

# Major communications industry report released

The *ACMA Communications Report 2006–07* has been publicly released, following its tabling in parliament by the Minister for Broadband, Communications and the Digital Economy, Senator the Hon. Stephen Conroy.

The report contains a wide variety of data covering the 2006–07 financial year, and provides an overview of the communications industry, service developments and industry performance in meeting statutory service obligations. It also reports on consumer satisfaction and benefits arising from communications services.

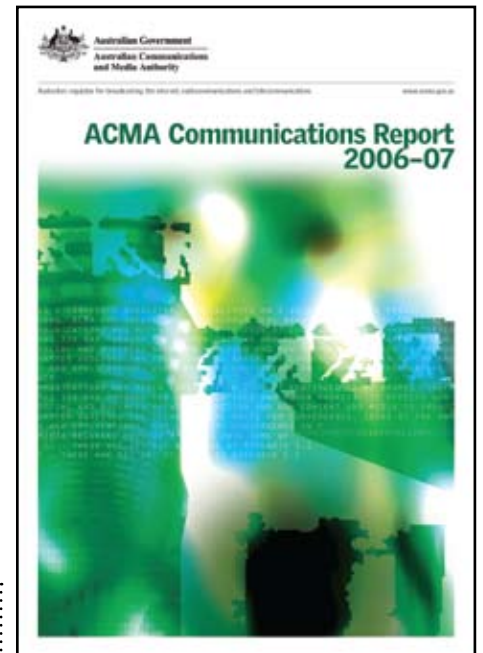
The report found that, for the first time, there is now more than one mobile service for every Australian, with 21.26 million mobile phone services in operation at 30 June 2007. This is a 7.6 per cent

increase from 19.76 million the year before. A significant increase in 3G mobile customer numbers helped drive that growth, with 3G services growing by 192 per cent to reach 4.5 million subscribers at 30 June 2007.

The number of fixed telephone services dropped from 11.26 million to 10.92 million between 30 June 2006 and 30 June 2007. The number of payphones in operation in Australia (both Telstra-operated and privately operated) dropped by 8,368 to 49,862.

## Key communications indicators

Measure	30 Jun 06	30 Jun 07
Internet subscribers (end March 2007)	5.95m	6.43m
Narrowband (dial-up) subscribers (end March 2007)	2.78m	2.09m
Broadband subscribers (end March 2007)	3.16m	4.33m
Pre-paid mobile services (does not include Telstra, Vodafone or '3' wholesale services)	9.7m	10.15m
Post-paid mobile services (does not include Telstra, Vodafone or '3' wholesale services)	9.6m	10.65m
Total mobile services	19.76m	21.26m
GSM coverage as a proportion of the Australian population	96%	96%
CDMA coverage as a proportion of the Australian population	98%	98%
3G (W-CDMA) coverage as a proportion of the Australian population	53%	98.8%
Total fixed lines	11.26m	10.92m
Fixed lines covered by the Customer Service Guarantee (CSG)	8.71m	7.91m
New geographic numbers allocated by ACMA	0.99m	3.24m
Payphones—services in operation	58,230	49,862
Licensed telecommunications carriers	158	169
Licensed or registered cablers	56,958	58,398
Calls to emergency services using 000 and 112	11,588,777	12,139,526
Complaints to the Telecommunications Industry Ombudsman	127,479	156,802
Number of carriage service providers registered with the TIO	1,170	1,231
Cost to industry of providing interception	\$5.7m	\$8.2m
Commercial television networks revenue	\$4119m (2004–05)	\$3990m (2005–06)
Commercial radio networks revenue	\$945m (2004–05)	\$998m (2005–06)
Australia's position as a 'spam relaying' country	10th (February 2004)	28th (30 June 2007)
Prohibited internet content items actioned within Australia	18	5
Prohibited internet content items actioned outside Australia	706	494
Number of registered '.com.au' domain names	612,918	795,368



Internet subscribers were another area of communications services growth. To the end of March 2007, there were 6.43 million internet subscribers in Australia, comprising 2.09 million narrowband and 4.33 million broadband subscribers. Domain name registrations also grew—there were 795,368 '.com.au' registrations in the year compared with 612,918 the previous year.

In the broadcasting sector, Australian television networks met the minimum requirements of at least 55 per cent of all Australian programming between 6 am and midnight, annual quotas for children's programming as outlined in the Children's Television Standards (CTS) and requirements for first-release Australian drama programs as outlined in the Australian Content Standard.

The report includes the results of an analysis of the long-term consumer benefits and economic impact of reforms in the telecommunications sector implemented in 1997. The analysis found that total production in the Australian economy in 2006–07 grew by an additional \$1.2 billion due to price and service competition in the telecommunications sector.

The *ACMA Communications Report 2006–07* fulfil's ACMA's statutory obligations to report to the Minister for Broadband, Communications and the Digital Economy on telecommunications performance (under section 105 of the *Telecommunications Act 1997*).

Data in the report is drawn from a wide range of sources including information reported by industry, ACMA's research using third-party public sources, and commissioned surveys and analysis.

The report is available on the ACMA website at <[www.acma.gov.au](http://www.acma.gov.au)> (go to About ACMA: Publications & research > Publications > ACMA Corporate publications > Reviews & reports > ACMA Communications Report > ACMA Communications Report 2006–07).