



PARLIAMENT OF AUSTRALIA
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

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MEDIA RELEASE

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Telstra – the Big Print Giveth (\$187m) and the small print taketh away - Armidale Call Centre closes - 19 jobs lost

Only a couple of days after announcing a \$187m program to improve services in country Australia, Telstra has today announced the closure of its Call Centre located in Armidale among the closure of others mainly in regional Australia.

The closure will see 19 Armidale people lose their jobs.

Independent Member for New England, Tony Windsor believes that the closure is part of a centralisation strategy that will see more country jobs go.

“Much fanfare was heard a couple of days ago when Telstra Country Wide’s boss, Doug Campbell was making the announcement in Charleville of the \$187m commitment to make phone services better for country Australians.

Now, it could be seen, that to help pay for the \$187m, country jobs will go,” Mr Windsor said.

Mr Windsor is highly critical of the lack of action by the National Party for its standing by and overseeing the dismantling of job opportunities for country Australians.

“In light of National Party leader John Anderson’s comments about standing down if he doesn’t improve the Party’s performance at the next election, if the closure of the Armidale Call Centre is the National Party’s view of how to treat country people and increase their representation then, John Anderson should pack his bags now!

He talks about reform of his party when he should be talking about representing country people on issues like this.

If we allow Telstra to do things like this when the Government owns 51% of it, can you imagine what will happen if it is fully privatised,” Mr Windsor said.

Further information from Tony Windsor - Mob 0427 66 8868 or 02 6761 3080