

PARENT TOPIC 6 MOBILE PHONES

Owning and using a Mobile Phones

We already know from research undertaken for MakingCents that some upper primary aged children have mobile phones or they are planning to get one. Calculating the cost, pp 17 – 32 uses the character of Alex and explores a range of issues about owning and using a mobile phone.

You could use the exercise to help you work through some of responsibilities associated with the use of a mobile phone. Look at the bills and compare to other bills like the electricity and gas bills.

Here is another exercise you could use to make you more aware of looking out for the small print:

Features:

^^\$30 a month plan

Free handset (worth \$48) – 40 ring tones – vivid screen

**Free 5 minute calls and FREE SMS – between same mobiles – all day, every day

^24 cents for 10 minute calls to any landline in Australia – all day every day

^Ultra low 11 cents SMS to all networks in Australia – all day every day

Terms and Conditions:

**Between same mobiles, standard call rate applies after 5 minutes

^Standard call rate applies aft 10 minutes – the standard call rate is \$1 a minute peak and 30 cents a minute off peak

^^The contract for the \$30 dollars per month will be for over 24 month

Offer subject to availability and credit approval

Cost of plan for one year =

Cost of 60 landline calls for 1 year@ 10 minutes each per month =

Getting into a contract

You may get into serious debt if you make a quick decision without reading the contract. Free calls and text messages may be great but if they are within a certain time and then all others are charged at a premium rate then that is not so good. '40 free text messages per week' sounds good until you work out that you send around 30 a day!

What are premium services?

There is some good news for parents and mobile users in the family. New legislation (July, 2009) now covers mobile premium services. Mobile premium services, such as ring tones, music, games, competitions, sports scores and horoscopes, are delivered to a mobile phone for a higher cost than regular short message services (SMS). This has been a common complaint linked with high bills.