

I am concerned that the discontinuation of the staff-elected positions from the ABC board is purely a political decision, and has nothing to do with what is best for the ABC. It seems that the current Federal Government wants to tighten its control over the running of the ABC, which is currently the main independent media outlet in Australia. The independence of the ABC is important, particularly in providing an unbiased account of Government activities.

The following reason has been put forward as necessitating the changes: "There is the potential for these appointments to be primarily concerned with the interests of those they represent, rather than the success of the entity they are responsible for governing."

I think you would find that the success of the ABC is in the best interest of all staff members (otherwise their jobs are on the line) so it would be important for any staff-elected office bearers to ensure the success of the ABC to keep the staff happy - how is this a conflict of interest. It is evident, in all workplaces, that keeping your staff happy is part of having a successful organisation, and vice versa, as having a successful organisation tends to raise staff moral.

The ABC works well as it is (though extra funding is needed) - please don't mess with an organisation as important to Australian democracy as the ABC.

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