

To the members of the Senate committee,

I implore you not to abolish the Staff Elected Director's position on the ABC Board.

If there is concern about Board room confidentiality and the behaviour then that's the issue not the position itself. This concern could be addressed by amending the ABC Act to include a confidentiality clause that all ABC Directors must sign. If they are found to be in breach then they can be dismissed.

As a Staff Elected Director I know I played a valuable role in the functioning of the Board in its decision making. As well as being a Board Member, I was on the Audit Committee, the Editorial Policies Committee, attended all the Finance Committee meetings and Advisory Board Meetings. I worked hard and know I made a valuable contribution.

The Staff Elected Director has an extraordinary and special insight into the workings of a very complex organisation and of ways of making it work more efficiently. In my time none of the other board members or the Managing Director had ever been a program maker and so I complemented their skills.

By abolishing this position you will weaken the strength of the Board. I urge you again to amend the legislation governing this position to ensure confidentiality but not to abolish the position itself.

Regards Ian Henschke

Board Member 2000-2002

Recipient of Centenary Medal for Services to Australian Society through Broadcasting