



PARLIAMENT OF AUSTRALIA  
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

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## MEDIA RELEASE

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### WOOLBROOK AND WALCHA ROAD RESIDENTS PETITION TELSTRA FOR ADSL BROADBAND

Member for New England, Tony Windsor is pleased to support the residents of Walcha Road and Woolbrook in their efforts to gain access to ADSL broadband services from Telstra.

A number of residents from these two communities have been actively pursuing ADSL services due to the limitations of the wireless and satellite broadband options and despite direct requests to Telstra, they have been unsuccessful in their attempts.

The community is quite frustrated by Telstra's decision because they have been told by technicians in the past that the major piece of infrastructure required to enable ADSL, being a 'CMUX', was installed at the Walcha Road Exchange some time ago and with fibre optic cable leading from this exchange to Woolbrook School, it would be quite a simple and inexpensive procedure to activate ADSL for these two communities.

The Walcha Road and Woolbrook communities, lead by 16 year old Stephen Blake and the slightly more senior Keith Mitchell respectively, have rallied together to see if they can get Telstra to see the mutual benefit in providing ADSL broadband to their communities.

"I commend Stephen Blake, a Year 11 school student from Walcha Central School, on his tenacity and initiative to drive this issue forward. He is very determined to see common sense prevail along with some equity of service for his community that presently have poor mobile and wireless coverage" Mr Windsor said.

Mr Keith Mitchell, a well known citizen from Woolbrook, has been actively seeking improved telecommunications services for Woolbrook for many years and it would be wonderful to see his efforts rewarded with the assistance of one or two microchips.

"I would encourage any residents from Walcha Road and Woolbrook who are interested in accessing ADSL broadband to sign the petitions being distributed by Mr Mitchell and Mr Blake and I wish them every success in the endeavours. I would also encourage Telstra Country Wide, Manager, Richard Bourne to favourably reconsider their request as I am sure it will be a popular and financially attractive decision for Telstra. I have also advised the Communications Minister, Senator the Hon Stephen Conroy of this situation" Mr Windsor concluded.

Mr Keith Mitchell of Woolbrook can be contacted on Ph: 6777 5907 and Stephen Blake of Walcha Road can be contacted on 6777 5977 (outside school hours).

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***For further information contact Tony Windsor, Ph (02) 6761 3080***