

I am writing in response to your Survey 'Your BBC – Your Say.

I am female, British, 58 years of age, and find these days your radio broadcasts seem to appeal to me more.

WHAT DO YOU VALUE MOST ABOUT THE BBC

I value all the output of Radio 4, and the World Service (the programmes of the world service in particular, I find absolutely brilliant).

I value many programmes on Radio 2 (particularly Sunday afternoons & evenings) And certain programmes on Radio 5 Live.

In short, I value ALL your coverage. Love its diversity, and could not fault you. Even if I rarely listen to classical and more highbrow programmes, I appreciate that they are there.

The same I guess really goes for the T.V., you have to cater for all tastes, and my tastes are not the same as they were 30 years ago. I have to admit I probably cling still to the older stars and the older style programmes and entertainment.

HOW SHOULD THE BBC ADAPT TO COPE WITH CHANGES IN TECHNOLOGY AND CULTURE

I think the BBC is coping very well with change.

The important thing is to be at the forefront and able to compete with other networks. I guess this means it is important to be employing the right kind of people.

WHAT DO YOU THINK OF THE TELEVISION, RADIO AND ONLINE SERVICES THE BBC PROVIDES

Excellent, and getting better all the time

SHOULD THE BBC RUN COMMERCIAL SERVICES

Has the BBC ever considered opening its own shops in major city centres, selling products directly connected to BBC programmes and personalities i.e. CDs, videos, books, toys etc. (as the Australian Broadcasting Corporation (ABC) does in Australia).

These give such a good opportunity for BBC promotions of all kinds, and would keep the BBC very much in people's minds as it becomes a 'High Street' store.

HOW SHOULD WE PAY FOR THE BBC

Having lived in Australia for a great many years where the cost of the national broadcaster (ABC) comes out of general taxation, I know that people moan just as much as here about having to pay for something they never watch.

I therefore think that the idea that's been put forward for people to only receive BBC if they are prepared to pay for it, is a good one.

IS THE BBC ORGANISED IN THE MOST EFFECTIVE AND EFFICIENT WAY

Not knowing how the BBC works from the inside, I don't feel I can really make comment on this.

HOW SHOULD THE BBC BE RUN

Please see enclosure ①

HOW DO WE ENSURE THE BBC IS PROPERLY ACCOUNTABLE TO THE PUBLIC AND PARLIAMENT

Friends of the BBC perhaps. Please see enclosure. 2 + 3

Finally, I do think there has to be a concerted effort to somehow introduce and keep the young interested in the BBC. Starting first perhaps by a survey at schools and universities to seek their opinions.

And could the BBC work in liaison with more organisations throughout the country, giving it the opportunity to bring in more revenue, i.e. zoos, theatres, famous store fashion parades etc.

Thank you very much for giving
me this opportunity to make comment.

Alan Haines
30.3.04.

Encl. 3.

RESPONSE TO "HOW SHOULD THE BBC BE RUN"



Friends of the ABC

Western Australia

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OPTIONS FOR SELECTION OF THE ABC BOARD ?

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One of the ongoing problems troubling the ABC is how its Board of Directors might be 'de-politicised'. A variety of suggestions have been made over the years. There are four models which seem achievable:

1. Scrutiny by a joint parliamentary committee. This is the method favoured by the 1995 Joint Parliamentary Inquiry, and is very similar to proposals from the Democrats.
2. The ABC Board to be appointed by an Independent Appointments Commission. If this is to work then a method would need to be found to prevent the stacking of the Appointments Commission by the government of the day, otherwise nothing much will change. The use of a joint parliamentary committee to vet the nominees to the appointments commission is an option here.
3. A process of informal consultation between government and opposition. This was done once by Hawke, and then abandoned; It was practice for many years in the U.K., but the process was torpedoed by Thatcher and has not resumed under her successors.
4. Stakeholder institutions each to present a shortlist, from which the government chooses. Difficulties could arise when identifying the appropriate institutions. Anyone left off the list would be unhappy.

And then there is a fifth suggestion which would probably never get off the ground but would result in a 'popular' Board: we could all send in our nominees' names, and the government could run them through a computer and announce that the 8 or 10 top-polling people would form the new Board.



Friends of the ABC

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About Us

WHO ARE THE FRIENDS OF THE ABC AND WHERE DO THEY COME FROM AND WHAT DO THEY DO?

The Friends of the ABC started up over 22 years ago in response to an observed need for a support group (albeit not an uncritical one) for the national broadcaster.

The Friends of the ABC now have branches in every state and territory, and in some of the larger states, there are sub-branches in regional areas. There are thousands of Friends scattered around the country. Raw numbers are misleading, because many Friends memberships are family memberships, which may mean two, four, or more people are represented by that one membership.

Friends come from all walks of life: there are high school and university students, retired people, housewives, truck-drivers, professors, cabinetmakers, cooks, shop assistants, accountants, writers, tax collectors, tree surgeons, lawyers, nannies, pilots, house painters and many other people, united by their concern about the health and welfare of the ABC.

The Friends' main work is to keep people informed about what's happening with the ABC in troubled times such as the past difficult months when a new Managing Director brought some new and rather startling methods of operation to the ABC. The Friends write letters, call talk-back radio, send emails and hold public meetings for the purpose of making our concerns and opinions known to the public, the ABC Board and the Government. Government representatives tell us that the Government has nothing to do with the workings of the ABC: however, the Government selects the members of the ABC Board and the Government provides the funding for the ABC to operate.

Like all true friends, the Friends of the ABC are not one-eyed about the object of our affections. When good things happen at the ABC, we're delighted to say so; but when bad decisions are made we aren't shy about speaking out against them.

If you want to join this growing organisation, print out and post the [membership form](#).



Friends of the ABC

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Coming Events

FABC (WA) Annual Dinner and AGM
23-April-2004

The FABC Annual Dinner will be held at the Bentley Pines Restaurant, Hayman Rd, Bentley on the 23rd April at 6.30pm. All are welcome. Vegetarian meals are available but ...

FABC (WA) Committee Meetings
5-April-2004

FABC Committee Meetings are held in Perth on Monday evenings at the start of each month (except Public Holidays and January). Members are very welcome. For details contact ...