



**Australian Government**

**Australian Radiation Protection and Nuclear Safety Agency**

25 November 2016

Ref no: D1635329

ACCAN Review  
Department of Communications and the Arts  
GPO Box 2154  
Canberra ACT 2601

Dear Sir/Madam,

Thank you for the opportunity to provide feedback on the role of Australian Communications Consumer Action Network (ACCAN) under section 593 of the Telecommunications Act 1997.

The Australian Radiation Protection and Nuclear Safety Agency (ARPANSA) provides expert advice on radiation protection and nuclear safety matters to the Australian Government. In order to provide the best advice on the protection of the Australian public from the effects of radiation, ARPANSA has established the Electromagnetic Energy Reference Group (EMERG) to enable input from the community and other stakeholders on health issues associated with mobile phones, mobile phone base stations and other communications devices and equipment.

Question 3 of the October 2016 Issue Paper, Consumer representation: Review of section 593 of the Telecommunications Act 1997 asks “Does ACCAN effectively engage with a broad range of stakeholders, including industry, government agencies and other consumer groups?”. EMERG was restructured in 2013 to ensure it had a broad community representation. EMERG now comprises representatives from the community and industry as well as representatives from relevant government agencies and academic organisations. The ACCAN has been an active member of EMERG since this time providing a unique insight into consumers and small businesses and their need to make informed choices about products and services based on evidence based information.

Please do not hesitate to contact ARPANSA on 03 9433 2211 or [info@arpansa.gov.au](mailto:info@arpansa.gov.au) for further information.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Gillian Hirth'.

Dr Gillian Hirth  
Chief Radiation Health Scientist