

ACCAN media release

For immediate release: 20 January 2010

“Applications open for ACCAN Independent Grants Scheme”

Applications open today for ACCAN’s new Independent Grants Scheme which will fund projects to assist ACCAN achieve its strategic goal for available, accessible and affordable communications that enhance the lives of Australian consumers.

ACCAN CEO Allan Asher said: “We are looking for worthwhile consumer research or representation projects that will make a real difference to people’s lives particularly those that improve the communications experiences of vulnerable consumers.”

The grants scheme will fund projects that explore issues of making the communications market work for consumers, of protecting and promoting the security, privacy and fair use of communications services or that support the responsible consumption of services.

Two rounds of funding are available and open today.

The first round of the scheme will deliver \$101,600 of funds for projects completed by June 2010. Applications for round one will close February 18th.

The second round of funding will provide grants totalling \$250,000 for projects that commence after 1 July 2010 and are completed by 30 June 2011. Round Two applications will close March 18th 2009.

Organisations and individuals are encouraged to apply for a grant in the amounts of \$10,000, \$20,000 or \$50,000. Projects will be assessed by an Independent Grants Panel which will make recommendations to the ACCAN Board.

Full details of the [Independent Grants Scheme Guidelines and Application Form](http://www.accan.org.au/grant_full.php?id=3) can also be found on the ACCAN web site http://www.accan.org.au/grant_full.php?id=3

Organisations or persons wishing to apply should also view [ACCAN’s Strategic Plan](http://www.accan.org.au) which can also be found on ACCAN’s web site www.accan.org.au.

ACCAN’s Independent Grants Scheme is funded by the Commonwealth Department of Broadband, Communications and the Digital Economy in accordance with section 593 of the Telecommunications Act 1997 to assist ACCAN achieve its strategic goals.

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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.