



# ACCC *update*

Issue 3, March 1999

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The Australian Competition and Consumer Commission operates nationally at the forefront of administration and enforcement of competition and consumer protection law.

Legislative changes have given the Commission new regulatory roles in many sectors — such as the electricity, gas and telecommunications industries.

Changes affecting the huge small business sector took place in 1998 and this is now a particular focus for the Commission. Issues 1 and 2 carried articles about the changes. This issue introduces the ACCC small business officers and gives some background on the methods being used to target the sector.

A future change for which the Commission is already gearing up is the price monitoring and anti-exploitation role it is to be given for the transition to incorporation of a GST into the tax system. (See page 6)

The Trade Practices Act covers all businesses in Australia, including government enterprises and many thousands of previously exempt unincorporated firms such as professional practices.

The continuing growth in responsibilities imposes new and wider obligations on the Commission to inform the public about its activities. It is important that businesses, and their customers, be well informed about rights and obligations under the law.

**ACCC update** is published to give the wider community general information about the Commission's work and responsibilities.

The aim is to report regularly on new developments and issues of particular interest and to encourage 'feedback' from the community.

Much more detailed information is available in the wide range of ACCC publications (available from all the offices listed at the back) or from the Commission's regularly updated Internet site at <http://www.accc.gov.au>.