



PARLIAMENT OF AUSTRALIA
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

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MEDIA RELEASE

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“The Power of One” gets small business banking to Country Post Offices. Congratulations Ann Cooper-Southam

If ever the Bryce Courtney’s best selling book, “The Power of One” had a local example to prove it true, you couldn’t go past Tingha resident, Mrs Ann Cooper Southam according to Independent Member for New England, Tony Windsor.

Mr Windsor was speaking of the announcement by Australia Post and the Commonwealth Bank that small business banking will now be available at Post Offices in Tingha, Manilla, Bingara, Boggabri and Wee Waa joining Barraba and Guyra.

Speaking of Mrs Cooper-Southam, Mr Windsor said, “Small business people in small country towns owe Ann a great deal.

Her tenacious unswerving character has kept her focussed on achieving a real positive outcome not just for her hometown of Tingha, but also for many other small communities who have lost the service of banking from their towns.

When added to Ann’s untiring efforts in obtaining better Telstra services in the country, there can be no finer example of how one person can make a difference.

I cannot heap enough praise on Ann for this result and further recognise the decision by Australia Post and the Commonwealth Bank in combining their resources to offer the service.

However, no-one can take anything away from Ann as she set her mind and actions into getting this vital service back into our small communities,” Mr Windsor said.

Mr Windsor believes that country communities should use this success as an example of what can be done by people in communities who are faced with the loss of essential services that threaten to virtually close them down.

“What I have found in politics is that nothing is irreversible. All you have to do is get organised and focussed on the outcome, argue logically and never give up.

It may have taken 5 years to get the desired result of small business banking at the Post Office in smaller country towns, but it did come and we should all let that be a lesson to us,” Mr Windsor said.

Further Information from Tony Windsor on 0427 66 8868