

**Senate Standing Committee on the
Environment, Communications and the Arts**
ANSWERS TO ESTIMATES QUESTIONS ON NOTICE
Broadband, Communications and the Digital Economy portfolio
Department of Broadband, Communications and the Digital Economy
Telecommunications, Network Regulation and Australia Post
Supplementary Estimates Hearings October 2008

Question: 11

Topic: section 593 funding

Senator Ludlum asked:

[In the context of discussions about the development of ACCAN]
Who is providing the consumer or the user input, if you will?

Answer: Keith Besgrove answered “there are a number of existing groups which are funded under section 593. We can table that information”. Accordingly, details of groups currently receiving funding under section 593 are outlined in the following tables:

s593 Funding for Representation and Research

Program	Grant Recipient	Grant Amount (GST Inc)	Funded for Representation or Research Activities	Grant Funding Location	Date approved by Minister
s593	Consumers' Telecommunications Network (CTN)	\$95,700	Financial assistance towards the establishment of the Australian Communications Consumer Action Network (ACCAN)	NSW	5/06/2008
s593	Consumers' Telecommunications Network (CTN)	\$308,000	Representation	NSW	24/06/2008
s593	Internet Society of Australia (ISOC-AU)	\$27,610	Representation	VIC	24/06/2008
s593	Women with Disabilities Australia (WWDA)	\$12,540	Representation	TAS	24/06/2008
s593	Deaf Australia Inc (Deaf Aust)	\$52,800	Representation	QLD	24/06/2008
s593	Australian Federation of Disability Organisation (AFDO)	\$112,000	Representation	VIC	24/06/2008

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s593	Deafness Forum of Australia (DFA)	\$52,360	Representation	ACT	24/06/2008
s593	Communication Rights Australia (CAUS)	\$42,900	Representation	VIC	24/06/2008
s593	Small Enterprise Telecommunications Centre Limited (SETEL)	\$69,850	Representation	ACT	24/06/2008
s593	Griffith University	\$53,669	Research	QLD	4/03/2008
s593	La Trobe University	\$44,000	Research	VIC	4/03/2008

**s593 Funding for Sitting Fees for participation in the Communications Alliance
Consumer and Disability Councils**

Program	Grant Recipient	Grant Amount (GST Inc)	Grant Funding Location	Date approved by Minister
s593	Australian Seniors Computer Clubs Association (ASCCA)	\$1,729.20	NSW	24/06/2008
s593	Communications Law Centre (CLC)	\$1,729.20	VIC	24/06/2008
s593	Consumers' Telecommunications Network (CTN)	\$3,080	NSW	24/06/2008
s593	Country Womens' Association of Australia (CWA)	\$1,729.20	TAS	24/06/2008
s593	Federation of Ethnic Communities Council of Australia (FECCA)	\$1,729.20	ACT	24/06/2008
s593	Internet Society of Australia (ISOC-AU)	\$1,729.20	VIC	24/06/2008

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s593	Small Enterprise Telecommunications Centre Limited (SETEL)	\$1,729.20	ACT	24/06/2008
s593	*Telecommunications Consumer Group – SA (TCG-SA)	*\$1,572	SA	24/06/2008
s593	Australian Federation of Disability Organisations (AFDO)	\$2,161.50	VIC	24/06/2008
s593	Australian Rehabilitation and Assistive Technologies Association (ARATA)	\$2,161.50	NSW	24/06/2008
s593	Blind Citizens Australia (BCA)	\$2,161.50	VIC	24/06/2008
s593	Deaf Australia Inc (Deaf Aust)	\$2,161.50	QLD	24/06/2008
s593	Deafness Forum of Australia (DFA)	\$2,161.50	ACT	24/06/2008
s593	National Council on Intellectual Disability (NCID)	\$2,161.50	ACT	24/06/2008
s593	Physical Disability Council of Australia (PDCA)	\$2,161.50	NSW	24/06/2008
s593	Telecommunications Disability Consumer Representation (TEDICORE)	\$2,161.50	QLD	24/06/2008
s593	Women with Disabilities Australia	\$3,850	Tas	24/06/2008

* TCG-SA is a GST exempt body. Funding amount is GST Exclusive

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Question: 43

Topic: International Mobile Roaming Services

Senator Birmingham asked:

What action has the Minister asked ACMA or the ACCC to take in relation to the high costs of international roaming services? What actions, if any, have been taken to date?

Answer:

The Minister has asked the Department to work on this issue with the objective of lowering the high cost of international roaming services. This has resulted in the Department working with the ACCC and with ACMA.

The issue of international mobile roaming crosses jurisdictional boundaries both internationally and between Australian Government agencies. Consequently, the Minister has asked the Department to take the lead on this matter, in consultation with ACMA and the ACCC, where they have particular expertise and responsibilities.

The Department and ACCC have made submissions to the current House of Representatives Committee on Communications Inquiry into International Mobile Roaming Charges and further action may be prompted by the Inquiry.

The ACCC is currently consulting about proposed changes to the regulatory accounting framework record-keeping rules to cover international mobile roaming issues. ACMA provides information to consumers on international mobile roaming.

The Department early this year commissioned a consultancy report on the issue which has been publicly released and provided to the Inquiry. The Department also recently succeeded in placing the issue on the agenda of the APEC Telecommunications and Information Working Group.

The ACCC has indicated that international mobile roaming charges raise a problem of jurisdiction because they arise from services provided by different carriers in different countries. The Department is therefore continuing to press the issue in bilateral and multilateral contacts to encourage international cooperation on the matter.