

Media release

For immediate release: 22 July 2010

ACCAN CEO Allan Asher appointed Commonwealth Ombudsman

The Australian Communications Consumer Action Network says it is extremely proud that its inaugural chief executive, Allan Asher, has been appointed Commonwealth Ombudsman.

Allan will fill the position vacated by Professor John McMillan, who resigned to take up an appointment as the Information Commissioner Designate.

Sue Salthouse, Chair of the ACCAN Board said today, "The work of the Commonwealth Ombudsman is an excellent fit for Allan to follow on from the role he has played at ACCAN in advocating on behalf of Australian consumers."

Sue says Allan's new role as Commonwealth Ombudsman will be to manage the highest level of complaint regarding any Australian government department or agency.

"Allan is one of Australia's most highly regarded consumer advocates and we believe everyone will benefit from an Ombudsman such as Allan, who is a man of integrity with a strong sense of social justice. We thank Allan for his tireless efforts and energy over the past 12 months that has seen ACCAN emerge as a strong voice in advocating for communications consumers."

Allan will commence his new role the end of August, but ACCAN says it will be business as usual with operations advocacy continuing in the capable hands of Deputy Chief Executive Teresa Corbin (former CEO of CTN) while the ACCAN board recruits for a replacement.

Media contact: Elise Davidson 02 9288 4010 / 0409 966 931 **TTY:** 02 9281 5322

About ACCAN

ACCAN (Australian Communications Consumer Action Network) is Australia's new communications consumer watchdog. ACCAN's purpose is to improve consumer advocacy, undertake research and analysis from a consumer perspective and make the market work for communications consumers. The operation of ACCAN is made possible by funding provided by the Australian government