

SUBMISSION TO SENATE COMMITTEE ENQUIRY RE ABOLITION OF ABC STAFF
ELECTED DIRECTOR

Having worked at the ABC for over 18 years, I can say that it has taken me at least 10 of those years to appreciate the complex nature of the organisation and its many functions. This organisation does not make sprockets, the currency of the organisation is "ideas" served up on various media platforms and because of this, a challenge to any Board of Management. My point is that there is not one ABC, but a hundred ABC's. I contend that without the insight and knowledge that a Staff Elected Director brings to the board about this many faceted organisation, the board is ignorant and dangerously so. The absurd nature of ignorance is that the ignorant are not aware of it. So, one does not choose to be ignorant.

It is in the interest of Australians and ABC staff as well, that the ABC is governed and managed well. Why would staff want anything less?

The contention that the ABC is an anomaly, is not proven, because there are government funded bodies who have staff elected directors both here and overseas.

That there will be tensions and disagreements on the Board would be expected and due to different views, opinions and ideas. However, the idea that a Staff Elected Director's priority would not be to enable good governance of the organisation is a logic that I don't follow.

The Staff Elected Director is only one voice on the Board, but an informed voice from a different perspective, therein lies the value.

Please do not choose ignorance.

Sincerely,

Sharon Perry