

activate

A Shared Wavelength for Communications



AUSTRALIAN
COMMUNICATIONS
INDUSTRY FORUM

www.acif.org.au

to subscribe to this newsletter :: email

go

July 2005

Home

NEWS

CEO COLUMN

ACIF COLUMN

GUEST COLUMN

FINANCIAL LITERACY

A SINGLE CONSUMER CODE

CALENDAR & EVENTS

ABOUT ACIF

CONTACT US

:: DAB: Re-Focus in 2005

The Disability Advisory Body (DAB) is constantly evaluating its role within ACIF and recently a number of events have prompted it to re-focus. One such event was the release of a report from independent consultants, Think Evans, in 2004. A direct outcome of the report has been the development of a closer co-operative association with the Consumer Council (CC). Following the first joint sitting of the CC and the DAB earlier this year, it was agreed that this model of operation is valuable for both bodies and further joint sittings will be held.

Overlapping DAB and CC meetings also means little increased cost to ACIF. The next combined meeting will be in November 2005 to discuss how to ensure consumers make an 'informed consent' when signing contracts. This is an issue which became apparent in the development of the **Customer Information on Prices Terms and Conditions** Code (C521:2004).

Further recommendations from the Think Evans Report included the development of a Consumer Register to give ACIF a transparent, objective way of selecting representatives from consumer bodies. The registration principles are currently being reviewed by a sub-committee. A natural extension of this is work also underway to review the Operations Manual for the CC to make it relevant to both groups.

The review of the Industry Guideline **Access to Telecommunications for People with Disabilities** (ACIF G586:2001) is also pertinent to ACIF Industry members. The DAB was established to give advice to Industry so that telecommunications information, products and services deliver the best possible outcomes to people with disabilities. Legal checks are in place however, responsible self regulation should mean that legal action is used as a last resort. Based on the European Cost219 bis Charter, the Guideline provides a checklist of actions to enable all players in the Industry to operate within Australia's legal obligation framework.

The DAB is re-focussing – its collective expertise is a resource which Industry can draw on, and its cooperative involvement on Working Committees and Reference Panels can help engender an industry ethos of bringing about positive outcomes for consumers with disabilities.

Sue Salthouse

*Women With Disabilities Australia Representative
DAB*

 [Print this page](#)**AUSTRALIAN COMMUNICATIONS INDUSTRY FORUM**

Level 9, 32 Walker Street North Sydney NSW 2060 Postal address PO Box 444 Milsons Point NSW 1565
T (02) 9959 9111 F (02) 9954 6136 TTY (02) 9923 1911 E address: acif@acif.org.au www.acif.org.au
[Privacy Statement](#) © Copyright 2005