ACCC SUBMISSION Re: AUSTRALIA POST INCREASE IN BASIC POSTAGE RATE

DAVID AND JANET MCINTYRE

OLINDA LICENSED POST OFFICE

OLINDA, VICTORIA 3788

ATTEN: Mr Robert Wright

Seven years ago, my wife and I decided to purchase a post office, expecting it to be a sound and rewarding venture. The challenge of providing the Community Service Obligations for the government and Australia Post, was very appealing, and we hoped to retire not having to rely on a pension. We invested our life savings into this business, but we have been sadly disappointed. My wife and I have not had a holiday for seven years, and have been unable to increase our superanuation.

We feel we have been and are still being treated unfairly by Australia Post, who are actively poaching our business from our customers, thru the sale of online products and unfair discounts, which makes it very difficult for us to compete. The other major factor is the lack of increases in the Basic Postage Rate over the last 20 years which a lot of our payments and commissions are linked, and has put us a long way behind the CPI.

While there has been some small increases to our payments over the past 2 years, our profits are still in decline and operating costs are increasing. On average I am earning $12 per hour, quite pathetic really, it is imperative that the ACCC realise the plight of many of the small, privately owned post offices, and grant AP the full BPR increase, this will not resolve all of our issues but will help to keep us financially viable.

We thank you for your consideration with this matter.

Yours truly

David and Janet