

Mr Paul Lindwall
Commissioner
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9/3/2017

Dear Mr Lindwall

Thankyou for the opportunity to comment on the Productivity Commission's draft report dated November 2016 in relation to the Telecommunications Universal Service Obligation Inquiry.

This inquiry is of importance to me due to my disability -electrohypersensitivity (EHS) -hypersensitivity to electromagnetic radiation particularly wifi which leads to pain and debilitation.

For the last 2 years I have been on disability payments following the assessment and recommendation by 4 Doctors. Prior to this I was working as a Professional Psychologist. I have had to resign due to this disability and being unable to function around wireless technology. Prior to this I also had to sell my home after the installation of a smart meter which exacerbated my condition when my home was previously absent from wireless radiation.

I have now bought land in the country which has less wifi exposure with forest on 2 sides. Naturally this type of rural land tends to be at greater fire risk. With the blackspot initiative more and more phone towers are being installed and considered to aide in saving lives in case of fire. In my situation and for thousands of people like me this does more harm than good. We do not have access to a mobile phone and would not access it to learn of fires. We have had to become isolates within a greater fire risk area. Any connection to the outside world is with a standard landline phone. Any call for help, any warning call is from this landline. If a blackspot is termed at risk then by removing access to a landline you are placing me and thousands at greater risk.

It is my right as a citizen of Australia to have access to communication with the outside world. To remove this is purely discrimination.
<https://www.humanrights.gov.au/our-work/disability-rights/publications/know-your-rights-disability-discrimination> defines "disability discrimination when there is a rule or policy that is the same for everyone but has an unfair effect on people with a particular disability".

Many countries recognise electrohypersensitivity as an impairment and/or consider the dangers of wireless radiation and as such have in place preventative measures. This is a worldwide phenomenon and as such the World Health Organisation has classified RF electromagnetic radiation as a possible carcinogenic to humans class 2B.

It is therefore imperative that we too take a precautionary approach. It is difficult to undo damage once it has been done. We need to consider not only people with EHS but also children, pregnant women, the elderly and those with compromised immune systems - those considered most at risk. While at the same time it is also imperative that the Commission adheres to the Disability Discrimination Act allowing the maintenance of a landline service devoid of wireless technology for those in need and rural areas.

Your sincerely

Fiona Shanti