

Dear Sir/Madam,

I would like to protest about the Bill to remove the staff elected representative from the board of the ABC.

The Explanatory Notes for the Bill states "The election method creates a risk that a staff-elected Director will be expected by the constituents who elect him or her to place the interests of staff ahead of the interests of the ABC as a whole where they are in conflict." However, if this is the case, then it should equally be applied to political appointments.

Political appointees have, under successive governments, but particularly under the Howard government, been put in place specifically to do the governments' bidding. Surely a case of serving the interests of those who elected them over the interests of the ABC as a whole. A perfect example of this is the appointment in 2000 of Managing Director Jonathan Shier, who was responsible for the most destructive period in the ABC's history.

Consequently, if the government is concerned about possible conflicts of interest, they should also abolish all political appointees.

The ABC is primarily composed of its staff, and as such, a staff elected board member is necessary to put the views of that group forward. The staff member is only ONE voice on the board, and is always going to be outvoted by the government appointed members.

This Bill appears to be just one more attempt by the Howard government to diminish the power of the ordinary working person, and place ALL power in the hands of government, their appointees and big business.

Paul Vaughan