



MEDIA RELEASE

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## **Praise for Mark Scott**

The powerful defence of the ABC given last night by its Managing Director, Mark Scott, deserves high praise say the *Friends of the ABC*.

“Mark Scott has told the ABC’s detractors what we already knew, which is that the ABC is a top-notch media outlet of world quality, and it is utterly worth defending” said the Friends’ Acting National Spokesperson, Margaret Reynolds.

“Comments made by one Muslim man on *Q&A* were not deserving of the media beat-up and manufactured crisis that followed. If a mistake was made in relation to the *Q&A* program, then Mark Scott has accepted responsibility and it is now time to move on.

“Australia is a robust democracy but it can remain that way only if we are enabled to hear and discuss assorted viewpoints.

“We are fortunate to have a national broadcaster that is not controlled by the government. It is because the ABC is independent that the public knows that it can be trusted. That is why, in times of crisis, people switch to the ABC.

“To summarise and paraphrase Mark Scott, the ABC excels in speaking truth to power, seeking to verify what we are asked to take on trust, uncovering truths and helping us to understand our nation better.

“If the message has not sunk in to commercial media outlets and Government members, the ABC is independent, was set up to be independent, and the majority of Australians who value diversity and free speech want it to remain independent.

“Mark Scott is right. The ABC is on Australia’s side,” said Ms Reynolds.

*Further comment – Contact Margaret Reynolds 0418 181 843*