

**From:** Sharon Burke [REDACTED]  
**To:** secretariat@rtirc.gov.au  
**Sent:** Sun 4/12/2011 5:17 PM  
**Subject:** Submission to Regional Telecommunications Independent Review

Hi There,

I live in Stroud and have been told to send a submission about my mobile phone reception issues. I am in the Paterson Electorate.

At home, I have excellent coverage for Telstra mobile and internet. Up until yesterday the landline, with Telstra, had been brilliant. Now it is fuzzy. I pay top dollar for this coverage.

However, my mobile phone does not work in Booral, same electorate, 10km away.

Now to Optus...

I work in Newcastle and have access to a work mobile and internet dongle. However, they are with Optus and there is no coverage whatsoever with Optus at home. This means that I am unable to work from home. I have to give my personal mobile number to some clients and this is not a good idea considering I work for a Federal Government Department and see numerous clients each week. I have to travel 80km each way per day to work in Newcastle and this could be reduced if I could work from home. Plus, it would improve on my work/life balance if I could work from home. It is unfair. If I lived in Booral, I could work from home as Optus works there. But, I couldn't study or communicate with friends because Telstra doesn't work in Booral.

It is important to me that all providers of telecommunications services provide the same coverage to everyone, no matter where they reside. This is particularly important to regional Australia. Without us, the livelihoods of many Australians is lost.

Please get it right for Regional Australia.

Regards,

Sharon