

**From:** Jean and Jeff Jordan [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** Sunday, 29 July 2001 2:57 PM  
**To:** ecita.sen@aph.gov.au  
**Subject:** Appointments to ABC Board

28th July 01

To: The Secretary,

Senate Environment, Communications, Information Technology & the Arts  
References Committee,  
S157, Parliament House,  
Canberra, ACT.

Dear Sir/Madam

We have for some time felt very great concern for the current and future life of Australia's ABC, which we feel is of crucial importance to this country, for both our cultural life in the traditional sense and for the maintenance of the Australian "culture" of free speech and democracy. For this reason, we support the fearless expression of political, and other, opinions on its TV or radio programmes; we may sometimes agree with what is being said, or we may disagree. Either is acceptable.

The main cause of our concern, then, is the current system of appointments to the ABC Board. Whichever political party is in power, the potential for stacking the Board with "mates" who will act in its interests is too strong for the public's comfort.

We call on this Inquiry to recommend that the Parliament introduce a system which ensures that members of the ABC Board are appointed solely on the basis of merit and commitment to independent and comprehensive national public broadcasting, rather than any {consciously or unconsciously felt} allegiance to the government of the day.

Yours truly

Jean and Jeff Jordan