

Australian Communications Consumer Action Network

Life Membership Nomination

Motion

That the following nomination for Life Membership be approved

Background

ACCAN is delighted to nominate Mr Len Bytheway a Life Membership of ACCAN.

Len has been a lifelong champion of people with disabilities, particularly for the deaf and hard of hearing. He brought that commitment to the early days of the Consumers' Telecommunications Network (CTN) and then to ACCAN. He has served on the CTN and ACCAN Board in many capacities including as Deputy Chair, Treasurer and member of the Finance and Audit Committee and Performance Committee. He has been a member of the ACCAN Independent Grants Panel since 2020.

He has brought his unique blend of knowledge and experience in communications and information technology to his involvement in ACCAN, with his portfolio of responsibilities including disability access, emergency services and emerging technologies.

Len brings to ACCAN his wealth of experience in both disability issues and communications technology including:

- Len's Churchill Fellowship in deafness and technology which led to the establishment of Deaflink. Deaflink later became the Australian Communication Exchange – for many years the operator of the National Relay Service, - with Len as the founding CEO
- Len's membership on the Board of Deaf Services.
- Len as CEO of the Abused Child Trust (now ACT for Kids)
- Len has also been a consultant and mentor to commercial and non-profit community organisations, including Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander entities.
- Len has also developed communications strategies and resources for the education and community sectors, incorporating accessible media.

ACCAN, its members, and so many consumers owe Len a huge debt of gratitude for his knowledge, his experience and his ongoing commitment to people with disabilities. The ACCAN Board is proud to nominate Len as a Life Member of ACCAN.