



7 October 2009

Committee Secretary  
Senate Standing Committee on Environment, Communications and the Arts  
PO Box 6100  
Parliament House  
CANBERRA ACT 2600

Dear Committee Secretary

**Objection to the dismantling of share holder value**

If I remember correctly, it was the ALP who opposed the privatisation of Telstra. However, the sale went ahead and was marketed to the mum and dad investors. Many of us purchased T1 shares and fools like myself, also purchased T2 shares. We all bought in good faith, but now it appears you intend to succumb to the push from big business to destroy Telstra and your own supporters' investments. For what? Because Singapore Telecom (Optus) is not happy about current arrangements? They are a foreign company. How would Telstra fare if they tried to setup in Singapore? It seems that Governments in this country grovel on their knees to foreign companies, at the expense of their own. Do we always need to follow the American model?

Telephone companies in this country are now more maligned than banks. Just last night I spent one hour on the telephone trying to get my internet fixed. Forty minutes of this was on hold, waiting for an operator and having to listen to lots of American style marketing rubbish. By the time an operator took my call I was less than happy. This was with Optus, not Telstra, not that it matters. Wow, the Governments in this country have done a great job "making it better" for the general population by deregulating. Bank fees have never been higher, electricity is more expensive than ever and telecommunications here is a cosy cartel. You cannot solely blame Telstra for the high cost of mobile phone calls in this country.

This current Government has already eroded the capacity of people to build up their Superannuation to self fund in retirement. Now you are intent on stripping what little investments some of us have, as we move into retirement. So much for the peoples' Government!

Michael Baldwin