

ACIF musters industry leaders to advise on convergence issues

ACIF Convergence Group to focus on self-regulatory outcomes

The Australian Communications Industry Forum (ACIF) has harnessed the expertise of some of the industrys leading figures to consider the issues posed by the converged regulatory and technical environment.

The new ACIF Convergence Group will advise on the best way to tackle issues relating to Voice over Internet Protocol (VoIP), Next Generation Networks (NGN) , content and other associated areas.

The emphasis of the Convergence Group will be on developing outcomes tailored to the specific issues but will not be responsible for implementing the recommended solutions. These outcomes could involve the production of fact sheets, holding of forums, development of codes or standards etc. In forming the new group, ACIF sought to draw membership at the highest level from the widest industry sectors in the converged regulatory and technical environment. As well as the traditional telecommunications sector, there are representatives from broadcasting, content providers, internet service providers, regulators and consumer organisations.

ACIFs chief executive officer, Anne Hurley, who chairs the new group, explained that the convergence of multiple technologies was blurring the boundaries of the various regulatory regimes and creating new challenges which the industry needed to address.

We are certainly entering an era of dynamic flux which will require some new and imaginative responses from a regulatory perspective, Ms Hurley said. This is the type of situation where the self-regulatory model is at its best because we believe that the best outcomes for all stakeholders can be achieved by co-operation.

The ACIF Convergence Group will offer the opportunity for a broad cross-section of interested parties to sit down together and come up with some practical solutions without the need for government intervention.

About ACIF

ACIF is a member-funded organisation established in 1997 to facilitate communications self-regulation in the interests of both industry and consumers. Its membership comprises carriers/carriage service providers, business and residential consumer groups, industry associations and individual companies.

ACIF operates on the central premise that the best outcomes for all stakeholders in Australian telecommunications can be achieved by co-operation, obviating the need for government regulation.