

I am concerned about the proposed legislation to change the composition of the ABC Board by eliminating the staff elected representative.

I understand the reason for the change is that elected Board members may experience conflict between their responsibility to their colleagues who elected them and their responsibility to the organisation as a whole.

There is another view - an elected Board member has an operational perspective that those outside the organisation cannot have. This provides a more balanced view when deciding policy issues. It is important that decisions made by the ABC Board are as completely informed as possible since such decisions potentially affect all citizens. As a regular listener to both Radio National and News Radio, I am extremely concerned about the lack of funding and apparent moves to curtail the independence of this organisation. In my view the ABC is a vital counterweight to commercial claptrap.

I urge the Senate to oppose this legislation.

Yours sincerely,  
Lynda Gordon-Squire