

FAIR, FAST AND MODERN COMMUNICATIONS

Position:

- FAMILY FIRST voted against the full sale of Telstra, because communications is an essential service which should be focused on helping Australians and providing quality services at affordable prices, not a business aimed at maximising profits;
- FAMILY FIRST believes the government should ensure that the Universal Service Obligation (USO) continues to offer telephone customers the same service in regional and remote Australia as it does in the cities;
- FAMILY FIRST is concerned that a recent comparison by the Organisation for Economic Cooperation and Development (OECD) shows that:
 - Fixed and mobile phone charges for families are in the top third of expenses in the developed world;
 - Phone and internet costs for small businesses are the third highest in the developed world;
 - Broadband speeds are the second slowest in the developed world.
- FAMILY FIRST acknowledges that families are struggling to pay for telecommunications costs on top of high grocery and petrol prices;
- FAMILY FIRST believes all Australians should have access to world class broadband and that no one supplier of broadband should exercise market power to overcharge its competitors;
- FAMILY FIRST believes the wholesale price offered to Internet service providers by Telstra should be a fair wholesale price;
- For FAMILY FIRST policy on Internet Pornography, see Internet Pornography.

Actions:

- FAMILY FIRST will continue to argue that the Universal Service Obligation should remain to ensure people in regional areas have the same telephone service as those in the city;
- FAMILY FIRST will argue for a broadband policy that ensures that Australians, both in regional Australia and the cities, have access to world class broadband at a fair price;
- FAMILY FIRST will argue for fair competition in the telecommunications market to help bring down prices.