

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: Wednesday, 8 August 2001 9:12 PM
To: ecita.sen@aph.gov.au
Subject: Senate Enquiry

The Secretary
Senate Environment, Communications, Information, Technology and the Arts Reference
Committee
S157 Parliament House
Canberra. ACT 2600

Dear Sir/Madam

We have watched with dismay as the ABC has lurched from recent crisis to crisis in staffing and programming. An obvious conclusion to this is that not only the current Government, but also the ABC Board, supports such apparent disorganisation. This can be seen in the apparent lack of protest at the bizarre events which threaten the ABC's integrity and independence. Despite protests to the contrary, the Board repeatedly seems to ignore the root causes of the problems and rather provides the image of a body which supports the downgrading of the ABC and deterioration of broadcasting. Recent knee-jerk attempts to upgrade ratings does nothing to fill the gaps. In respect of the above concerns we urge the Reference Committee to strongly recommend to Parliament that the members of the ABC Board are themselves, like the organisation itself, independent of any allegiance to a political party or government. They, therefore should be appointed on the basis of their own merit rather than of any debt owed for their position. In this way "public confidence" in the national broadcaster will be enhanced.

Yours sincerely

Maurice Todd
Margaret Todd