

**SENATE FOREIGN AFFAIRS, DEFENCE AND TRADE  
REFERENCES COMMITTEE**

**INQUIRY INTO GENERAL AGREEMENT ON TRADE IN  
SERVICES AND AUSTRALIA/US FREE TRADE AGREEMENT**

**SUBMISSION**

**Submission No:** 91

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SUBMISSION TO SENATE FOREIGN AFFAIRS, DEFENCE AND  
TRADE REFERENCES COMMITTEE

I am sending this submission to your committee because I am very concerned about the General Agreement on Trade in Services (G.A.T.S.)

I believe privatising Australian Government services and allowing multinational corporations free access is a threat to our sovereignty and national security.

It is ironic that we will close our borders to desperate individuals seeking refuge from oppression and at the same time allow free access across our "economic borders" to exploitative companies who will take all the wealth out of the country.

I do not support globalization, free trade or privatisation because it puts power into the hands of a few rich companies and milks the poor.

Let us develop some more far-sighted policies that will generate funds and ways to maintain our education and health services. Our essential services should be part of our "common wealth" - a concept which has been severely eroded over the last decade, but one which we should try to reinstate. We, the people, should have control over our assets and services. Our shared wealth should be in the hands of the Government and the Government needs to live up to its responsibility of looking after the people's interests - not pandering to the rich transnationals.

I protest strongly against the Australian Government being part of any further negotiations to implement G.A.T.S.

Yours sincerely,

*Helen Lawrie*  
(Helen Lawrie)