

From: Erik Bachmann [REDACTED]
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To: ecita.sen@aph.gov.au
Subject: Submission

Sydney, 12 August, 2001.

TO: The Secretary, Senate Environment, Communications, Information Technology & the Arts References Committee, S157, Parliament House, Canberra ACT 2600,

FROM: Helen Bachmann, BSW (Hons) and Erik Bachmann, MEng, MA, MPhil,
D2110, Dowling Apts, 780 Bourke St., Redfern, NSW, 2016.

We believe that the ABC is essential to Australia's culture and democracy and that it must be maintained as a comprehensive national public broadcaster which is independent from political and commercial influence. The present system whereby the Government appoints members to the ABC Board is completely inappropriate and unacceptable, as it allows the Government of the day to stack the Board with people who act in its political interests.

In our opinions, the present Board and Managing Director of the ABC no longer have the confidence of the public and should resign immediately.

We call on the Senate Inquiry to recommend that the Parliament introduce a system which ensures that members of the ABC Board are appointed on the basis of merit and commitment to independent and comprehensive national public broadcasting, rather than allegiance to the Government of the day.

Helen and Erik Bachmann.