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MEDIA RELEASE

29/7/04

Postcards from Australians call on Latham to reject USFTA

Community organisations will today present to Mark Latham over 1400 postcards sent by Australians around the country, calling on the ALP to reject the US Free Trade Agreement.

The postcards have been sent by Australians from around the country, and will be delivered to Mark Latham's office on **Thursday 29 July at 12.00pm, at 2 Oxford Rd Ingleburn NSW**. This will be part of a community rally calling on the ALP to reject the USFTA.

The postcards were organised by the Australian Fair Trade and Investment Network (AFTINET), a national network of 87 community organisations and many more individuals concerned about the impacts trade agreements on health, cultural and social policies. The postcards have been sent by Australians from around the country, and call on Labor to reject the USFTA.

Dr. Patricia Ranald, Convenor of the AFTINET, said "There was a huge demand for the postcards from around Australia. People wanted a way to tell the ALP to reject the USFTA, because its impacts on areas such as pharmaceutical prices, Australian content in the media, copyright, quarantine and jobs mean that it is not in the national interest."

The postcards come a week after national health, union, environmental, pensioner, arts and church organisations issued a joint statement calling on the Senate to reject the USFTA implementing legislation. The legislation will be introduced into the Senate next week. The ALP has stated that it will wait for the current Senate inquiry into the USFTA to report before making a decision, but that it will reject the agreement if it is not in the national interest.

Dr Ranald added "Economic and health experts, national community bodies and ordinary Australians have all clearly said that the USFTA is clearly not in the national interest. This is a flawed agreement which should not be implemented."

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