

From: lynne suzanne webber [REDACTED]
Sent: Monday, 6 August 2001 9:55 AM
To: ecita.sen@aph.gov.au
Subject: Senate Inquiry on ABC Board Appointments

The Secretary,
Senate Environment, Communications, Information Technology & the Arts References
Committee,

Dear Sir or Madam,

The ABC is essential to Australia's culture, education and democracy. It must be maintained as a well-resourced and independent public broadcaster. The present system of appointments to the ABC Board is clearly unsatisfactory because it allows any government to stack the Board with people aligned with its philosophies and who act in its interest.

The current Board and Managing Director of the ABC no longer have the confidence of the public and should be asked to resign immediately. The current ABC Board has overseen loss of talented staff, decline in quality local productions, increased repeats, the purchase of uninteresting, but cheap, reality TV productions and not surprisingly a dramatic decline in the ratings.

It is imperative that the Senate inquiry recommend that 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, not allegiance to the government of the day.

Yours sincerely,

Lynne Webber