

## Post Office Bank

To The Inquiry Members  
Regional Banking Taskforce

Throughout history the postal service has meant communication and connectedness. The Post Office has always been an extremely important part of every community, being more so in rural and remote locations.

With the systematic and continued withdrawal of the main banks from most rural, regional and remote towns, there is a severe impost on residents to access banking services such as :-

1. Business deposits of takings - requiring them to store/retain large sums of money, creating a safety risk.
2. Small business and start-up business loans from institutions with local knowledge.
3. Access to personal banking by residents - both deposit and withdrawal.
4. Access to personal banking by tourists (who are the lifeblood of many smaller communities) - withdrawal of cash to spend in those communities.
5. Access to float monies for fund raising activities of local non-profit organisations.

Examples of withdrawal of banking services with which I am personally aware :-

(a) Regional town with extensive agricultural and mining operations - population approximately 3,500 - NO banks, one ATM.

(b) Regional town with some agricultural and extensive mining activity - population approximately 10,000 - NO banks, one ATM.

(c) Regional city with extensive business activities - population 50,000+ - CBA had 2 branches, closed the one in a shopping centre next to a retirement village, leaving older residents having to travel 6klm via inadequate public transport, at greater intervals of time, resulting in the unsafe necessity of withdrawing and carrying larger sums of money for greater distances.

I therefore submit that Australia Post, and thereby all post offices, must be legislated as an autonomous public bank, providing all banking services to the communities in which they are located, supported and guaranteed by the Commonwealth Government of Australia. The services provided must include, but not be limited to, deposits and withdrawals of cash, business loans, personal loans.

All training of personnel to adequately provide these services, the necessary equipment, buildings and infrastructure must be provided by the Commonwealth Government of Australia.

I make this submission in good faith and with a concern for the mental and financial welfare of the general population of Australia, both urban and regional.

Yours faithfully  
Colin R Shapland