

MEDIA RELEASE



The Hon **David Hawker** MP
Federal Member for Wannon



24 September 2009

SPEAK UP TO SAVE LOCAL PAY PHONES

Federal Member for Wannon, David Hawker, is urging Glenelg residents to speak up to save their pay phones.

Mr Hawker's call comes after revelations Telstra is considering removing pay phones in Casterton, Condah, Nelson, Portland, Sandford, Tyrendarra and Winnap.

"Telstra is currently holding a community consultation process to determine the need for these pay phones and I urge all Glenelg residents to voice their concerns to ensure Telstra continues to provide these important services," Mr Hawker said.

"Whilst the use of pay phones may have declined in recent years with the prevalence of mobile phone usage, pay phones still play a very important role in our communities. It is comforting for people to know that in an emergency they can call their family, or in some cases the emergency services at the local pay phone.

"Western Victoria has an ageing population and many elderly people do not have easy access to a mobile phone," Mr Hawker said.

Mr Hawker said if enough local residents speak up Telstra will leave the pay phones where they are.

"Residents in the tiny town of Moonambel in the north of the electorate were very vocal when Telstra suggested removing their pay phone last year. The result? Well, the phone is still there," he said.

Mr Hawker said concerned residents should write to Telstra Countrywide at P.O Box 584 Ballarat 3353, email Caroline.R.Vergura@team.telstra.com or call 9856 7793 and voice their support to save their local pay phone.

- ENDS -

Media contact: Jane Templeton (03) 5572 1100