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Submission addressing the Terms of Reference for the House Committee with regard to the National Broadband Network. Submission Date 25/02/2011. This information has been collated from a poll on our Forum of over 50 % of members of the above computer club, all members are Seniors.

Terms of Reference

The Committee will examine the capacity of the National Broadband Network to contribute to:

a) *the delivery of government services and programs;*

O.K. but one shouldn't be made to feel inferior if you haven't got an e-mail address.

And that the font type is readable and there is an ability for fonts to be made bigger.

b) *achieving health outcomes;*

Have to have super confidentiality with cross referencing in place. This is vitally important.

Seniors seem to concur that this would be a good service and speed up treatment.

c) *improving the educational resources and training available for teachers and students;*

Training facilities lag far behind across the Nation. Even University's are still using Operating Systems that are far outdated and unable to do many tasks required in the work force or service industries

d) *the management of Australia's built and natural resources and environmental sustainability;*

Yes, vitally important for current and future research and development.

e) *impacting regional economic growth and employment opportunities;*

Regional economic growth and employment are vital to keep youth and workers in their regions but adequate work facilities are lacking in most regions in Australia e.g. Mandurah Western Aust.

It is hoped that residents can be gainfully employed through technology in their regions.

On the other hand, however, Western Australia, as a case in point is in the midst of a resource boom with many workers working fly in and fly out, therefore digital technology is vital for workers and families to be in immediate contact with each other from both a social and emergency perspective.

f) *impacting business efficiencies and revenues, particularly for small and medium business, and Australia's export market;*

Many employees say they 'know' a programme and are ultimately employed only to be revealed as fraudsters because they DO NOT know how to do many of the most basic jobs required of them. This again gets back to TRAINING, TRAINING and more TRAINING required. Seniors ask: where is all the funding going to come from for this funding?

g) *interaction with research and development and related innovation investments;*

World reaching peers and communities involved in Research and other Development certainly will benefit from the NBN and hopefully investment increases within Australia

h) *facilitating community and social benefits;*

As Seniors who use broadband, the world can be opened up rather than closed down with ageing. However, expenditure and software costs and extravagant overcosting of cartridges, Inks, etc. put Seniors off from investing in technology. ISP charges need to be free for Seniors and much broader discounts for goods provided. Politicians please take heed. And if you want to play a "Game" forget it! at \$60.00 or more per Package, not an economic reality on a pension.

i) *the optimal capacity and technological requirements of a network to deliver these outcomes.*

It would seem that with the rapid development and ongoing changes within the technology world, that today's technology will be obsolete by the end of the NBN. Most seniors in the Poll conducted from members of our Club believe that the proposed cost of this project is astronomical and alternatives need consideration.

Also the media paints an over exaggerated costing of the NBN which changes, depending on who is writing the article, and this is frightening for the general public. Seniors ask the question: "Will our income be increased for us to afford the use of the NBN?"

Of course, you can't put the cart in front of the horse; but using the analogy of the cart and the horse when discussing the NBN, the cost of feeding the horse in order to make it go should be more equitable and included in this analogy, Seniors need special Consideration with relation to costings.

Comment from a member of Peel SeniorNet Computing Club (name removed). This echoes the general feelings of our members.

PSN Replies to NBN enquiry

Kate,

The NBN will be of little use to me because:

1. I live in a small community (450 households) that is not likely to get fibre in the foreseeable future. We are lucky to have ADSL and ADSL-2 is a dream.
2. Even if we did get the fibre I'm not sure that I would have any real use for the high bandwidth. Should it happen, I'm sure that I would find things to use the band width for if and only if it did not come at a significantly increased price.

Respectfully submitted for the Senate Inquiry.

Kate Orr

President: