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22nd July, 2008.



**COMMUNICATIONS
ELECTRICAL
PLUMBING
UNION**

Mr. S. Trujillo,
Chief Executive Officer,
Telstra Corporation Limited,
Locked Bag 5639,
MELBOURNE. VIC. 3001.
By facsimile: 03 9204 9991

Dear Mr. Trujillo,

I am writing on behalf of the SBU in response to Telstra correspondence of 17 July, notifying us that Telstra has withdrawn from Enterprise Agreement negotiations.

This decision is very disappointing for the members we represent, and for all Telstra staff.

I reiterate the terms of our correspondence of 30 June, 2 July and 7 July to your Director Workplace Relations and People Services, Darren Fewster. Specifically:

1. Unions have not sought to make agreement about a more positive working relationship (e.g. as outlined in our proposed Memorandum of Understanding) a precondition for ongoing talks around the Enterprise Agreement. Nor have we ever sought to involve Telstra in making an agreement that is not compliant with government guidelines, or that would undermine its capacity to undertake government work.
2. We note Telstra's proposition, in response to the unions' proposals, for "Principles Relating to a Productive Working Relationship" and we are also happy to discuss these
3. Unions will continue to bargain in good faith. Our judgement on support for a collective agreement will depend on the outcome for members (a significant proportion of which are on AWAs) and on the outcome for potential members.

We remain open to the best means of achieving real change and a more positive working relationship than that of recent years.

Its our view that better relationships can only be achieved when the parties are in discussion. Therefore, once again, we call upon Telstra to recommence negotiations. We are available to recommence talks on Friday July 25 and Monday July 27.

Yours sincerely,


Ed Husic,
DIVISIONAL SECRETARY.


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