policies of their political masters. Other ways must be found to appoint members of the Board with a proviso that those appointed have a total commitment to the philosophy of public broadcasting and have qualifications valuable for the position. A committee representative of all parties in Parliament would provide a safer background for appointments. I believe that a very precious principle and a very precious institution is at stake and their protection is urgently needed. So that the current damage to the ABC does not continue, something should be in place before the election at the end of the year.

Many thanks for this opportunity to put my point of view.

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