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Professor Fels leaves and Graeme Samuel arrives with the ACCC in fine shape; an ideal time for Update to take a look at the organisation that has grown so much in stature and authority since Allan Fels became the founding chairman in 1995. In a milestone edition Update takes stock on where the ACCC is now and where it's going.

This edition summarises what the organisation exactly does, tells how we achieve results, outlines the legal basis of our work, suggests the benefits that are achieved and lets you know how to become involved.

The text is designed to be useful rather than all-inclusive. Linked web sites are provided throughout the text for readers who seek more detail. For those without the internet, more information on any ACCC matter can be obtained by calling the Infocentre on 1300 302 502.

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Graeme Samuel appointed to head the ACCC

Graeme Samuel AO will be acting chairman of the Australian Competition and Consumer Commission from 1 July 2003 for a period of 12 months. Within that period the Treasurer will write to the states and territories seeking their support for the permanent appointment of Mr Samuel as chairman and Ms Louise Sylvan as deputy chairperson of the ACCC.

Mr Samuel has been the National Competition Council's president since 1997. From 1981 to 1986 he was executive director of Macquarie Bank. His career as a banker was preceded by 12 years as a partner of leading Melbourne law firm Phillips Fox and Masel. Graeme Samuel has held several other offices, including chair of the Melbourne and Olympic Parks Trust, commissioner of the Australian Football League, member of the Docklands Authority, a trustee of the Melbourne Cricket Ground Trust (1992-98), president of the Australian Chamber of Commerce and Industry (1995-97) and chair of the Inner and Eastern Health Care Network.

Ms Sylvan is currently chief executive officer of the Australian Consumers' Association. She has served for six years on the Prime Minister's Economic Planning Advisory Council.