

From: [REDACTED]  
Sent: Thursday, 9 August 2001 11:04 PM  
To: ecita.sen@aph.gov.au  
Subject: Inquiry on ABC Board Appointments.

To the Senate Inquiry,

As a producer, writer/actor team of many years we would like the members of the inquiry to know that we have long ago lost confidence in the present Board and - more to the point - the present Managing Director. They should resign as soon as competent replacements are found, and in the Managing Director's case - immediately.

Since the present regime has been in place we have seen an ever increasing lack of funds for basic programming, attrition of popular programmes, lack of staff morale, loss of talented staff, an insane number of repeats, etc. All this has led to an increasing scarcity of work creation and - what is worse for us - a severe decline in quality LOCAL production. All this defeats one of the very things that our ABC was set up to do. I.e: be a representative voice of things Australian. Instead, it now appears to be a representative voice of things British.

Out here in the real world of producers, directors, actors and writers -- and indeed artists of all kinds trying to make a living -- we are hurting badly. The innovative programmes that the ABC used to do - and which involved us - have dried up. THERE IS LITTLE OR NO WORK FROM THE ABC. The board and management have starved their producers of funds in order to channel them into futile exercises in new technology, or excessive corporate salaries, or (worse still) huge payouts for a veritable passing parade of executives and staff.

The ABC board and the managing director must be - and must be seen to be - independent of whatever political party is in power. This board has consistently failed that important qualification. Therefore we call on your Inquiry to take all steps possible to restore the 'hands-off' stance of both the ABC board and it's managing director.

This can best be done by ensuring the removal of the present persons in those positions as soon as possible. We believe, that this will be the first critical move in bringing about the restoration of OUR ABC. It will, we hope, once more become a truly viable alternative to the crass commercials in creating quality work for producers, directors, writers and actors. And finally and most importantly of all, it will regain it's ability to give pride and satisfaction to the Australian people and artists that it claims to represent.

Yours Sincerely,

Gary Files and Janina Craig

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