



## **MEDIA RELEASE**

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### **HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES STANDING COMMITTEE ON INFRASTRUCTURE AND COMMUNICATIONS**

Inquiry into IT Pricing

*Chair: Mr Nick Champion MP  
Deputy Chair: Mr Paul Neville MP*

## **IT PRICING, CONSUMERS AND COPYRIGHT**

**Do Australians pay more for IT software and hardware than consumers in overseas markets? If so, why?**

These key questions are being asked in an investigation into IT pricing in Australia, now being conducted by the House Standing Committee on Infrastructure and Communications.

The Committee will hear from ACCAN, the Australian Communications Consumer Action Network at a **public hearing in Canberra tomorrow, 19 September 2012**. ACCAN has concerns about the effects of international price discrimination on all consumers, including small business, and people with disability. ACCAN is calling for the Committee to explore ways for consumers to access a choice of products, which will encourage genuine competition and place downward pressure on prices.

ACCAN also wants to see the development of warranties that apply beyond national borders, and action taken to assist vulnerable consumers who are most impacted by these high prices. ACCAN claims that equipment for people with a disability can be significantly more expensive in Australia than in overseas markets. ACCAN's views can be seen in its submission to the inquiry (no. 74, available from the Committee [website](#))

The Committee also hopes to speak with Dr Matthew Rimmer, an expert in copyright law and information technology, about aspects of copyright issues raised by many participants in the current inquiry. A program has been posted to the Committee website and can be accessed at [this link](#).

'The inquiry into IT price discrimination has generated a great deal of interest, judging by submissions and also by community responses on social media like twitter,' said Committee Chair, Mr Nick Champion MP.

The hearing will be held in Committee Room 1R4 in Parliament House, from approximately 4.45pm (concluding at approximately 6.15pm)

**For further information on the Committee's inquiry, please visit the inquiry website at [www.aph.gov.au/itpricing](http://www.aph.gov.au/itpricing)**

**For inquiry information:** including the terms of reference and submissions, go to: [www.aph.gov.au/itpricing](http://www.aph.gov.au/itpricing), or contact the secretariat on (02) 6277 2352.

**For media comment:** please contact the Committee Chair, Mr Nick Champion, on (08) 8284 2422 (electorate office) or 0488 556 036 (mobile)