



PARLIAMENT OF AUSTRALIA  
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

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## Media Release

13 September 2005

**Correction to earlier release today**

### **Price of a political party - \$31 per YEAR!!**

Independent Member for New England, Tony Windsor says that the sellout of country people by the National Party on the privatisation of Telstra has put a price on a political party.

Mr Windsor said that the way in which the Telstra debate was conducted last night was a complete farce without any allowance for full consideration of the clauses in the Bill.

“There is no doubt in my mind that the National Party has accepted ‘hush money’ on this issue.

It has become apparent that after the Prime Minister and Deputy Prime Minister and Leader of the National Party Mark Vaile’s meeting with Telstra CEO Sol Trujillo on the true state of the Telstra network, the National Party accepted a \$1 billion sum over 4 years as reward for not letting Senator Joyce and the Australian community know the true state of Telstra.

We may not ever know what the term ‘up to scratch’ actually means but we do know the price to pay for a political party.

The National Party have sold out their principles for a price of \$31 per country resident (the 8 million people they always purport to represent) per YEAR for 4 years.

The National Party has been bought off for 20 litres of petrol.

No wonder people are fuming,” Mr Windsor said.

(Figure of \$31 per annum is calculated by dividing the \$250m per annum for 4 years by the 8 million people who live outside metropolitan Australia)

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