



## BROADBAND CONNECTIONS CONTINUE TO GROW

The take-up of broadband internet connections continues to grow at a rapid pace with nearly three million connections now in place across the country, according to the latest ACCC Snapshot of broadband deployment.

The report shows that at the end of December 2005 there were 2 785 000 broadband services connected across Australia. Of these, more than two million were ADSL connections.

Despite the continued strong take-up, there was a slowing in growth in the December 2005 quarter to 12.1 per cent.

The survey takes into account the varied ways broadband data services are delivered, those being cable, satellite, ADSL, other DSL and miscellaneous other sources such as wireless and satellite. However, because not all service providers are included in the figures, the actual number of connections is likely to be higher than the reported figure.

According to the report, growth in DSL connections continued to be significant, and ADSL connections had passed the two million mark by December last year.

The December results complete the overall trend of consistent growth in broadband take-up throughout 2005. Although growth in the December quarter was down on previous quarters, 2005 saw the take-up of broadband services increase by 85 per cent, which amounted to an increase of over 1.25 million customers.

In 2005, it was the take-up of DSL broadband that by far exhibited the strongest growth. However, there was also steady growth in the take-up of broadband delivered by other technologies, including satellite and cable. There are also signs that take-up of wireless broadband services is beginning to increase, albeit off a limited base.

The ACCC is required to report quarterly at the aggregate level on wholesale and retail broadband availability and take-up, including information on technology type, data speed, data usage, geographic postcode and business sector. Previous reports are available for download from the ACCC website.