

Media Release

12 November 2007

HOV 19/07

Hear Our Voice takes on the ABC for bias and censorship

Australia's newest political party, Hear Our Voice, is set to sue the Australian Broadcasting Corporation (ABC) for bias, discrimination and censorship.

Toni McLennan, NSW Senate candidate and President of Hear Our Voice, says her party is taking on the ABC because it is not living up to its mandate on political reporting during an election period.

"Section 12.1.3 of the ABC 2007 Editorial Policies says that 'for the proper function of representative government in a democracy, it is essential that the public are fully informed of the issues of current debate and of the position and policies of those parties competing for political office'," Toni McLennan said.

"This is certainly not the case for Hear Our Voice, who are struggling unsuccessfully to get heard by the ABC.

"What is happening to Hear Our Voice is just like what happens in life. Those with the power, wealth and resources get their voices heard, and those who don't are ignored. The ABC worked out a formula which gave the majority of free broadcasting time this election to both major parties, but little or no time was given to emerging parties like Hear Our Voice.

"The ABC should be basing their formula on fairness and equity, rather than who has the most power. The major parties have the money and resources to promote themselves, and they already get the lion's share of all political media coverage in Australia, so how can the ABC justify their formula as being in the best interests of serving democracy?

"I represent hundreds and hundreds of people from around Australia and they joined Hear Our Voice because they believe in what we stand for. Many of them are battlers, including senior Australians who find it difficult to make ends meet, and when they joined Hear Our Voice I made them a promise that I would do all I could to improve their lives. So if it takes suing the ABC to get our voice heard, then that is what we will do.

"I am realistic about taking on the ABC. They are a powerful organization to go up against but the political landscape in Australia needs to change because people want different voices in parliament, not more of the same," Toni McLennan said.

Media Note:

For more information visit www.hearourvoice.org.au or contact Dan McMillan, Campaign Director, 0418 266 008