ACCANect 2018

Day 2 Thursday, 13 September 2018

**Session 9: 12:35 – 12:45pm**

**ACCAN Grants Program**

**Presenter:**

**Tanya Karliychuk, ACCAN Grants & Research Officer**

**The ACCAN Grants Program is administered as part of our funding agreement with the Department of Communications and the Arts. It funds projects that help achieve our vision with a focus on consumer outcomes. Tanya will provide a brief overview of the upcoming round and introduce a few of the current grantees.**

**Vox Pops from other Grants Program recipients**

TERESA CORBIN: And now we are going to introduce Tanya who is also just going to be giving out a gift and then going up. She's our grants and research officer and she looks after our grant program. She'll tell you a bit more about it.

TANYA KARLIYCHIK: Thank you and it's really great to, a real privilege to be able to work with some of these great minds under the grants program. I will be throwing in a couple of minutes to a couple of our other our current grantees, if we could get a microphone to Diarmaid and to Marianne if you're all ready to go. We'll get ready to open the new grants are very exciting for us. I wanted to run through a few of those with you. So that you are getting all your projects ready and that you're talking to about what your plan are and apply for. A couple of the major changes, we're going to two stage application process which means we'll be taking expressions of interest first, over a shortened application form, hopefully making that a whole lot easier for you to get your idea across, the basics of what you want to cleave and for those who do pass the stage you'll be getting feedback from the panel, questions to address, to hopefully really develop your application in a way that really serves the consumers that we're ultimately trying to benefit under the scheme. We arrived at separating the three type of grants into a research stream and an education and representation stream. So the education stream for example is an area where community sector organisations generally do the bulk of their work, there's going to be a separate bucket of money for education and representation versus research. All of it will be an open and competitive process. Still need to address all the criteria and be judged against those but we hope it makes it easier and more a level playing field for those different type of projects which really sometime you're comparing apples and oranges in that way. Next year, for various reasons we have a little bit more money available on offer so there's a total pool of $380,000 so that's a very good year to apply if you are considering it, as always we're open to anybody applying with an ABN that mean any community group, industry, independent researcher, or University etc so I really do encourage if you have any idea at all please talk to us, we can really help you to develop your idea and to develop your application so say in what gets up which means that it's in my interest to help you get the best application submitted as a possibility. These are some of the resources all produced under the scheme are available for download on our website. Please use them. You're all here because of you have an interest in consumer issue, ACCAN's website is a really great repository of resources, we founded over 50 project under the grant scheme in the last ten years, go to our website, there's plenty there. Also wanted to tell you about an opportunity that's currently now available to we're looking for the third member of our independent grants panel so these are the people who assess the applications, we're particularly looking for somebody with experience in the community sector and community project management. If that's you, or somebody if your networks please encourage them to have a look at our website, all of the information is there, applications will close October 8, and again speak to us or just have your application in by that date. OK. So hopefully I've encouraged you enough to talk to us if you have any project ideas, I am going to pass now to Diarmaid first and then to Marianne. Diarmaid perhaps introduce yourself and what your project is about.

DIARMAID HARKIN: Is it working now? I'm Dr Diarmaid Harkin I'm a criminologist from Deakin University and we're doing a project on the consumer spy ware industry, particularly in term of mobile phone, whether you're aware of it or not there's a series of company, out there who sell spy ware effectively, on the general consumer market so this isn't like dark net or anything anything, this is for surface to Internet stuff ware is really significant, so if for instance you were to get flexi spy on to somebody's device be that an iPhone or Android you can get things like you can get recordings of the phone calls that these people make, the recordings of the VOIP conversations, access to people's photo and cameras, private messages across various applications whether that's Facebook messenger, DM on Twitter, so on, you can even get access to the camera, you can request photos to be taken and the device doesn't any any indication that photos are being taken and some of the latest functionalities we've seen in some of the spy ware is to goes into an impersonation function, some of them allow -you send messages from the captured device to other people who think it's coming lightly from that person but it's coming from a spy ware operator so we're looking at and these companies, the market themselves as being for parental monitoring or also for employee monitoring but some of them are just out and out they want you to use this in the context of spying on intimate partners catch cheating, you see those sort of phrases, this spy ware has a particular acute issue in the family violence sector, so we are talking with a lot of people in the family violence sector who tell us that digital tracking is a known issue, and spy ware in particular is acutely found in that year and you have the actual threat of spy ware but there's this kind of myth around it and the perceived threat can also be, have it own psychologically effect to people suffering from family violence in particular so we're in this project, it has a couple of different element, looking at doing market analysis of what's out there, doing some legal analysis of how the distribution and selling and implementation of spy ware technical analysis, user analysis that we're buying and paying with the spy ware and figuring out how it works, we're got hack labs here in Sydney part of the project, and they're looking more closely under the bonnet of this material of the spy ware as to how it work and leverage off network infrastructure and so on so we have two goals out of all that. One of the practical goals is we're trying to educate and help the family violence sector get to grips with the threat of this, the legitimate threat and what can be done to remedy it and the second thing is we're also looking at producing evidence on these various spy ware companies to think about how we can disrupt some of the real invasive practices and in that particular industry and hopefully at some point down the line we can maybe leverage some of the expertise of people in this room so help us disrupt some of these practices and share privacy and also the integrity of a lot of people's digital devices particularly mobile phones so that's our project.

MARIANNE ST CLAIR: Marianne St Clair, northern institute. We're part of the college of indigenous futures art and society now. I'm a marine biologist by trade but I'm too old to sit under water counting fish. Some of you probably know me as the former executive officer and foreign coordinator for broadband for the bush so this project is done with broadband for the bush and I have though really acknowledge Tanya and her team's support. We tried at the 2015 broadband bush forum it was identified that we needed hard data about telecommunications so that broadband for bush and other organisations have got some evidence base identified in 2016 forum and then 2017 forum, we did try to get funding through a number of sources we were successful in getting funding through ACCAN so the first part of the project is a national survey of telecommunications and telehealth so we'd really like as many people as possible to do that survey, it's on the ACCAN website, it's also on the broadband for the bush website so just Google B4BA that will come up with the website, we're trying to get a picture across all of Australia, obviously broadband for bush has a lot of interest in regional and remote areas but we do want to take a pick of all of Australia and that survey is totally anonymous, takes about seven or eight minutes unless you want to put lot of text in. The second part of the research is case study analysis, so we are -we have enough volunteers for case study analysis already but if you feel really keen to be part of a case study process, there is an area in the survey that you can link -put your details in and we'll contact you about that. Everything hasn't quite gone to plan with this project. It's been a very big learning experience for me. Little things like cyclone Marcus which was the most damage done to the Darwin area since cyclone Tracey but Tanya and the team have been incredibly helpful and supportive and I've learned so much this year so if you do have ideas about research I think it's a great idea to talk to Tanya and the team.

TANYA KARLIYCHIK: Thank you. You all would have received this brand new publication that we have just put together about the grants program, that should have been in your satchel. There are more out there and there are hard copies of other research reports on the goodies table. Feel free to help yourself. If you miss out and you have gotten down to that display don't take it but download it from our website.

TERESA CORBIN: Thank you Tanya. Time to go and grab some lunch.

(Lunch)