

Annual numbering charges in 2010

Each year the ACMA collects a set amount of revenue from carriage service providers (CSPs) that hold telephone numbers. Preparations are now underway to collect the 2010 annual numbering charge (ANC). As has been the case since 1999, the 2010 revenue target for the ANC is \$60 million.

The ACMA administers the ANC under the *Telecommunications (Numbering Charges) Act 1997*, the *Telecommunications Act 1997* and a series of four determinations made by the ACMA under these acts.

The determinations set the following parameters for collecting the ANC:

- > the census date (date of imposition of the charge)
- > the formula to calculate the amount of charge per number and the types of numbers exempt from the ANC
- > the payment date
- > penalty provisions for late payment.

CSPs are liable for charges for the numbers they hold (except geographic, international signalling point codes and telex numbers) on the census date in April each year. This year the census date is 4 April 2010.

The charge imposed on a particular number depends on its length. A base number charge is set for a 10-digit number and this amount is increased by a factor of 10 for each reduction by one digit in the number's length. The maximum amount imposed on any one number is \$100,000. Numbers that CSPs use to provide certain low-revenue or no-revenue services, such as testing numbers, are charged at a discounted rate.

The formula used to calculate the ANC is set out in the Telecommunications (Annual Charge) Determination 2007 (No. 2), which is available on the ACMA's website. This formula can be used together with the base number charge to determine the actual amount of charge for any specific number of a given length.

The final base number charge for 2009 was \$0.81. This meant that 10-digit numbers such as mobile numbers were charged at \$0.81 each, nine-digit numbers were charged at \$8.10 each, eight-digit numbers at \$81 each and so on.

An estimation of the base number charge for 2010, calculated at 12 January 2010, is \$0.76. The final base number charge will vary from this amount depending on number allocations and surrenders between this date and the census date.

The final base number charge is calculated each year after the census date and published in the ANC section of the ACMA website. The amount to be paid for numbers of differing lengths is also published. CSPs can obtain updates of the base amount and their ANC debt by logging into the ACMA's online numbering system (NUMB).

The ACMA will be writing to number-holding CSPs shortly regarding the 2010 ANC process.

Important dates for the ANC in 2010 include:

- > 4 April: census date
- > 12 March: embargo on the surrender of numbers subject to the ANC commences
- > late April: invoices dispatched by the ACMA
- > 15 June: payment deadline for CSPs.

A late payment penalty will apply to any payments made after 15 June 2010. ☎

Further information is available on the ACMA website at www.acma.gov.au (go to For licensees & industry: Licensing & regulation > Telecommunications: Telecommunications regulation > Numbering > Annual numbering charges) or contact the ACMA's Numbering Team on 03 9963 6800 or by email at annualnumberingcharges@acma.gov.au.