



ican

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Indigenous Consumer Assistance Network LTD

ICAN Update

Yarrabah's Money Management Program Administration Trainee, Mishalia Yeatman recently secured a full time administration position at ICAN's Cairns office. ICAN offered Mishalia the position in acknowledgment of her good work and the successful completion of the Certificate 3 in Business Administration. ICAN sees the appointment as another great success story from the Money Management Program, "Wawal Gubu" in Yarrabah.

In the interests of the environment and our printing budget, ICAN has posted the 2009 Annual Report on our website at www.ican.org.au.

In this edition of the ICAN E-News we are trialing a new Indigenous Consumer News section that will have links to relevant consumer stories from around the country. ICAN plans to replicate the Indigenous Consumer News section in our new website being developed this year.



Dave's Dollars

Hello everyone, hope you all enjoyed the festive season. I know it's a bit late but coming back after Christmas...well, I was

too exhausted to have the brains ticking over so they gave me an extra month to think about what I was gonna yarn about.

I will tell you what I did over the Christmas break. Well what did I do over the Christmas period....as I said in my previous yarn my family came down from Thursday Island to spend Christmas in Cairns.

What we did was have Christmas lunch with friends and then went over to my sister's place in the afternoon for a family gathering and heaps of kai kai (food).

It was lovely. All the food and family around having a yarn and enjoying ourselves...the only person that we gave a Christmas present to was our daughter

and I tell you what, she is a very expensive daughter. But I must add, that she did buy me and my wife presents. She went to the shops with her mother (who waited outside) and bought our presents. She bought me a beautiful wallet that I did need. The only downside to this was that she didn't put any of her savings in the wallet (hahaha just joking). We looked at doing something cheap for New Years Eve that could include our daughter, my brother, 3 nieces, 3 nephews and my brother's brother in law. We decided to get 10 tickets at \$5 a pop to go and watch the basketball; the Cairns Taipans played the Melbourne Tigers. We shouted the rest of the mob which was no big deal because we had 10 family members enjoying an outing that only cost \$50 (pretty good hey?). We had a great night and everyone enjoyed themselves.

For New Years Day it was my turn to have kai kai at home. We decided to do a barbeque which was easy and cost effective. We had about 25 people around home and it cost us around \$80 and there was enough food for people to take home. What a lovely evening, barbeque with the family and yarning with heaps of laughter and happiness. Unfortunately after New years I was leg up in bed for a week very crook...didn't come to work, I was not too good, mmm better tell you the TRUTH...that's what I say to them at work but really I wanted to stay home cause we had to



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move office which would involve a lot of heavy lifting, well that's a no no for me, so I told them that I was sick (hahahaha). But I'm back and all is good and hopefully this year will bring a lot of enjoyment in the work place and have the whole ICAN team working together and to keep doing the good work that ICAN does. Due to our family coming to Cairns, our holiday has not eventuated as yet, but in saying that, I did reach my target with my savings. We are doing renovations to the house at the moment so maybe during one of the school holidays or there's this Christmas we can go away on a holiday. But, I must take the family away for the weekend to a resort or even down to Mission Beach so that my daughter can say that we have been away on a little holiday.

Until next time...smart savings.

Indigenous Consumer News...

[Indigenous housing project to welcome first tenants](#)

ABC Online

Next week the new occupants are expected to move into the houses, which were built under the Strategic Indigenous Housing and Infrastructure Project (SIHIP) ...

[NT's welfare powers could extend to all](#)

Sydney Morning Herald

PLANS to extend aspects of the Northern Territory intervention in indigenous communities to all welfare recipients – first in the territory, ...

[Social housing model rips the heart out of indigenous communities](#)

The Australian

The last holdouts of bureaucratic socialism on the planet live under the name of housing reform in remote indigenous communities. ...

[‘Momentum starting’ in housing program’](#)

ABC Online

The Council of Territory Cooperation chair says he has seen more evidence of houses being built under a federal Indigenous housing program. ...

Millions of households set to be fair game for telemarketers!

Millions of Australian households are set to lose protections against telemarketing calls and have their privacy shattered unless urgent changes are made to the Do Not Call Register, ACCAN Australia's peak communications consumer organisation said today.

"The flood gates to intrusive and unwanted telemarketing calls are about to open for millions of people who are unaware that their telephone number is about to be kicked off the Do Not Call Register", said Australian Communications Consumer Action Network (ACCAN) CEO Allan Asher.

"Immediate action needs to be taken to close the little known and ill-conceived loophole that limits registrations on the Do Not Call Register to three years", Mr Asher said.

ACCAN is calling for the re-registration requirements to be removed from the register. ACCAN's call comes as the Federal Parliament considers changes to the Do Not Call Register legislation and the May deadline approaches for the expiry of more than 1 million numbers first listed on the database.

Mr Asher said the requirement to re-register a telephone number placed an unnecessary burden on consumers.

"Forcing consumers to re-register their number is nonsensical. The renewal requirement was

never a well-thought strategy in the first place and puts Australia behind international best practice. (See table below: Emerging Best Practice in Do Not Call Registers)

"Instead of channelling funds into making people aware of registration renewal, resources would be far better placed in making numbers on the register permanent," he said.

Research by the Australian Communication and Media Authority (ACMA) shows only 25 per cent of people registered know that their registration is valid for 3 years, and only 15 per cent know they can re-register anytime before registration expires.

One in three Australian households or 4.1million numbers are currently on the Do Not Call Register.

ACCAN is also calling for consumers to be given the right to choose whether they consent to be contacted by some public interest entities such as charities, educational or religious organisations and government bodies.

"Australians should be free to nominate who they do want to be contacted by and customise their registration according to their requirements which the new „registered consent“ classifications allow," Mr Asher said.

Article courtesy of the Australian Communications Consumer Action Network (ACCAN)