

communications network to carry text, data, video and sound. Essentially, this pilot project using enhanced, existing voice / data lines, is a prelude to broadband development in order to attract public interest and investment.

In March, 1994, *Telecom* and Broken Hill Proprietary Ltd (BHP), which is Australia's largest conglomerate corporation, launched a A\$45 million, five year project, known as SiteLight. SiteLight will use synchronous digital hierarchy to link business premises with the optical fibre network. It will give users access to client serving computing, imaging, multimedia and advanced ATM networks.

Telecommuting is considered an important potential market enabled by the electronic highway. A recent (March, 1994), Australian Public Service Award, will assess applications for home-based work on a case by case basis. Once approved the Commonwealth will pay to set up a home workplace and supply items such as ergonomic chairs and laptop computers. An "Award" regulates terms and conditions of work.

An award is a legally binding document, recording the outcome of negotiations between a union and employer of the outcome of an arbitration process. Awards cover unionised and also non-unionised workers so they cover over 85% of workers in Australia and are very comprehensive in their impact on working conditions.

Union membership in Australia is high, though declining. Very large enterprises and the public sector have about 70% union membership.

2.2.6 Broadcast Services - Public

To date, most Australian homes have accessed only three commercial television channels and two government run television services (the ABC and SBS). Satellite services and access to cable TV using the optical fibre network will radically alter the services available to homes over the coming decade.

National radio and television broadcasting agencies include:

- National Transmission Agency (NTA)