



Dollars and Bytes

Communications affordability now and tomorrow

ACCAN National Conference 2015

Date: 1-2 September 2015

Time: registration from 8:30am

Venue: Aerial UTS Function Centre, Sydney

Day 1, Tuesday 1st September

Opening session

9:00-9:30am

Welcome and opening address

MC

Teresa Corbin, CEO ACCAN

Welcome to Country

Uncle Chicka Madden, Cultural Representative, Metropolitan Local Aboriginal Land Council

Welcome Address

Johanna Plante, Chairperson ACCAN Board

Opening Address

The Hon. Malcolm Turnbull MP, Minister for Communications

Keynote session

9:30-10:30am

**Claire Milne, Visiting Senior Fellow, Department of Media and Communications,
London School of Economics**

Claire Milne is an internationally renowned telecommunications policy expert. Claire's abiding concern has been with socially valuable uses of telecommunications and information technologies. This has led to research in the area of universal service and especially affordability of telecommunications. ACCAN is very pleased to welcome Claire as the keynote speaker for the ACCAN National Conference 2015.

10:30-11:00am

Morning tea

Session Two

11:00 -11:30am

Heron Loban, Indigenous Consumers and Communications Affordability

Insights into affordability of telecommunications products and services for Indigenous consumers.

Session Three

11:30-12:30pm **Mapping Affordability Research**

This session will investigate the current research landscape on the affordability of telecommunications products and services and will identify the existing research gaps. By drawing on the expertise of researchers from a wide range of disciplinary backgrounds, this session will provide insightful analysis of relevant research and consider exciting ideas for future research.

Moderator **TBA**

Panel Participants **Prof Julian Thomas**, Director of the Swinburne Institute for Social Research
Dr Greg Ogle, Senior Policy & Research Analyst, South Australian Council of Social Service
Linda Caruso, Economic Advisory, Regulatory Frameworks & International Engagement, ACMA
Diane Carmody, Deputy Ombudsman, Telecommunications Industry Ombudsman
Invited Representative from Australian Bureau of Statistics

12:30-1:30pm **Lunch**

1:30 pm **Michelle Rowland MP-Shadow Minister for Citizenship & Multiculturalism.**
Shadow Assistant Minister for Communication.
Federal Member for Greenway.

Session Four

2:00-3:00pm **Affordability for All-The Real Experience**

This session focuses on ACCAN's basic principle that all Australians should have access to affordable telecommunications services. Participants will discuss a key issue from within the areas of small business, regional and remote consumers, low income and indigenous consumers and consumers with disability. Participants will consider if there are any common issues and discuss possible solutions. The audience will have an opportunity to contribute to the discussion during Q&A.

Facilitator **Chris Dodds**, Senior Policy Officer, Energy & Water Ombudsman NSW

Panel Participants **Katie Acheson**, Managing Director, Youth Action
Jo Benvenuti, Consumers Federation of Australia
Matthew Wight, CEO, Australian Federation of Disability Organisations
Peter Strong, CEO Council of Small Businesses of Australia
Roland Manderson, Deputy Director, Anglicare

3:00 – 3.30 pm **Afternoon Tea**

3:30 pm **Rod Sims, ACCC Chairperson**

Session Five

4:00-5:00pm **Will the price be right?**

This session will look at some of the instruments, market factors and consumer trends that affect prices into the future. It will examine the likely trend in product pricing (broadband, mobile and telephone services) and identify what effect this will have on affordability of products for consumers. In answering this it will develop the conversation from the previous session about what is the basic level of service that consumers will need access to in the future.

Facilitator **Alan Kirkland**, CEO, Choice

Panel Participants **Shara Evans**, CEO, Futurist, Keynote Speaker, Market Clarity

David Forman, Senior Manager, Industry & Policy, Macquarie Telecom

Invited **Paul Paterson**, Chief Economist, Bureau of Communication Research, Department of Communications

Drinks & Canapés

5:00-7:00pm **Apps For All Challenge Awards Ceremony**

Together with Telstra, ACCAN brings you the **Apps For All Challenge** - Australia's only competition for accessible mobile apps, aiming to raise awareness of the issues faced by people with disability and older Australians with using apps on smartphones and tablets. The awards will acknowledge the apps that excel at including everyone.

Day 2, Wednesday 2nd September

Session one

9:00-10:00am **2016: The Year of Digital Inclusion**

Launch of the Year of Digital Inclusion by Infoxchange CEO –David Spriggs. This session will also present the results of ACCAN and Infoxchange research investigating social housing broadband - costs, service options and barriers to broadband take up in social housing and who is responsible for what aspects of the service.

10.00 am **Senator Scott Ludlam, Greens Spokesperson on Communications - invited**

10:30-11:00am **Morning Tea**

Session two

11:00-12:30pm **The Way Forward: the future for communications affordability**

This session brings together thought-leaders and experts to propose new ideas. Unrestrained by commercial interests, political ideology or the status-quo our presenters will propose new and innovative solutions to remove affordability barriers faced by some telecommunications consumers. Responding to these ideas as well as issues and case studies raised on day one of the conference, Australia's leading Telcos will have an opportunity to outline their plans for closing the affordability gap now and into the future.

Facilitator	Teresa Corbin , CEO Australian Communications Consumer Action Network
Panel Participants	Robert Morsillo , Senior Advisor, Digital Inclusion Team, Chief Sustainability Office, Telstra David Epstein , Vice President, Corporate & Regulatory Affairs. Optus Matthew Lobb , General Manager, Industry Strategy & Public Policy, Vodafone Ged Mansour , Head of Corporate Affairs & Communications, amaysim Jeremy Way , Jeenee Mobile
Speaker	Fiona Guthrie , Executive Director, Financial Counselling Australia Dr Scott Hollier , Manager, Major Projects, Media Access Australia Justine Humphry , Lecturer, Cultural & Social Analysis, University of Western Sydney

12:30-1:30pm **Lunch**

1:30 Digital Transformation Office – Paul Shetler invited

Session Three

2:00-3:00pm **Debate: Are new disruptive technologies good for consumers?**

This session will be a lively debate over the consumer benefits of disruptive technologies. Are consumers better off with lower costs and less protection? Will regulation of new technologies undermine consumer benefits? These and other challenging ideas will be debated in this thought provoking session.

Moderator	Delia Rickard , Deputy Chairperson, ACCC
Affirmatives	Brad Kitsche , Director Public Policy (Oceania), Uber
Invited	Daniel Duggan , Yatango Katina Michael , UOW
Negatives	Stilgherrian , Journalist Brendan Coady , Maddocks Lawyers David Vaile , UNSW

Closing remarks

3:00pm **Sum up by Teresa Corbin, ACCAN CEO**

3:05-3:30pm **Afternoon tea**

3:30pm **ACCAN AGM**
