

From: anne kotzman [REDACTED]
Sent: Tuesday, 7 August 2001 2:10 PM
To: ecita.sen@aph.gov.au
Subject: Submission to the Inquiry on ABC Board Appointments

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

Re: ABC Board Appointments

I wish to submit that the current Board and Managing Director of the ABC no longer have the confidence of myself and other members of the public. The Board has failed to protect the viability and independence of the ABC. It has been totally inadequate in protesting against the government's ferocious funding cuts. It has failed to take a stand against events which have resulted in the loss of highly experienced and talented staff and of high quality programmes such as Quantum and Media Watch. This has resulted in an over abundance of repeat programmes and a general lowering of standards and critical commentary.

There was a time when the ABC was light years ahead of broadcasting and television in the USA and we Australians were proud of the exceptionally high quality of our National broadcaster. Now I am dismayed and ashamed to see it noticeably going down hill fast. This is a great loss to Australia.

The current Board has shown an unacceptable allegiance to the government of the day and has failed to protect the independence and high standards that the Australian public demand. I therefore believe the Board should resign immediately.

I call upon the Senate Inquiry to recommend that the Parliament introduce a system which ensures that members of the ABC Board are appointed on the basis of merit and commitment to independent and comprehensive national public broadcasting.

The ABC must be managed and funded in a manner which ensures its total independence and enables it to achieve high quality information and cultural productions in the new digital environment.

Yours sincerely,

Anne Kotzman
Psychologist
PO Box 19
SOMERS 3927
Vic