

-----Original Message-----

**From:** ALP Campaign Information [mailto:Info@syd.alp.org.au]  
**Sent:** Wednesday, 14 November 2007 5:22 PM  
**To:** [REDACTED]  
**Subject:** RE: No Ads on SBS or ABC

Dear [REDACTED],

Thank you for taking the time to email the Labor Party about the ABC and SBS.

### **Labor's ABC Policy**

Labor considers the ABC to be one of Australia's most important cultural institutions. The ABC reports on all facets of Australian culture and is integral to the development of Australian culture and identity. Accordingly, it is vital that the ABC be unbiased in its approach to news and current affairs and that the ABC is not be run by Howard Government sympathisers who may use the ABC to promote the political agenda of the Government.

### **The ABC Board**

The Howard Government's appointment of its mates to the ABC Board has seriously undermined its independence and integrity.

Labor is committed to a transparent process for appointments to the ABC board. Labor's policy is that:

- vacancies should be advertised;
- an independent selection panel to undertake a proper shortlist selection process;
- there should be clear merit based selection criteria;
- If the Minister does not appoint a short-listed candidate he or she will have to provide reasons for departing from the shortlist to Parliament; and
- the ABC Chairman is to be nominated by the Prime Minister and endorsed by the Leader of the Opposition.

To ensure the independence of the ABC Board a Rudd Labor government will prohibit the appointment of any former politician or senior political staffer to the ABC Board.

Further a Rudd Labor Government will restore the appointment of a staff-elected Director, so that there is a person on the Board with the expertise to question the advice coming from the ABC's executive.

Labor considers it crucial to return the ABC to its former state of independence, so as to enhance democracy by screening unbiased coverage of news and current affairs.

### **ABC Funding**

In order to ensure that the ABC is in a position to continue as a broadcaster of national import and as a producer of fine Australian drama, news and current affairs programs, Labor is committed to ensuring adequate funding and support for the ABC.

The aim of such funding is to enable the ABC to continue to provide Australians with high quality broadcasting services, free from political and commercial interference and so that it is able to exploit the potential of new technology to deliver attractive and innovative content over digital television and the internet.

### **ABC and advertising**

Labor is concerned by the ABC's new leaning towards commercialisation. It is Labor's position that it will not accept advertising on any part of the ABC, which includes ABC branded websites.

Should advertising be allowed on the ABC, it is likely that programming decisions would become more conservative and less innovative. Labor considers it critical that the ABC maintain its independence and that it is not swayed by advertising dollars.

### **Labor's SBS Policy**

Labor considers the SBS an icon of Australian broadcasting. By providing both multicultural and multilingual broadcasts that aim to educate and entertain Australians of all backgrounds, the SBS plays an important social and cultural role in Australia and one that Labor champions.

Labor recognises that greater Commonwealth funding would assist the SBS to produce and broadcast more programs and news and current affairs bulletins for Australian viewers.

At its National Conference in April 2007, Labor acknowledged the importance of the SBS and committed Labor to ensuring adequate funding and support for the SBS, to enable it to continue to provide Australians with high quality services, free from political and commercial interference.

In order to ensure the independence of the SBS, Labor will make sure that all future SBS Board candidates are selected on the basis of merit. Candidates will be considered by a panel established at arm's length from the Minister. The Minister will then appoint Board members from a short list prepared by the panel.

Labor has opposed and continues to oppose the decision by SBS to introduce in-program advertising.

SBS maintains that they can put advertisements into their programs without there needing to be a change to legislation.

Section 45 of *the SBS Act 1991* provides for advertising only during periods before programs commence, after programs end, or during natural program breaks. Accordingly, Labor is concerned that the SBS's action may place it in breach of the Act.

Senator Conroy pursued this matter with SBS at Senate Estimates in October 2006 (see: <http://www.aph.gov.au/hansard/senate/committee/S9768.pdf> ) and again at Senate Estimates in May 2007 (see: <http://www.aph.gov.au/hansard/senate/committee/S10314.pdf> ).

To keep abreast of Labor policies and views you might like to visit the ALP website: [www.alp.org.au](http://www.alp.org.au) where you can find the Party Platform, media releases, speeches from Labor Party MPs as well as other information of interest.

Kind Regards,  
ALP Campaign Information Services

### Disclaimer

This information is intended for the recipient only.  
Every effort has been made to respond to your query in full. Please monitor the Australian Labor Party website ([www.alp.org.au](http://www.alp.org.au)) for further information

-----Original Message-----

**From:** [REDACTED] [mailto:[REDACTED]]  
**Sent:** Wednesday, 14 November 2007 3:45 PM  
**To:** Vaile, Mark (MP); Rudd, Kevin (MP); Brown, Bob (Senator); Allison, Lyn (Senator)  
**Cc:** Coonan, Helen (Senator); Conroy, Stephen (Senator)  
**Subject:** No Ads on SBS or ABC

Dear Prime Minister, leaders of The Nationals, ALP, The Greens and Democrats, - I call on you to support the nation's public broadcasters by guaranteeing that your party will, if elected:- 1) fully fund SBS and ABC to fulfil their Charter obligations to a high standard so they do not have to rely on advertising or other commercial revenue; 2) legislate to ban advertising on both public broadcasters; and, 3) introduce a new system of appointments to the ABC and SBS Boards that is transparent and merit-based.