



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

TBA

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

11:00-12:30pm

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.

12:30-1:30pm

Lunch

Session three

1:30-2:15pm Affordability for all

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.

Session four

2:15-3:30pm 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.

3:30-4:00 pm Afternoon tea

Session five

4:00-5:00pm Policies from the politicians

Communications policy has been dominated by the NBN debate. Yet one of the major barriers to internet access is affordability. We ask the politicians to outline their vision for an affordable online future.

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

9:00-10:30am 2016: The Year of Digital Inclusion

TBA.

10:30-11:00am Morning tea

Session two

11:00-11:30am Idea Garden: Affordability unleashed

This session brings together thought-leaders and experts to propose new ideas. Unrestrained by commercial interests, political ideology or the status-quo this session will be an out-of-the-box discussion about new and innovative solutions to affordability barriers faced by some consumers when getting and staying digitally connected.

Session three

11:30-12:30pm Check out the telcos

Come and hear what some of Australia's leading telcos have to say about their plans for closing the affordability gap now and into the future. In this session you will hear how experts from the industry propose to tackle this thorny question and respond to issues and case studies raised on day one. You will get the chance to put to the panel your ideas about what telecommunications consumers really need or perhaps challenge some assumptions about what is affordable.

12:30-1:30pm Lunch

Session four

1:30-3:00pm 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.

Closing remarks

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

3:05-3:30pm Afternoon tea

ACCAN Annual General Meeting

3:30pm ACCAN AGM