

**From:** Gill Hall [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** Tuesday, 7 August 2001 10:34 AM  
**To:** ecita.sen@aph.gov.au  
**Subject:** Australian Broadcasting Corporation

Dear Secretary,  
of the Senate Environment, Communications, Information Technology and the Arts  
References Committee,

I am writing to voice my concern about a number of issues related to the ABC.

The ABC is an integral part of Australian life and culture and performs a vitally important job in informing the community about current social and political issues. Commercial TV and Radio stations do not do this, it is not in their interests to do this. The ABC is the one completely independent voice we have in Australia!

To my horror though instead of being praised and rewarded for the fundamental role the ABC plays in our country it is being criticised and punished in the form aspersions about bias and funding cuts by the current government, aided it would appear by the ABC Board, Chair of that Board, Donald McDonald and Managing Director Jonathon Shier.

Recently holidaying in New Zealand i was struck by how awful it is not have an advertising free, independent radio and TV.

Please don't let 'aunty' slide any further, or it will be too late to pull 'her' back from the brink.

Please review funding for the ABC and ensure it is adequate not only to keep abreast with new technologies but to maintain or better still restore lost budgets for the many aspects of her charter.

Please change the way people are appointed the ABC Board to ensure a system that appoints people on the basis of merit and commitment to a national broadcaster and not allegiance to the government of the day.

So often we take for granted valuable things in our culture and it is often only once they are gone we realise what we have lost. Please don't let that be the case with our beloved ABC.

Yours sincerely,

Gillian Hall