

Media Release

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Banks – bring them into line!

Once upon a time, Australian banks were regulated and what a time it was for their customers.

According to NSW Senate candidate for new political party, Hear Our Voice, financial deregulation of Australian banks has been disastrous, especially for people with small savings.

“Since the advent of financial deregulation, banks have raised fees and charges, cut services and exploited their collective monopoly power whenever possible,” Toni McLennan said.

“Most banks have no conscience. For many Australians the banks charge outrageous fees for the privilege of accessing their own money and there are many stories of poor customer service.

“One Hear Our Voice member told me recently that his bank lost his title deeds when he was selling his home and then charged him fees for the sale despite being on a choice package which meant he should not have had to pay extra fees. And the banks get away with it most of the time.

“Since deregulation the nature of banking and banking institutions has changed. We have gone too far in encouraging banks and other basic institutions to be simply money making enterprises.

“Australians deserve a banking system that works for the benefit of everyone, not just for share holders.

“Hear Our Voice proposes to re-regulate the banking industry in the following ways: regulating the maximum fees and charges financial institutions can charge customers; capping the comparison home loan interest rate at no higher than 8.5 per cent; and the establishment of a community service charter whereby only banks complying with this charter should have deposit (insurance) guarantees.

“We also propose the re-establishment of a publicly-owned bank – like the Kiwibank in New Zealand. The Kiwibank is indeed a success story which we should implement here in Australia.

“We need regulation – regulation would give the Australian people some power again over the banking institutions,” Toni McLennan said.

Media Note: For more information contact Dan McMillan, Campaign Director, ph 0418 266 008