

Dear Senate Committee members,  
Thank you for the opportunity to submit our letter  
re: Staff elected board member - ABC

Having lived in a remote area without the usual access to television and radio during the 70's and 80's, we became avid ABC radio listeners. ABC radio was our lifeblood at that time - our connection to the urban Australia that we had left behind.

Ever since then, we have always appreciated the quality of ABC news and current affairs reporting that is given without political meddling.

Sydney commercial radio is a good example of what happens when politicians meddle in media, and the result is a population that is fed daily rubbish by shock jocks.

We are afraid Mr Howard and his ministers are trying to destroy the independence of the ABC, and one sure way is to have hand-picked board members. Do we still live in a democracy? Democracy is a fragile thing.

The ABC Four Corners program and 7.30 Report have bravely brought major issues to the public arena many times over the years, and it is essential that such tenacious journalism still be allowed without political interference.

Please protect our democracy- once it is lost, it is too hard to win back again.

Ian & Anne Threadgold