

**FABC COMMENT TO MEDIA  
RE PM ABBOTT'S CRITICISMS OF ABC  
REPORTING OF ALLEGATIONS OF NAVY  
MISTREATMENT OF REFUGEES**

Wed 29 Jan 2014



**Quotable comment given by Glenys Stradijot (a  
spokesperson for Friends of the ABC (Vic)) to media that  
contacted, was along the lines of:**

Mr Abbott's comments suggest that the ABC should refrain from reporting material that in his view adversely affects Australia's reputation.

Mr Abbott knows full well that the ABC has a responsibility to report allegations of serious impropriety. His rebuke is an attack on the ABC's independence.

It's difficult not to suspect that he is attempting to intimidate the ABC. We are worried that Mr Abbott's actions may be intended to threaten the ABC about its funding in the lead up to the federal budget.

The community is fortunate to have a public broadcaster that doesn't regard itself as a propaganda tool of government. At its national conference next week, Friends of the ABC will be calling on the ABC to remain fearless in the public interest and not be covered by politically motivated attacks from anyone.

GS:media folder