

**From:** Kaye Gorham [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** Tuesday, 24 July 2001 5:29 AM  
**To:** ecita.sen@aph.gov.au

**Subject:** ABC Board Appointments

Dear Sir/Madam

I'm sending this note to you because I am concerned by the present system that ties the political party currently in government to the operation of our public broadcasting system. This is seen to be the case because of the present method of appointing the Board. This, whether a real or imagined case of political patronage, should not be happening. The taxpayers' dollars are used to fund the ABC but successive governments have continued to make decisions that effectively cut the lifeblood funding of the ABC with absolutely no mandate to do this surgery.

The current board, appointed by this government, has shown extraordinary stupidity in appointing Jonathon Shiers to a position requiring a high level of intellectual rigour, not to mention people skills. Many viewers have been upset by the destroying of such ground breaking programs as 'Media Watch' and the loss of the most honest man in journalism, Paul Barry, from our screens, the loss of proven talented producers and creative teams, and the gutting of home grown drama and comedy programs by the current management. The board denies any involvement in these management decisions, but does anyone believe them?

It is time for the ABC to be seen to be independent of any political party so that the people of Australia can, as stated in the mandate, receive an honest and unbiased product from their national Broadcaster.

Yours sincerely

Kaye Gorham