

From: Ruth Paterson [REDACTED]
Sent: Thursday, 9 August 2001 11:08 AM
To: ecita.sen@aph.gov.au
Subject: Save our ABC

To the secretary, Senate Environment, Communications, Information Technology and the Arts References Committee,
S157.

I would like register my concern about Johnathon Shier and the selection and conduct of the ABC Board. Ensuring adequate, continuous funding and the independence of the ABC is of great concern to me. Political appointments to the ABC board jeopardise its role as a body independent of party politics.

The senate inquiry should recommend that the parliament introduce a system which ensures members of the ABC Board are appointed on the basis of merit and commitment to independent and comprehensive national public broadcasting, not allegiance to the government of the day.

This issue has been recently illustrated by the ABC competing with rather than working with the SBS. "Market share" is not an appropriate key performance indicator for a public broadcaster. The ABC has a clear and valuable charter on which it should be managed and assessed.

As a dedicated Radio National listener, at age 24, I have noticed the decline in content since the 1996 and subsequent budget cuts. The ABC requires and deserves funding at least to the level of the triennial commitment of 1995/96 in real terms.

Regards

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