

Senators,

I submit to you that the position on the ABC's Board of a staff-elected Member not be abolished.

In my view, the importance of such a Member cannot be rated too highly. The incumbent is in the position to be able to represent the views of ABC staff to the board and to provide a valuable conduit for the dissemination of information to the staff. The position therefore provides a unique facility for direct communication and ensures that staff do not feel disempowered as would be the case if they were denied such representation.

The fact is that it is human nature to work more diligently if one has an actual stake in the outcome, and have the knowledge that one's voice can be heard. To be denied this is to work in a "mushroom factory" environment, and no-one appreciates such a workplace. Indeed, having a personal stake in the outcome forms a basic platform of the capitalist system and has contributed in no small measure to the Australian way-of-life that we all enjoy today.

Therefore, I submit that to abolish the staff-elected Board Member's position would be a retrogressive step and would consequently ask you to reject any such proposal.

Regards,
Chris Weeks