

**From:** Rose Allaway [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** Wednesday, 8 August 2001 11:55 AM  
**To:** ecita.sen@aph.gov.au  
**Subject:** ABC

To the Secretary, Senate Environment, IT and the Arts References Committee

Dear Sir/Madam,

As the ABC aims to be a quality independent and impartial voice free from political and commercial interests, it follows that appointments to the Board need to be made with this aim in mind. The present board and Managing Director do not fit into this picture. They are seen in the mind of the public to be aligned with the present government. It is well known that Mr. McDonald is a personal friend of Mr. Howard who publicly promoted the Prime Minister prior to the last election. This behaviour is entirely inappropriate for a person holding his position. Mr. Shier was also directly appointed by the PM and with a career in advertising behind him and no experience in public broadcasting you would have to wonder why he was appointed in the first place. His appointment has proved to be catastrophic for the ABC. We need and expect a system of appointments to the Board that guarantees that appointments are made on the basis of merit, relevant experience and commitment to truly independent public broadcasting. It is not too dramatic to say that an independent, well-resourced and properly staffed ABC is vital to the continuance and survival of our democracy.

Rose Allaway

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