

From: Laurence J Pole & Associates [REDACTED]  
Sent: Wednesday, 8 August 2001 2:34 PM  
To: Senate Inquiry into ABC Board  
Subject: Inquiry Into ABC Appointments

To: The Secretary  
Senate Environment, Communications, Information Technology & Arts Reference  
Committee

I am a regular ABC Radio listener and my Television viewing is 90% ABC and 8% SBS. I am appalled at the way the current Board and Managing Director have become heavily politicised. The present MD appears to be hell bent on lowering the intellectual quality and tone of ABC programs to the twelve year old mentality of the commercial broadcasters. The Board are apparently ineffectual in controlling the excesses of the MD. They have lost the confidence of their very loyal listeners (ie. the public who are also the shareholders).

The possibility of advertising on the ABC is constantly being raised. I have seen the results of advertising on both New Zealand TV and our own SBS TV. Apart from the intrusive effect of advertising, I believe that large advertisers will always be tempted to interfere with programming, if they perceive a conflict with their own interests.

I call upon this Senate inquiry to recommend that Federal Parliament introduce an appointment system for ABC Board members which ensures that they act independently, not with an allegiance to the government of the day. Further that Board members are appointed on the basis of merit, commitment to an independent, comprehensive national broadcaster.

Thank you for the opportunity to make this submission.

Laurence Pole