

Codes increase certainty about rights of use of telephone numbers

Two new registered industry codes will make it easier for holders of large blocks of numbers, including businesses, to take advantage of number portability and obtain the best deals available from service providers.

Developed by industry through the Australian Communications Industry Forum (ACIF), *Industry Code ACIF C554:2004 Rights of Use of Premium Rate Service Numbers and Industry Code ACIF C566:2005 Rights of Use of Numbers* clarify the rights of different parties involved in the allocation, issue and use of telephone numbers.

Under the codes, customers can obtain and port whole blocks of numbers, whether or not individual numbers within the block were in use, provided the carriage service provider agrees. Larger customers now have greater certainty that, if they choose to change service provider, they will still be able to use the same block of telephone numbers, even if

some numbers in this block are reserved for future use.

The codes also clarify when rights of use over numbers exist in the premium rate services market, which has been a source of confusion in the past.

Neither code applies to the rights of use of numbers acquired at a public auction.

Registration of the two codes makes them enforceable by ACMA and, together with amendments to the Numbering Plan, they will provide strong protection for consumers and adequate guidance for industry.

The codes are on the ACMA website (www.acma.gov.au) and go to Industry > Codes > Register of Codes).



Television Sydney granted a four-week extension to commence broadcasting

ACMA has decided to grant Television Sydney Limited (TVS) a four-week extension of time to commence broadcasting its service. TVS now has until 21 November 2005 within which to start broadcasting.

The decision followed a request by TVS to extend the period in which it is required

to commence broadcasting, to enable it sufficient time to obtain the supply and commissioning of a 20 kilowatt transmission system at Gore Hill.

ACMA considers that by granting this extension, TVS will be able to provide a high quality and wide coverage

community television service in Sydney.

TVS was allocated a licence to provide a community television service for Sydney in March 2004. The decision was subject to a Federal Court appeal, which upheld the decision on 23 April 2004.

Conditions applicable under

the Broadcasting Services Act require a licensee to commence broadcasting services within a year of being allocated a licence, or within such longer period as is notified in writing by ACMA. On 14 April 2005, the ABA granted TVS a six-month extension, to 23 October 2005, to commence its service.