



## Media Release

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### TELSTRA JOB LOSSES A SIGN OF WORKPLACE INSECURITY

Federal Member for Newcastle Sharon Grierson says Telstra must ensure proper processes are followed to ensure the 219 workers who will lose their jobs by next February receive their full entitlements and proper assistance to find other work.

Telstra's decision will lead to the loss of 109 permanent and 110 contracted agency staff in February next year.

"I have today sought and received an assurance from Telstra that all permanent employees, whether they are on AWAs or Enterprise Agreements, will have the same redundancy entitlements," Ms Grierson said. "However, the 110 contracted agency staff will have no special benefits, typifying the increased uncertainty of a growing casualised workforce."

"I welcome that the process of informing staff appears to have been as good as it could be in the circumstances and that the advance notice may assist staff to fully consider their future employment opportunities."

"I will be working with Telstra, unions and workers to make sure the proper process is followed from here, including making sure workers receive their full entitlements. Given the extent of restructuring by Telstra in regions like Newcastle, I urge management to consider some additional training assistance to these employees to help them find another job."

"I'm disappointed that Newcastle has not retained its Service Advantage Centre given the region's commitment to call centre training and facilities."

"Newcastle's unemployment rate rose to 5.2% in April - an increase of almost 1% - so this loss of 219 skilled jobs from Telstra is a further blow to our region."

"Telstra needs to make a firm commitment that other Newcastle-based services, including those in Telstra Country Wide, network planning, the Trading Post and Sensis will remain into the future."

"Despite the Howard Government's rhetoric, workers today faced with redundancy and job losses feel a greater insecurity knowing that new employment will be under the WorkChoices regime."

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