

SLD 09/435 – 25 November 2009

By email: TELSTRA MEMBERS

**MESSAGE FROM CEPU ABOUT MICK ROCCA'S MESSAGE – 22,000 NETWORK SITES FOR CLEAN UP.**

Can you believe it? Mick Rocca, Group Managing Director, wants to clean up, repair and spruce up Telstra's network sites throughout Australia, basically with volunteers apparently.

This is the Telstra equivalent of funding the armed forces through cake stalls and charity tea parties isn't it? This has got to be an early April fool's joke?

Telstra Management have spent decades contracting out the various cleaning and maintenance at these sites to the cheapest bidder, ignoring the dangers to employees and the public due to inadequate maintenance and demanding that the work efforts and targets of their employees be aimed elsewhere.

On top of that Telstra Management decided decades ago that exchanges shouldn't be manned and following that they proceeded to dehumanise the sites, taking out all the facilities that make them even a little human friendly, to ensure employees visited them as rarely as possible.

Now after decades of deliberate neglect, all of a sudden site maintenance and clean up becomes a priority; BUT it's apparently to be done by volunteers, (employees and even their families), by charity. Not paid work but unpaid work to be performed for and on behalf of one of the most profitable companies in Australia.

Apart from the principle Mick, we have to also say your timing in this is absolutely breathtaking. Here is the Senior Management of Telstra (we presume you have discussed it with others) saying to mainly EBA based staff, please volunteer to help to get Management out of its self inflicted "hole", at the same time you are discriminating against EBA employees in their pay, relative to ECA employees. How do you figure this Mick?

Even with AWA employees do you expect them to volunteer their own time in the year that you confine their annual pay increase to less than 2%, which represents a real wage cut? Are you for real Mick?

CEPU's view to employees, for what it's worth, (and this has never been discussed with us by management anyway), is tell Management to forget it. Pay for work done out of Telstra's near record profits and this time get it done properly and regularly, and then you won't have a problem.

Further, if you want EBA employees to go above and beyond their normal work then start treating them like equals and not paying second class wage rates and second class pay increases.

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CEPU Branch Secretary  
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As a result of the Rocca letter, at least some CEPU members received the following SMS:

"Volunteers are sort for a cleanup exchange day, 5 December a Saturday morning. Exchanges to be cleaned are yet to be nominated, BBQ for lunch supplied. Family members are also invited. If interested call/SMS me by 10AM this Friday."

**PLEASE NOTE: URGENT EBA ACTION CAMPAIGN INFORMATION TO FOLLOW**