

New code makes telephones more accessible for people with a disability

ACMA has registered a telecommunications industry code designed to ensure that people with special needs have access to information about the key features of telephone handsets. The code ensures customer equipment manufacturers and importers provide information to carriage service providers on key features for telephone handsets for use in connection with a standard fixed or mobile phone service.

This code should benefit consumers with a disability, who previously may have had difficulty comparing handsets and finding the appropriate equipment to meet their particular needs. Industry will benefit from a more uniform and efficient approach to accessibility information. Carriage service providers will now be able to provide information about the

accessibility features of handsets to consumers, who can then make more effective choices about the products that best meet their individual needs.

The code will also ensure that consumers can approach suppliers directly if they require information about equipment features.

The code does not apply to the provision of information by equipment suppliers to retail outlets not under the control of carriage service providers as these outlets are outside the jurisdiction of the Telecommunications Act and the code.

The *ACIF C625:2005 Information on Accessibility Features for Telephone Equipment Industry Code* requires telecommunications equipment suppliers to provide information to carriage service providers on the accessibility

features of their products.

Specifically, the code requires suppliers to provide information on the features of their equipment that could meet the particular communications needs of people with a disability.

The code is accompanied by a guideline which lists equipment features against which equipment suppliers report. The guideline will be updated annually to reflect the latest developments in equipment technology.

The code was developed by the former Australian Communications Industry Forum (now the Communications Alliance). Registration of the code by ACMA makes it enforceable.

The code is on the Communications Alliance website at www.commsalliance.com.au.

CHILDREN'S AND PRESCHOOL PROGRAMS Programs granted classification, October 2006

Program title	Series	Episode description	Program style	Program type	Country of origin	New/renewal	Class	Decision date	Applicant
<i>Bounce House</i>	1	1-65	Live action/animation/puppetry	Light entertainment – variety	Australia	New	PRP	19/10/06	Lost in Transition Productions Pty Ltd
<i>The Lost Children</i>	1	1-13	Live Action	Drama – series	New Zealand	New	CD	17/10/06	Big House Ltd
<i>Just Ask Jack</i>	1	1-52	Animation	Drama – series	Australia	New	PRP	10/10/06	Jack Belly Bean Children's Entertainment Pty Ltd
<i>H2O – Just Add Water</i>	2	1-13	Live Action	Drama – series	Australia	New	CD	5/10/06	Jonathan M Shiff Productions Pty Ltd
<i>Staines Down Drains</i>	1	1-26	Animation	Drama – series	Australia	New	CD	5/10/06	Yoram Gross EM-TV Pty Ltd

Class – Classification, C – C Classification, CD – C Drama, P – P Classification, PRC – Provisional C, A classification expires five years after the date it was granted or renewed.