# ACCANect 2018

**Session 19: 4:50 – 5:00pm**

**Day One - summary and close**

**Presenters:**

**Julie McCrossin, MC**

**Teresa Corbin, ACCAN CEO**

JULIE McCROSSIN: I'll invite Teresa to make some closing remarks.

Could you make her welcome?

TERESA CORBIN: I actually could have gone another ten minutes on

that topic too. Thank you very much for that and thank you to all

the speakers and thank you Julie for keeping up with us all and

keeping us all awake and engaged, I know you won't be here

tomorrow and that will be my job before we go to drinks I do want

to say something small and make a small acknowledgement. Next

year is going to be a ACCAN's ten year anniversary, what a shock

for those of us out there but what I want to say is what was

happening ten years ago was we were all that were active consumer

advocates at the time, and those in Government and regulators and

industry trying to come up with a model that might serve us better

in relation to consumer representation and research, and that ended

up being ACCAN but at this point in history ten years ago we didn't

quite know that, we thought it might head in a good direction but

we didn't know where it was going but there was two really

important people that are not actually with us anymore and ten

years ago within the space of a month we lost both of them. So I

just really want to acknowledge those people because for those of

us who now and them they were very important people. Very

emotional, sorry. So yes of course for those of you who knew them

I'm talking about Maureen LeBlanc, and she was also an extremely

important person in the Telstra consumer consultive processes over

many years and she left bequest for ACCAN when she passed away

$50,000 so we could do some consumer education and as it turns

out we used that money to create an app downloaded within a

month by 12,000 people so that was pretty effective thing and

probably impacted a lot on the mobile coverage issue and how we're

addressing that in Government now. And the oh person of course is

Christopher Newell. I can't tell you how many people who work in

the space after accessibility now, young people who are doing that

work who say to me "Gee, I wish I'd met Christopher" because

they've read his work and they hear stories about him and let me

tell you, there was no holds barred with Christopher, you certainly

couldn't get away with anything that was considered to be

inappropriate as far as accessibility goes and I remember once he I

think he might have sent me an extremely stern text message

followed up by a recorded message about something I'd say, I've

forgotten what I said but I remember ringing him up and profusely

apologising and he just laughed and said, "I didn't mean for you to

fall on your sword and disembowel yourself, it's fine. Just wanted to

point out to you you were wrong." This is the sort of thing that

Christopher taught us all a lot and still is teaching many people a lot

of things and there's a lot of people continuing both the work of

Maureen and Christopher so when you have your drink tonight if you

could just do a toast to them and remember that we stand on the

shoulders of greatness. Thank you. (APPLAUSE)

JULIE McCROSSIN: So ladies and gentlemen, thank you so much for

having me and remember you have to give me back the watch, and

please now we'll have our networking drink, thank you very much.

(APPLAUSE)