

NUMBERING ADVISORY COMMITTEE

Draft minutes of Meeting 4 of 2004

Wednesday 1 December 2004
at the offices of the ACA, Level 2, 55 Clarence Street , Sydney

Attendees (ACA, Sydney)

Grant Symons	ACA	Chair
Robert Johnston	ACA	
Susan Horne	ACA	Secretariat
David Havyatt	AAPT	
Alexander Osborne	Hutchison	
Joe Gorup	Mobile Innovations	
Geoff Brand	PowerTel	
Van Le	Vodafone	

Videoconference (ACA, Melbourne)

Bridget Nagle	ACA
Dominic Byrne	ACA
Helen Papazoglou	ACA
Ben Jones	ACA
Mark Dossetor	ACA
Grant Young	ACCC
Michael Elsegood	Optus
Martin Vella	Primus
Guy Di Paola	Telstra
Kym Wade	Telstra

Teleconference

Emily Cripps	DCITA
Robert McCosker	DCITA
Ian Proellocks	Telstra

Apologies

Teresa Corbin	CTN
Megan McEwen	INMS
Sam Mangar	Optus
Paul Teng	PowerTel

1. WELCOME

The Chair welcomed members and tabled the apologies for the meeting.

2. BUSINESS ARISING

2.1 Minutes of previous meeting

ACA staff tabled the minutes of the previous meeting NAC 3/2004. The minutes were accepted without discussion.

2.2 Status of actions outstanding since NAC Meeting 3 of 2004

ACA staff tabled the paper that outlined the status of the actions and recommendations arising from NAC meeting 3/2004. The paper was accepted without comment.

3. NUMBERING PLAN

3.1 Report on status of variations to the Numbering Plan

ACA staff tabled the paper that outlined the status of four variations progressed by the Numbering Team. NAC members noted that three variations had been finalised since the paper was circulated to NAC members: the recognition of new charging areas, efficient use of geographic numbers and short digit premium rate numbers.

NAC members also noted that the new variation proposing additional geographic numbers for various areas was undergoing public consultation, and ACA staff asked NAC members to comment on the variation before the closing date of 4 February 2005.

Action 1/4/04 **NAC members to provide comment on the draft variation to the Plan to create additional geographic numbers for 13 areas by 4 March 2005.**

3.2 Proposed minor amendments to the Numbering Plan

ACA staff tabled the paper proposing a range of minor amendments to the Numbering Plan.

NAC members discussed the proposed note for the Numbering Plan to enable mobile and geographic numbers to be used in the ENUM trial. Optus staff suggested this was not a minor change to the Numbering Plan as discussions in the AEDG regarding rights of use to these numbers may impact on use of these numbers during the trial. Other NAC members felt that the Numbering Plan doesn't need to be amended to use these numbers during the trial. ACA staff undertook to explore this issue further before varying the Numbering Plan.

Action 2/4/04 **ACA staff to remove the specification of mobile and geographic numbers from the proposed minor amendments to the Numbering Plan.**

Action 3/4/04 **ACA staff to report to NAC 1/2005 regarding the rights of use discussions in the AEDG.**

NAC members also discussed the proposed note to the Numbering Plan recognising that GSM telephone users dialling a number other than 000 or 112 can be connected to the Australian emergency call person without contravention of the Numbering Plan.

Some members expressed concern that this might lead to the general public more freely dialling these numbers, especially calls originating on non-mobile services. There was also discussion that the translation from a non-Australian emergency service number to 000 may occur in the handset, outside the control of the carrier and its network, and this may not be a breach of the Numbering Plan.

Action 4/4/04 **ACA to report to the next NAC meeting regarding whether a CSP would be in contravention of the Numbering Plan where a handset translates a non-Australian emergency service number into 000.**

Action 5/4/04 **NAC members to provide information regarding whether GSM handsets now recognise all international emergency service numbers including 000.**

3.3 Proposal to amend the Numbering Plan – Carriage Service Provider Obligations (or ROU)

ACA staff tabled the paper outlining a proposed variation to the Numbering Plan to clarify and strengthen existing carriage service provider obligations to customers regarding the use of numbers.

ACA staff outlined that the purpose of the rules in the Numbering Plan is to minimise the impact on new customers of calls not intended for them, rather than provide rights of use entitlements to the previous user of a number. However, the need to clarify the intent of the Plan has arisen as a result of a recent ACA staff review and through cases investigated by the TIO.

NAC members queried whether the proposed changes would impact on the ACIF rights of use code. ACA staff advised that the code makes several sign posts to the Plan and therefore it was unlikely that the proposed changes would affect the ACIF rights of use code.

Action 6/4/04 **ACA staff to provide NAC members with case studies of complaints to the TIO.**

Action 7/4/04 **NAC members to provide comment to the ACA on the proposed variation. ACA staff to circulate any comment received.**

4. NUMBER PORTABILITY

4.1 Update on premium rate portability

ACA staff advised that they are considering recommending to the Authority that the implementation date would be triggered by a CSP that indicated it wanted numbers ported to it and that it would be technically capable of receiving numbers within six months. ACA staff further advised that the actual timing may be subject to negotiation between the parties with an expectation that the timing would not exceed six months.,

ACA staff further advised that they will shortly be preparing a report outlining their views on the implementation date for premium rate number portability for the Authority. Subject to endorsement from the Authority, a report will be released.

4.2 Update on data network access service portability

ACCC staff discussed the status of data network access service portability. NAC members briefly discussed the uses to which these numbers are put in the network, ongoing moving by telephone users away from dial-up to broadband access, and the implications/costs for trunking and how this is managed.

5. OTHER ISSUES

5.1 Numbering arrangements for VoIP services

ACA staff discussed the numbering options for VoIP services set out in the October 2004 discussion paper 'Regulatory Issues associated with provision of voice services using internet protocol in Australia'.

NAC members considered a number of issues that impact on the choice of numbers for VoIP services including customer expectations regarding location and charging information in numbers, industry's use of geographic numbers to deliver the untimed local call obligation and the impact on this of nomadic VoIP services, and ways of providing location information for emergency services purposes.

ACA staff indicated that a public discussion was being held in Sydney on 10 December 2004 at the Hotel Sofitel, Wentworth Street between 9am and 1pm. ACA staff also reminded NAC members of the 31 December 2004 closing date for the discussion paper.

Action 8/4/04 NAC members to provide comment on issues raised in the discussion paper Regulatory Issues associated with provision of voice services using internet protocol in Australia by 31 December 2004.

5.2 Update on shorter numbers for crisis intervention counselling services

ACA staff tabled the paper identifying that the issue of specifying shorter numbers for crisis intervention counselling services had been resolved.

5.3 Numbers for trialling new services

ACA staff tabled the paper discussing numbering arrangements for the trialling of new telecommunications services.

NAC members discussed various approaches to making numbers available including specifying all unused ranges as available as this approach would enable the early launch of trial services and move to long term arrangements. A NAC member identified that this approach may impact on number management for new and existing services, and is likely to have consumer implications as it would circumvent the public consultation process normally associated with specifying new ranges.

Action 9/4/04 NAC members to provide alternative numbering approaches associated with trialling new telecommunications services.

5.4 Update on progress of Australian trial of electronic numbering mapping (ENUM)

ACA staff tabled the paper briefing NAC members on the progress towards a trial of ENUM in Australia. Discussion on this item was brief, however, issues associated with ENUM's potential impact on the rights of use of mobile and geographic numbers was discussed under agenda item 3.2.

5.5 Update on the ACA's new numbering database

ACA staff tabled the information paper providing further information about the timing for completion of the new numbering database. The main issues addressed were resolving issues relating to data migration between the old and new databases and calculation of annual numbering charges. When these have been resolved, the ACA should be ready to organise training for carriage service providers on the use of the new database.

5.6 Update on smartnumbers auction

ACA staff tabled the paper update NAC members on the progress of the auction of freephone and local rate numbers, including background information on the implementation of the auction system

The update also notified NAC members of minor proposed changes to the auction determinations. The proposed changes extend the payment period from 14 to 28 days after the close of the auction, include a new power to cancel an application in certain circumstances and amend the definition of 'strategic FLRN' in the charities determination. The determinations are due to be released in early December 2004, for a 30-day public consultation period.

Action 10/4/04 NAC members to provide comment on the soon to be released draft auction determinations.

6. ALLOCATIONS AND SURRENDERS

6.1 Quarterly report of allocations, surrenders and permanent transfers of numbers

ACA staff tabled the quarterly report of allocations, surrenders and permanent transfers of numbers between 11 August and 21 November 2004.

7. NEW ISSUES FOR NEXT MEETING

7.1 Alternative method of allocating geographic numbers

AAPT staff suggested that the need for a small quantity of geographic numbers by carriage service providers (for example, calling card operators), could be met in the future through an alternative means of allocation. AAPT staff proposed that a quantity of numbers could be set aside in each SZU to be managed electronically by an agency such as the INMS, which could allocate smaller quantities of numbers (for example, 1, 2 or 10 numbers) as required.

Action 11/4/04 AAPT staff to prepare a paper for consideration at NAC 1/2005 setting out options.

8. OTHER BUSINESS

8.1 Public consultation period for variations to the Numbering Plan

ACA staff advised NAC members that they had written to the Minister for Communications, Information Technology and the Arts proposing changes to the approach to public consultation set out in the *Telecommunications Act 1997*. The existing approach requires a 90-day consultation period for most variations to the Numbering Plan. ACA staff have approached the Minister with a view to incorporating greater flexibility into the process.

8.2 Amendments to LNP code

Hutchison staff advised NAC members that work was underway in ACIF to remove clauses in the LNP code with respect to porting outside the donor CSP's exchange service area. This change is expected to be made in early 2005.

9. NEXT MEETING

The next meeting will be held in Melbourne at the offices of the ACA on Wednesday 23 February 2005. The meeting will commence at 10am and videoconferencing facilities should be available at the ACA's offices in Sydney.