

From: peter fitchett [REDACTED]
Sent: Thursday, 9 August 2001 9:52 PM
To: ecita.sen@aph.gov.au
Subject: Inquiry on ABC Board Appointments.

We wish to make the following submission:

The ABC is essential to Australia's culture, it is the only source of unbiased, comprehensive, and current news for practically the whole of Australia outside the main centres of population. The TV service is likewise essential to all those same people.

In the main centres the ABC is just as important for its representing Australian current affairs, it's interesting and educational programs, excellent news services, coverage of sport, the Arts, Science and public debate and talk back programmes.

It is essential that Our Public Broadcaster is free from political control. It is not at present.

The very terms of reference admit that the confidence of the public in the independence of the ABC board is lacking and needs enhancing.

The current board is a group of mostly Liberal Party members who have been significantly absent in fighting the huge budget cuts, the consequent service and programme cuts, like shutting down Radio Australia broadcasts to our north, selling the transmitters etc. etc. (Currently subject to another backflip)

We earnestly urge the Senate Committee to recommend that Parliament introduce a system that ensures that appointments to the board and the senior levels of management are on the basis of merit and commitment to independent and comprehensive National broadcasting.

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