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To: secretariat@rtirc.gov.au
Sent: 11 December 2011 6:37:25 PM AEDT
Subject: Submission

2012 Regional Telecommunications Review Secretariat
Department of Broadband Communications and the Digital Economy
GPO Box 2154
Canberra ACT

Dear Sir or Madam,

I am writing this submission on behalf of the North Star Public School P and C Association, this submission gives us the opportunity to highlight the current state of failing communications in our community and more importantly our primary school.

North Star is located in the North West of New South Wales, 62kms from the QLD border.

North Star Public School internet is currently provided by a 2way satellite, one of the few in the entire state of NSW. Schools in close proximity to North Star have access to ADSL technology, our line speed is limited to theoretical maximum of 2Mbps compared to the National average of approximately 6.2Mbps. The signal currently coming into our school must be divided by 20 computers, therefore it gets slower and slower the more children attempt to access the Internet.

The North Star P and C Association would like to see the students of the North Star Public School being able to readily access opportunities and information effectively through a fibre optic cable connection. The North Star school has a fibre optic cable running past the school according to Mark Coulton the Federal Member for Parkes. The simplest and quickest solution would be to tap into this cable, but alas as yet this has not happened. Why is the North Star Public School not connected to this?

The students of the school are being disadvantaged by this inadequate telecommunications service, why are our services not comparable to urban areas. Our current service is simply too slow and we have inadequate infrastructure.

Our small school has wonderful technology there like smart boards and fabulous computers which the children are unable to use to their full potential because of this inadequate service. Internet and telecommunication services are extremely important for people living in rural, regional and remote locations. Better services would benefit the whole community as well as business but the educational outcomes of the school are paramount.

Yours Faithfully

North Star Public School P and C Association