

Annual numbering charge target set at \$60 million

Preparations are now underway to collect the 2011 annual numbering charge (ANC) from carriage service providers (CSPs) who hold telephone numbers. The ACMA collects a set amount of revenue each year and, as has been the case since 1999, the 2011 revenue target for ANC is \$60 million.

The ACMA has written to number-holding CSPs about the 2011 ANC process. Important dates for 2011 include:

- > 10 March—the last day on which CSPs can surrender numbers to the ACMA
- > 3 April—census date when the 2011 ANC is calculated
- > late April—the ACMA to send out invoices
- > 15 June—payment deadline for CSPs.

A late payment penalty will apply to any payments made after 15 June 2011.

An estimation of the base number charge for 2011, **calculated at 16 December 2010, is \$0.69**. 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 on the census date and later 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 administers the ANC under the *Telecommunications (Numbering Charges) Act 1997*, the *Telecommunications Act 1997* and 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 all the numbers they hold (except for geographic, community service, international signalling point codes and telex numbers) on the census date in April each year.

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). This formula can be used with the base number charge to determine the actual charge for any specific number of a given length.

The final base number charge for 2010 was \$0.79. This meant that 10-digit numbers such as mobile numbers were charged at \$0.79 each, nine-digit numbers were charged at \$7.90 each, eight-digit numbers at \$79.00 each and so on. ☎

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.