

**Brien, Andrew (REPS)**

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From:  
Sent:  
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Subject:



TELSTRA INQUIRY  
Submission No. ....48.....

The Secretary  
House of Representatives Communications, Information & the Arts Committee.

Regarding the inquiry into the structure of telstra i would like to submit the following points for discussion and consideration by the committee :

1. as a member of the public and a consumer, i think that the structure of telstra since the first float has been flawed from the start with respect to allowing fair competition between the different carriers.this is basically because one company owns the vast majority of the infrastructure required to run the system and the other companies have to negotiate access without ownership of the fixed lines and other equipment.

2.i donot think that many people would object to the concept of privitisation if the infrastructure was in the hands of the government and each carrier had the same degree of access as the other - this is where true benefits of privitisation would flow to business and the general public.this would allow true price competition which is never going to happen if one of the players is in a near monopoly situation which is the case at present.

3.there is always going to be a need for involvement of government in the provision of infrastructure and services to the more remote areas of the country as without it, private business would never make the necessary expenditure on commercial grounds. i think there has to be some acceptance that there are some areas of communications that are required to be held in public ownership. one only has to look at the development of the telephone system in the first place to see that its development would not have occurred but for government funding and involvement.

4.if the government were to own and control the network, particularly the fixed line infrasructure,it would be able to continue to receive the much needed dividend flow and be able to ensure a reasonably level playing field for the participating carriers and allow reasonable access to new entrants.

5.the benefits of a separation of inrastructure ownership from the service function of the carrier companies is going to allow much more flexibility in the future in terms of service and price and the ability of the different companies to be truly competitive.

6.the opportunity now exists to make a decision where the choices regarding structure are still fully available. if this opportunity if not taken, then it will be for financial reasons alone, unable to be reversed at a later date and i think that we will be doing

future generations not to mention the current generation, a huge disservice if we don't recognise this critical opportunity.

thank you for this opportunity to contribute to the inquiry and i hope that these points will be of assistance. i am sure that many thousands of people hold similar views regarding the structure and are not opposed to private enterprise providing communication services so long as they work within a fair and competitive framework that ensures reasonable pricing and not monopoly pricing . it would also allow for the ongoing investment of public money in provision of service to the less profitable areas of australia.



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