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30th July, 2001

Secretary
Senate Environment, Communications, Information Technology &
the Arts References Committee, S157
Parliament House
Canberra ACT 2600

Dear Sir/Madam

I am particularly concerned with the current direction undertaken by the present Board and Managing Director of the ABC & believe that members of the ABC Board should be appointed on a basis of merit without allegiance to the current government of the day.

The ABC must have a board committed to an independent and comprehensive national public broadcasting policy and be prepared to strongly argue against any government's attempts to cut funds and reduce the quality and integrity of the ABC's, comprehensive programming, particular in the areas of science and current affairs.

I have been appalled these last few months to hear of the resignation of so many talented and experienced staff and believe that I express the views of many Australians when I say I have totally lost confidence in the present board and Managing Director, Mr Shier, who should have the grace to retire or resign immediately before further damage is done.

Yours faithfully

Patricia O'Dwyer