

WORLD TRADE ORGANIZATION

RESTRICTED

S/NGBT/W/12/Add.6/Rev.2/Corr.1*

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Negotiating Group on Basic Telecommunications

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COMMUNICATION FROM AUSTRALIA

Draft Offer on Basic Telecommunications

Revision

Corrigendum

With regard to footnotes ¹ and ² on page 5 of document S/NGBT/W/12/Add.6/Rev.2, line 2.2 and paragraph 2.2. (a) should read as follows:

2.2 Interconnection to be ensured¹

- (a) under non-discriminatory terms, conditions (including technical standards and specifications) and rates and of a quality no less favourable than that provided for its own like services or for like services of non-affiliated service suppliers or for its subsidiaries or other affiliates²;

*English only

¹The interconnection regime to apply in Australia from 1 July 1997 (Subject to Parliamentary passage of the necessary legislation) will provide access on terms and conditions which are fair and reasonable to all parties and which do not unfairly discriminate between users. The terms and conditions will be established primarily through an industry code of practice and through publicly available access undertakings by each carrier. The code of practice and each carrier's undertaking will be subject to approval by the independent regulator.

²Non-discrimination is taken to mean on an MFN and National Treatment basis. In the fully competitive market in Australia, the rate at which interconnection is provided is determined by negotiation. Both negotiating parties have recourse to an independent arbitrator which will make a decision based on transparent criteria to ensure that rates are fair and reasonable in the circumstances. This does not necessarily result in rates that are in all cases accounted the same as for the carrier's own like services.