

WRITE a letter to your representatives in Parliament asking them, whatever their political party, what they will do to support the ABC's bid for adequate funds for the 2006-09 period. Will they ask a question in Parliament? Will they make a speech in an adjournment or a grievance debate? (when individual MPs can raise any issues they like). And ask them if they will send you a copy of anything they say in Parliament.

- To Coalition Members of Parliament ask them whether they will speak to the Minister for Communications, to the Prime Minister, to backbench committees to urge that the ABC gets the funds it will be requesting for the next May budget.
- To Senators who are on the SENATE ESTIMATES Committee which investigates the ABC, ask them to pursue with the Minister and with ABC management what the financial needs of the ABC are, and why those needs are critical.

Ask all your political representatives if they are aware that this is a critical time for the ABC's funding. Do they know what the ABC has asked for in its funding submission for 2006-09? Do they realize that the \$792 million, which the Minister quotes as evidence that the ABC is not under-funded, is about \$250 million *less* in real terms than the ABC had 20 years ago? And what action are they taking?

Write to **your** local member, the Senators in **your State or Territory**, write to the Prime Minister, the Minister of Communications and the Shadow Minister of Communications. In particular, write to **your** Senators who are on the SENATE ESTIMATES Committee. Senate Estimates is an opportunity for questioning of ABC management and of the Minister. Hearings are held in Feb., May, and October. Committee members can use the questions passed on to them - and this Committee has a number of new members since July 2005. Names in bold do participate, the others don't – but they might if pressed! Senator George Campbell asks questions about staffing matters (e.g. bullying, code of conduct)

Members

Liberal Members: Senator Eggleston (*Chair*) (WA Lib))
Senator Ronaldson, (Vic Lib - **new member** of this Committee)
Senator Santoro (Queensland Lib) – a well-known critic of the ABC)

ALP Members: Senator Lundy (*Deputy Chair*) (ACT ALP)
Senator Stephen Conroy (Shadow Communications Minister)
Senator Dana Wortley (SA ALP– a **new Senator** in 2005)

Greens: Senator Brown (Tas Green) – a **new member** of this Committee)

Participating members

WA: Senators Chris Evans (ALP), Lightfoot (Lib), Webber (ALP)
VIC: Senators **Allison** (Democrats), Carr (ALP), McGauran (Lib), Ray (ALP)
TAS: Senators Abetz (Lib), Colbeck (Lib), **O'Brien** (ALP), Watson (Lib)
SA: Senators Chapman (Lib), Ferguson (Lib), Ferris (Lib), Wong (ALP)
QU: Senators **Bartlett** (Democrats), Joyce (Nats), Boswell (Nat), Hogg(ALP), Ludwig(ALP), Mason (Lib), McLucas(ALP), Moore (ALP),
NT: Senator Crossin (ALP)
NSW: Senators **George Campbell**(ALP), Coonan(NSW), Faulkner(NSW), Forshaw(ALP), Heffernan(Lib), Nettle(Greens), Nash (Nats), Fierravanti-Wells (Lib)
ACT: Humphries (Lib)

Addresses: write to your: Senator or Member of the House of Representatives, at:
Parliament House
Canberra, ACT 260

Email (include your **postal address**) to your Senators as, e.g.

Senator.humphries@aph.gov.au

to your Member of the House of Representatives as, e.g.

Bob.McMullan.MP@aph.gov.au