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ACCAN media release

For immediate release: 18 January 2010

******EXPRESSIONS OF INTEREST EXTENDED TO 20 JANUARY, 2010************

"Expressions of interest sought for ACCAN's Grants Panel"

ACCAN is seeking expressions of interest for an Independent Grants Panel which will make recommendations and administer ACCAN's newly established grants program.

Members of the industry, academia and the community sector who have expert knowledge about communication and consumer issues, an awareness and experience in the community sector and understanding of ACCAN's strategic goals are encouraged to apply.

ACCAN's grants program awards grants for research into the social, economic, environmental or technological implications of developments relating to consumers and projects that represent the interests of consumers in communication issues.

CEO of ACCAN Allan Asher said the Independent Grants Panel gave people the opportunity to make an important contribution to support projects that empowered consumers and promoted better consumer protection outcomes.

"I encourage people who want to make a difference to the lives of consumers and whose values align with ACCAN's vision of available, accessible and affordable communications to enhance the lives of all Australians to apply to the panel."

The Panel will consist of three members who will be selected by the ACCAN Board and will be appointed from 1 February 2010 to 30 June 2012.

Persons wanting to make an Expressions of Interest application should view the <u>selection criteria</u> and <u>ACCAN's Strategic Plan</u> which can also be found on ACCAN's web site <u>www.accan.org.au</u>.

Submissions containing a short statement (no longer than 3 pages) addressing the selection criteria and curriculum vitae to nominations@accan.org.au should be made by **20 January 2010.**

ENDS

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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.