

From: Chris Nicholson [REDACTED]  
Sent: Wednesday, 8 August 2001 3:46 AM  
To: ecita.sen@aph.gov.au  
Subject: Submission to the ABC Board Appointments Committee

Importance: High

I have no confidence in the current board of the ABC. I call for the board to be replaced by a board which will represent the interests of Australians, not political administrations.

The ABC is a link between the bush and the city. It holds a fantastic archive of the nation's news and current affairs. It provides commercial free, independent news and information. It should be an institution which is appreciated and appropriately funded by any administration, whatever the political affiliation.

Since 1985, both major parties have reduced funding and the board has not complained. This is a frightening response. If I was a board member, chairman or managing director, I would be protesting strongly against the cuts and work harder to express the inability of the ABC to meet its charter obligations without sufficient funding.

The ABC's independence and reputation is in jeopardy. Recent possible deals with Telstra, tied funding and the demolition of Australian-made production has placed enormous pressure on an institution which is held in high regard by a huge majority of Australians.

The ABC has 18 million shareholders, not one. It has charter obligations which require appropriate funding and it requires a board which will fight and criticise the government (whichever political affiliation) if the funds are not provided or are given with conditions.

This is not happening and so I call for the terms of chairman, Donald McDonald and managing director Jonathan Shier to come to an end through loss of confidence by the majority of the people of Australia.

Chris Nicholson