

From: Charmian Eckersley [REDACTED]
Sent: Monday, 13 August 2001 6:20 PM
To: ecita.sen@aph.gov.au; [REDACTED]
Subject: ABC Board inquiry

The recent incursions of political party motivated government control over the ABC Board is deplorable. We have to protect the ABC from becoming a pawn in the game based on the American model of tipping out all staff in the bureaucracy and replacing them with the incoming government's cronies. America doesn't even have such a wonderful establishment such as the ABC and nor could it because of the vote buying and corruption evidenced by their last presidential election.

I pay my taxes for an independent ABC to help me build the knowledge I require to operate effectively as a voter and citizen of this country. I am not looking for more of the cheap cuts offered by advertising stations but quality interpretations and views on what is going on in my country and the world. I don't care if I don't agree with everything on the ABC, but I need everything so I can make up my own mind.

The staff at the ABC do an amazing job for a pittance compared to the commercial stations. I know from friends working there that they work appallingly long hours for the love of the ABC and to get a truly balanced picture broadcast to us. But how long do you think they can bear being exploited for an ABC that is no longer free from editorial manipulation by the current government in power. I don't care which political party is in power, the freedom of the ABC must stand paramount for us to support this essential part of the matrix of Australian society with all its diversity.

I endorse 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.

Thank you to the Committee for your attention.

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