The Australian Communications Consumer Action Network (ACCAN) has welcomed news that NDIS participants will be able to purchase Assistive Technology to help them through the COVID-19 crisis and self-isolation.

“Having access to the right phone or assistive technology is vital for people with disability to be able to access important telehealth services during the COVID-19 pandemic,” said ACCAN Director of Inclusion Wayne Hawkins. “Allowing NDIS participants to use their existing plan funding to purchase Assistive Technology is a very welcomed step by the Government.”

Mr Hawkins explained that it was important for consumers to understand what mainstream and Assistive Technology is available and may best suit their individual needs.

“There is no one-size-fits-all approach to communications products for people with disability. Someone with a vision-impairment is going to have very different needs to someone who is Deaf.”

ACCAN’s Accessible Telecoms service provides free information about both mainstream and assistive communications products and services suitable for seniors and consumers with disability. Consumers can also find training to help them use their new devices.

“As a service that has been funded through the National Disability Insurance Agency, it’s heartening that Accessible Telecoms is able to play a key role in providing information that is vital to keep people with disability connected during this challenging time,” added Mr Hawkins.

For more information on Accessible Telecoms visit www.accessibletelecoms.ideas.org.au/telecom-home.html or call 1800 029 904.