

To: Chief of Staff **MEDIA RELEASE**

Tuesday 30th September 2014



Protest at ABC Board Meeting

THIS Wed 1 Oct at ABC Ultimo rear entrance 9.30–10.30am

The ABC Board is coming under intense pressure from ABC supporters not to cut crucial ABC current affairs programs. ABC Friends and supporters will rally outside the ABC Board meeting in Sydney tomorrow, at which it is widely expected the future of *Lateline* and Friday night's state-based 7.30 will be on the agenda.

The protest will take place at 9.30am and be addressed by longtime ABC journalist, Quentin Dempster. It has been organised by ABC Friends and is supported by ABC staff unions.

"The ABC is under heavy pressure from the Government to make cuts," said Glenys Stradijot, ABC Friends National spokesperson. "However, the community will not accept ABC current affairs being cut.

"News and current affairs are the lifeblood of our democracy. They are a core responsibility of the national broadcaster. *Lateline* provides a crucial service to the nation. State-based 7.30 is relied upon around the country for insight and scrutiny of important state and local affairs. Radio National's specialist programs are an invaluable resource.

"ABC Friends already has 10,664 'likes' on its Facebook page opposing cuts to ABC current affairs. An online petition launched on GetUp yesterday has reached 37,600 signatures on last check.

"The ABC Board has the strong support of the community to fight funding cuts. The Board has a responsibility to ensure the ABC is not gagged", said Glenys Stradijot.

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Further comment Glenys Stradijot, ABC Friends national spokesperson
Phone: 0409 11 0411

Information ABC Friends action at the ABC is supported by The Community and Public Sector Union and the Media Entertainment and Arts Alliance.

ABC Friends is a national campaign. It comprises ABC Friends and Friends of the ABC organisations across Australia.