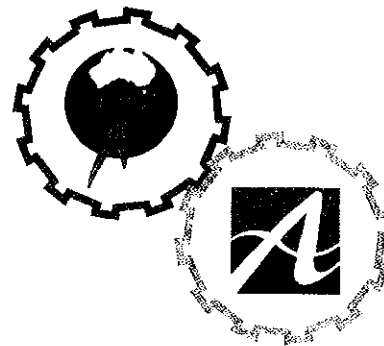


COTA NATIONAL SENIORS



21 December 2004

Mr. Lew Owens
Chairman
Essential Services Commission of SA
GPO Box 2605
ADELAIDE SA 5001

Lew
Dear Mr. Owens

COTA National Seniors welcomes the opportunity to comment on the Essential Services Commission's Draft prepayment Meter Code.

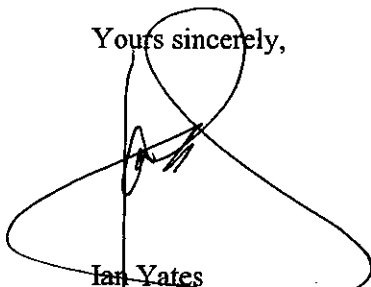
COTA National Seniors is the peak consumer organization for older South Australians with over 34,000 members in this state. COTA National Seniors has already supplied a submission to ESCOSA addressing our initial concerns about the introduction of prepayment meters into South Australia.

After discussions with the COTA National Seniors Policy Council we believe that the concerns raised in our original submission have now been addressed by the ESCOSA prepayment meter code. The Policy Council is therefore less uncomfortable with allowing the introduction of prepayment meters into SA.

We would still like to emphasize that we have some concerns that customers in private rental circumstances and retirement villages may be coerced into accepting prepayment contracts through reselling arrangements. We ask ESCOSA ensure that the conditions within the prepayment metering code sufficiently prohibit a prepayment contract from being entered through another contract or lease arrangement and those customers are asked to declare on their application form that they are not entering a contract as a condition of another contract or lease arrangement.

COTA National Seniors thanks ESCOSA for its vigilance and response to our original submission.

Yours sincerely,



Ian Yates
Executive Director