



New telecommunications consumer action network

The Australian Government has announced the formation of a new peak telecommunications consumer body, the Australian Communications Consumer Action Network (ACCAN) and its founding board.

Senator Stephen Conroy, Minister for Broadband, Communications and the Digital Economy, said the development of ACCAN was '... an important step in the process towards a stronger unified consumer voice. Strong and effective consumer representation is paramount for a vibrant and competitive telecommunications market'.

ACCAN will promote consumer issues in the development of telecommunications policy and industry processes. Its founding board members represent a range of interests and experience from different sectors of the community:

- Nan Bosler—President, Australian Seniors Computer Clubs Association; Director, Consumers' Telecommunications Network (CTN)

- Len Bytheway—Chief Executive Officer, ACT for Kids; Director (Deputy Chair), CTN
- Aaron Davis—Chief Executive Officer, Indigenous Consumer Assistance Network
- Gerard Goggin—Professor of Digital Communication and Deputy Director, Journalism and Media Research Centre, University of New South Wales
- Catriona Lowe—Co-Chief Executive Officer, Consumer Action Law Centre; Chair, Consumers Federation of Australia
- Kyle Miers—Manager, National Information and Projects with Deaf Children Australia; President, Deaf Australia; Founding Member, Australian Federation of Disability Organisations

- Holly Raiche—Executive Director, Internet Society of Australia; Director, CTN; Member, ACMA Consumer Consultative Forum
- Sue Salthouse—Director, Didactic Enterprise; Chair, Communications Alliance Disability Council
- Alex Varley—Chief Executive Officer, Media Access Australia; Member, ACMA Consumer Consultative Forum.

'I welcome the spirit of cooperation and collaboration shown by the disability; small business; general consumer; internet; regional, rural and remote; low-income and Indigenous sectors in supporting the formation of ACCAN,' Senator Conroy said.

Temporary community broadcasting licences allocated, August 2008

State	Licence area	Licensee	Community served	Frequency	Start	Finish	Allocated
NSW	Wilcannia RA1	Murdi Paaki Regional Enterprise Corporation Ltd	Aboriginal	103.1 MHz	1/10/08	30/09/09	21/08/08
WA	Fremantle RA1	Western Sports Media Inc.#	Sport	91.3 MHz	1/09/08	31/08/09	28/08/08
WA	Fremantle RA1	Portuguese Cultural and Welfare Centre Inc.#	Portuguese-speaking community	91.3 MHz	1/09/08	31/08/09	28/08/08
WA	Perth RA1	Phoenix Radio Ltd#	Country music	101.7 MHz	1/09/08	31/08/09	28/08/08
WA	Perth RA1	The Young Men's Christian Association of Perth Inc.#	Youth	101.7 MHz	1/09/08	31/08/09	28/08/08

#operating under a time-share arrangement