

For Immediate Release

ACCAN Appoints First CEO

The Australian Communications Consumers Action Network has appointed Allan Asher as its first Chief Executive Officer (CEO). Allan brings vast consumer experience which he has exercised at the very highest levels in Australia, the UK, Europe and at the United Nations. His grounding in telecommunications is sound, having been a director of corporate affairs in the Overseas Telecommunications Company before it was absorbed into what is now the Telstra Corporation. He has been a beacon for consumers in numerous roles, including as Deputy Chair of the Australian Competition and Consumer Commission; with director positions in the Trade Practices Commission and CHOICE in Australia, WHICH? (CHOICE equivalent in the UK) and Consumers International, and as director of Energywatch, the gas and electricity consumer council in the UK.

“Australian consumers are demanding a fresh approach to consumer consultation and engagement in communications issues, We are confident that Allan will deliver the right mix of local knowledge, appropriate international experience and an exceptional background in consumer representation” said ACCAN Chairman Alex Varley.

“I am also pleased that we have secured Teresa Corbin as the Deputy CEO. Teresa is the CEO of Consumers’ Telecommunications Network (CTN) and has been a major driver of the creation of ACCAN, as well as her outstanding work on telecommunications consumer rights. She and Allan will make a very strong team with a combination of campaigning, communication and policy skills and a vast knowledge of both the Australian and international scene.”

Both Allan and Teresa will formally commence their roles in July, but are currently working on the formation of ACCAN.

About ACCAN: The purpose of Australian Communications Action Network (ACCAN) is to enhance consumer advocacy, reduce duplication, maintain and enhance existing skills and diversity of representation, undertake research and analysis from a consumer perspective. The overarching objective guiding this new body is to ensure effective and equitable communications for all Australian citizens.

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Media enquiries can be made to ACCAN’s media spokesperson, Prof. Gerard Goggin
Mobile: 0428 668 824