



Sid Sidebottom MP ... for a fair go in Braddon

Media Release

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Sid gains billing concession from Telstra

TELSTRA'S move to increase exemptions from its \$2.20 billing fee is a good start in response to a major community outcry says the Federal Member for Braddon, Sid Sidebottom.

Mr Sidebottom said he had received confirmation today that Telstra chief executive David Thodey had moved to extend the concession to Commonwealth Seniors Health Card holders.

A letter to Mr Sidebottom from Mr Thodey says that Telstra has decided to widen exemptions from the bill payment administration fee.

"This comes after I had extensive personal discussions with Mr Thodey last week, following up on letters, speeches in Parliament and a major petition which has been circulating in the Braddon electorate in recent weeks," Mr Sidebottom said.

"The response from people has been overwhelming, with hundreds of signatures coming in and my office has received calls and emails from across the state.

"People have been very concerned about the Telstra fee, and I am pleased that Mr Thodey and Telstra are listening to my representations."

However, Mr Sidebottom said he would continue his campaign to have the billing fee removed completely.

Mr Sidebottom pointed out to Mr Thodey that this is a social issue, not a technological one, and people feel very strongly about being forced to pay extra for the simple process of paying a bill over the counter for a service such as a telephone," he said.

"While I accept this a positive move from Telstra, they still need to consider the level of public feeling on this issue and look at going one step further."

Mr Sidebottom said he would continue to negotiate with Mr Thodey, and hoped that the scale of the petition when it was complete would help to convey the community feeling on the issue.

The petition is available to sign at Mr Sidebottom's office in Burnie, and at various locations between Smithton and Latrobe.

For more information: Luke Sayer 0438 311 355