

Subject: Re: ABC Senate Estimates Right of Reply
Date: Friday, 28 November 2025 3:20:37 PM

To: The Committee Chair
Senator Varun Ghosh

Subject: Request for a Right of Reply - Remarks by Senator Mehreen Faruqi, Environment and Communications Legislation Committee, 8 October 2025

1. Identification of the Remarks

During the Senate Estimates hearing of the Environment and Communications Legislation Committee on 8 October 2025, Senator Mehreen Faruqi stated that I, Elahn Zetlin, had “campaigning on behalf of the lobby group Advance Australia, which is a racist lobby group, against the Greens in the Prahran by-election,” while employed by the ABC.

These remarks are recorded in the official Hansard transcript.

2. Why the Remarks Are Incorrect and Adversely Affect Me

The statements made are false and misleading, and have caused significant harm to my personal and professional reputation.

I have never directly volunteered for, been employed by, or directly acted on behalf of Advance Australia.

My involvement in the 2025 Prahran by-election was solely as a volunteer with J-United, a grassroots Jewish community group concerned about antisemitism in public discourse.

J-United volunteers, including myself, encouraged voters to place the Greens last based on concerns held within sections of the Jewish community following events after 7 October 2023.

This volunteering was undertaken entirely in a private capacity, outside work hours.

I had no editorial role at the ABC. I was a technical video editor, assembling material to journalists’ scripts without decision-making authority.

Senator Faruqi’s remarks portray me incorrectly as aligned with “extremist” or “racist” political groups, and imply wrongdoing in the context of ABC impartiality policies. These implications are wholly untrue.

3. Additional Context

Senator Faruqi’s comments appear to have relied on an article published on 7 August 2025 by [Lamestream.com.au](https://lamestream.com.au), a website co-hosted by her son, Osman Faruqi. Neither Senator Faruqi nor Lamestream obtained accurate information from me.

The Lamestream article:

- incorrectly stated that I volunteered for Advance Australia;

- relied on unnamed and unverified claims reportedly from anonymous ABC staff;
and
- made no effort to establish who I was actually volunteering for.

The Senator's remarks did not refer to the legitimate concerns about editorial standards and workplace culture that I had raised with ABC management during my employment, and which were publicly reported in The Australian on the 2nd August, 2025. These concerns were based solely on adherence to the ABC's own Editorial Policies, not on political advocacy.

I have no criticism of colleagues at the ABC. My concerns related to systemic editorial and workplace practices, and these were raised internally in good faith and repeatedly. My suggestion of establishing an engagement program with members of the Jewish community was submitted to ABC managers, including my direct manager and the Director of News, but was ignored completely.

4. Correct Statement of Facts

- My volunteering in Prahran was with J-United, not Advance Australia.
- I have no direct connection with Advance Australia.
- My concerns raised as an ABC employee were solely about editorial standards, not political ideology.
- I have never advocated for defunding the ABC and remain supportive of public broadcasting.

5. Request

I respectfully request that this statement be accepted under Standing Order 183 and published in the Parliamentary Hansard as a formal Right of Reply, correcting the record in relation to the remarks made about me on 8 October 2025.

Sincerely,

Elahn Zetlin