

Notes to the Financial Statements

1. Basis of preparation

In this financial report, we, us, our, Telstra and the Telstra Group - all mean Telstra Corporation Limited, an Australian corporation and its controlled entities as a whole. Telstra Entity is the legal entity, Telstra Corporation Limited. Telstra Entity is a company limited by shares incorporated in Australia whose shares are publicly traded on the Australian Stock Exchange.

Our financial or fiscal year ends on 30 June. Unless we state differently the following applies:

- year, fiscal year or financial year means the year ended 30 June;
- reporting date means the date 30 June; and
- 2012 means fiscal 2012 and similarly for other fiscal years.

The financial report of the Telstra Group for the year ended 30 June 2012 was authorised for issue in accordance with a resolution of the Telstra Board of Directors on 9 August 2012.

The principal accounting policies used in preparing the financial report of the Telstra Group are set out in note 2 to our financial statements.

1.1 Basis of preparation of the financial report

This financial report is a general purpose financial report, prepared by a for-profit entity, in accordance with the requirements of the Australian Corporations Act 2001, Accounting Standards applicable in Australia and other authoritative pronouncements of the Australian Accounting Standards Board. This financial report also complies with International Financial Reporting Standards and Interpretations published by the International Accounting Standards Board.

Both the functional and presentation currency of the Telstra Entity and its Australian controlled entities is Australian dollars. The functional currency of certain non Australian controlled entities is not Australian dollars. As a result, the results of these entities are translated to Australian dollars for presentation in the Telstra Group financial report.

This financial report is prepared in accordance with historical cost, except for some categories of investments and some financial instruments which are recorded at fair value. Cost is the fair value of the consideration given in exchange for net assets acquired.

In preparing this financial report, we are required to make judgements and estimates that impact:

- income and expenses for the year;
- the reported amounts of assets and liabilities; and
- the disclosure of off balance sheet arrangements, including contingent assets and contingent liabilities.

We continually evaluate our judgements and estimates. We base our judgements and estimates on historical experience, various other assumptions we believe to be reasonable under the circumstances and, where appropriate, practices adopted by international telecommunications companies. Actual results may differ from our estimates.

1.2 Clarification of terminology used in our income statement

Under the requirements of AASB 101: "Presentation of Financial Statements", we must classify all of our expenses (apart from any finance costs and our share of net profit/loss from jointly controlled and associated entities) according to either the nature (type) of the expense or the function (activity to which the expense relates). We have chosen to classify our expenses using the nature classification as it more accurately reflects the type of operations we undertake.

Earnings before interest, income tax expense, depreciation and amortisation (EBITDA) reflects our profit for the year prior to including the effect of net finance costs, income taxes, depreciation and amortisation. Depreciation and amortisation are calculated in accordance with AASB 116: "Property, Plant and Equipment" and AASB 138: "Intangible Assets" respectively. We believe that EBITDA is a relevant and useful financial measure used by management to measure the company's operating performance.

Our management uses EBITDA and earnings before interest and income tax expense (EBIT), in combination with other financial measures, primarily to evaluate the company's operating performance before financing costs, income tax and non-cash capital related expenses.

In consideration of the capital intensive nature of our business, EBITDA is a useful supplement to net profit in understanding cash flows generated from operations that are available for payment of income taxes, debt servicing and capital expenditure. In addition, we believe EBITDA is useful to investors because analysts and other members of the investment community largely view EBITDA as a key and widely recognised measure of operating performance.

EBIT is a similar measure to EBITDA, but takes into account the effect of depreciation and amortisation.

1.3 Rounding

All dollar amounts in this financial report (except where indicated) have been rounded to the nearest million dollars (\$m) for presentation. This has been done in accordance with Australian Securities and Investments Commission (ASIC) Class Order 98/100, dated 10 July 1998, issued under section 341(1) of the Corporations Act 2001. Telstra is an entity to which this class order applies.