
Gareth Downing – Individual Member

Gareth is a community sector lawyer and economist, with experience in telecommunications economics and regulation. He is currently the policy lead, economic analysis and research with the New South Wales Council of Social Services.

Gareth is passionate about ensuring that all Australians have affordable access to telecommunications services, and in his previous role at ACCAN he was policy lead on matters concerning the National Broadband Network and developed the organisation's positions on broadband affordability. Gareth has a strong understanding of wholesale and retail pricing and regulatory arrangements developed through both his work at ACCAN and his previous work as a Research Economist working in infrastructure economics with the Productivity Commission.

Throughout his professional and academic career, he has had a strong commitment to consumer rights and the application of economics to policy problems in order to facilitate the best possible outcome for the community. In addition to his work with ACCAN, he has prior board experience as a member of the Consumers Federation of Australia executive committee, where he worked on a wide range of consumer policy issues.

As a young professional, Gareth has a keen appreciation of the diverse challenges faced by young Australians seeking to access communications services. He has a passion for ensuring that young people can have access to communications services that meet their needs and allow them to achieve their potential through access to education and employment opportunities.

As an economist, Gareth has extensive training in accounting and financial management and is familiar with financial reporting requirements and prudent budget management. He also has a strong understanding of the obligations and duties of directors, stemming from his extensive legal training and previous experience as a not-for-profit board member.

Holly Raiche – Individual Member

Consumer issues in telecommunications is my passion, and what I have done over many years.

My commitment began with the Communications Law Centre at UNSW as part of a small team fighting for consumer protections as we moved from a monopoly provider to an open competitive environment. Other subsequent hats: advising the Australian Democrats on consumer issues, and project managing consumer code development for ACIF. Very importantly, I was part of a small Department of Communications group that established ACCAN and have spent many years since on its Board.

More recently, I have been involved in Internet Governance, first when I was CEO on Internet Australia, and now Chair of its Policy Committee, again lobbying on behalf of Internet users. I have also been involved in policy panels at auDA (the domain name administrator) and on its Board. I am also deeply involved in Internet governance internationally as one of the Asia Pacific representatives of the At-Large Community for ICANN.

I have written widely on telecommunications issues, including authoring the chapters on the policy background and consumer protections in the Australian Telecommunications Regulation and in the Redfern Legal Centre's Law Handbook. I have taught undergraduate and graduate communications law at the University of NSW, and now teach Internet Governance subjects at Sydney University.

Deirdre O'Donnell – Individual Member

It has been a real honour and privilege to be part of the ACCAN board over the past three years, and to serve as its chair. I am seeking a second term to continue to be part of the great work ACCAN is doing for all Australians through its leadership and vision.

Being a director of ACCAN is without doubt an extremely rewarding role. However being part of the board in the current environment is even more rewarding, when ACCAN's role and mode of operations have become ever more important and central to Australian telecommunications consumers. I believe the board's strong relationship with our CEO, the leadership team and the ACCAN staff is one of our great strengths, and contributes to maintaining a vibrant, proactive and resilient organisation during very challenging times. Our representative nature, our solid engagement with stakeholders and members, and our commitment to ACCAN's values are also part of the board's strengths.

The key skills and experience I bring to the board are my not-for-profit governance expertise, my regulatory experience, and a wide background in the telecommunications sector, including having worked for telcos, the industry regulator and a term as the Telecommunications Industry Ombudsman.

My current activities continue to enhance my governance and regulatory experience, in my volunteer role as chair of a school board and in my employment as a part-time commissioner with a state regulator, the Victorian Commission for Gambling and Liquor Regulation.

I would greatly value being able to continue on the board for a second term, and to being able to make the best contribution I can to the vitally important work of this outstanding organisation.
