

WAYNE ROBINSON



Political power

Two Sides Australia has been doing a great job highlighting the rort instigated by the big banks, telcos and utility suppliers whereby they charge their customers to receive a printed bill. Promoted by the corps as an environmentally beneficial way to pay bills the reality is that those same corporations are netting literally millions of dollars in extra revenue, and mainly from the people who can least afford it - the elderly and the vulnerable - a distinctly grubby exercise indeed.

Now the lobbying is paying off, in stage one anyway, with Labor heavyweight Senator Sam Dastyari getting on board and making some strong statements, telling the government that choice is all well and good but they cannot allow the disenfranchised to be penalised by profiteering corporations.

Having a Senator on board has meant the message is suddenly on the

public agenda, which highlights the power of politicians.

Senator Dastyari's concern is not print itself of course, but his concern is completely valid and highlights that in the new world print has its place. Let's get behind Two Sides in its endeavours. If you are not backing print then who will, because make no



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mistake print is under attack on many fronts, an often ill-informed attack, but as they say if a lie is repeated often enough it becomes the truth. Check out our feature on Two Sides in this issue of ProPrint, and see how you can be involved in one of their trio of important campaigns.

And that leads us nicely to that other great star of the online world - the national Census - and the absolute

shambles it has been this time around in its great online move, promoted as easier for all. Some people think that innovation and online are the same thing, and that online is the panacea to all our problems, well the Census clearly showed it is not.

Quite apart from the fiasco of August 9 when the website had to be taken down under apparently what was a schoolboy attack, online data management is a massive issue, and many of us have serious qualms about handing such personal data with our names attached to anyone, let alone a government agency. The ABS says it is safe, which clearly cannot be true, if NASA can be hacked then an obscure government site obviously can be as well.

Paper forms by stark contrast cannot be hacked, and will not be shut down due to too much traffic - unless of course they are being transported along Parramatta Road.