

## ABACUS TELECOM

### Customer Service Guarantee for Standard Telephone Services

ABACUS TELECOM is committed to achieving customer service excellence. ABACUS TELECOM complies with the legislated requirements outlined in the Telecommunications (Customer Service Guarantee) Standard 2000 ("The CSG Standard") and issued by the Australian Communications and Media Authority (ACMA).

The CSG Standard specifies certain requirements to which service providers such as ABACUS TELECOM and its suppliers must adhere in relation to the provision and repair of Standard Telephone Services and appointments related to these activities.

### What types of services are covered by the CSG standard?

The CSG Standard applies to all telephone companies offering fixed line services and covers the **Standard Telephone Service (STS)** and **five specified Enhanced Call Handling Features**.

These features are:

- **Call Waiting** – enabling a customer to receive a second call on a telephone service while engaged on a call;
- **Call Forwarding** – causing a call directed to a number to be redirected to a stored number;
- **Call Barring/Control** – enabling a customer to control access to some, or all, network numbers before a call is established (this does not include network barring arrangements);
- **Calling Number Display** – enabling a customer to identify the number of a calling party; and
- **Calling Number Display Blocking** – enabling a customer to prevent the display of his or her number to a called party.

The CSG Standard applies to Residential and Small Business Customers with no more than **five** Standard Telephone Services. A customer does not include a carrier or a carriage service provider.

The CSG Standard covers:

- connections and fault repairs of Standard Telephone Services and the five specified Enhanced Call Handling Features; and
- appointments related to these activities.

For connections, Standard Telephone Services are eligible regardless of what type of associated service is connected at the end of the service (e.g. internet or fax).

However, for repairs, only voice telephony faults are covered. This means that non-voice faults such as internet access or fax faults are not covered by the CSG Standard.

### What types of services are not covered by the CSG Standard?

The CSG Standard does not apply to data products, customer premises equipment, customer cabling, payphones, sophisticated business-oriented services, corporate virtual private networks, satellite services and mobile services. It also does not apply to activities past the network boundary point (NBP), namely, beyond the first telephone socket, the network termination device (NTD) or the main distribution frame (MDF) where applicable.

### **When does the CSG Standard not apply?**

The CSG Standard does not apply in certain circumstances, including the following:

- When ABACUS TELECOM or its supplier is required to undertake maintenance or upgrading of a facility or network that is used to supply any given service and ABACUS TELECOM has given reasonable notice;
- Where delays are due to circumstances outside ABACUS TELECOM or our supplier's control such as: damages to ABACUS TELECOM or our supplier's facilities by a third party; natural disasters or extreme weather conditions (e.g. bushfire, flood, cyclones etc.), or
- Where delays are caused by ABACUS TELECOM or our supplier needing to move staff or equipment to an area affected by circumstances beyond the control of ABACUS TELECOM or our supplier, or
- Where ABACUS TELECOM or our supplier is unable to obtain lawful access to land or a facility and where ABACUS TELECOM or our supplier is required to comply with any law of the Commonwealth, State, Territory or Local Government;
- Where a missed appointment occurs over a period of connection or repair delay for which a CSG liability already applies;
- Where you are connected by another carriage service provider to a Standard Telephone Service and request ABACUS TELECOM to supply that service, the CSG Standard does not apply in respect of the connection timeframe;
- Where you have agreed to waive your right to CSG eligibility under the CSG Standard;
- Where Enhanced Call Handling Features are not available due to existing network limitations;
- Where you are able to activate the Enhanced Call Handling Features from your telephone handset or customer equipment;
- Where you request connection of your telephone service and we have reasonable grounds for believing that you would be unable or unwilling to pay the charges for connection or use of the service, or
- If you were disconnected for non-payment of a charge and we have not reached agreement for the payment of that charge;
- If you unreasonably withhold agreement to an appointment offered by ABACUS TELECOM or its supplier;
- If you fail to keep an appointment with ABACUS TELECOM or our supplier without giving us at least 24 hours notice.

### **The guaranteed connection time frames as set out in the CSG Standard.**

ABACUS TELECOM aims to connect your Standard Telephone Service and specified Enhanced Call Handling Features within time frames consistent with the CSG Standard. These time frames are based on the service location and the availability of telecommunications infrastructure and spare capacity ABACUS TELECOM or its supplier can use to connect your service (see table below). Infrastructure refers to systems and facilities used in the provision of telecommunications services. It includes: radio distribution systems, network cables and lead-in cables to the customer premises.

Where ABACUS TELECOM envisages a delay in supplying you with a Standard Telephone Service, we will notify you in writing of the reason for the delay and the expected time frame for completion of any infrastructure upgrade. We will also offer an alternative service arrangement such as a call diversion to a mobile or fixed telephone service.

You may be entitled to a CSG payment for every working day of delay beyond an agreed connection date. Please refer to "How much does ABACUS TELECOM pay?" for more details.

ABACUS TELECOM will apply the “guaranteed maximum connection periods” set out below.

| Service location   | In-place connection                 | New connection with infrastructure and spare capacity | New connection without infrastructure or spare capacity      |
|--------------------|-------------------------------------|---|--|
| <b>Urban</b>       | Within 2 working days after request | Within 5 working days after request                   | Within 20 working days (equivalent to 1 month) after request |
| <b>Major Rural</b> | Within 2 working days after request | Within 10 working days after request                  | Within 20 working days (equivalent to 1 month) after request |
| <b>Minor Rural</b> | Within 2 working days after request | Within 15 working days after request                  | Within 20 working days (equivalent to 1 month) after request |
| <b>Remote</b>      | Within 2 working days after request | Within 15 working days after request                  | Within 20 working days (equivalent to 1 month) after request |

**Please Note:** An in-place connection is a connection of a Standard Telephone Service at a site where a previous working service has been cancelled by the previous account holder and is available for automatic reconnection or reactivation without the need for the service provider to do any other connection work at the customer premises, the local telephone exchange, or any places in between.

**Customer service locations (definition)**

The various demographic categories as outlined under the CSG Standard are:

| Service location category | Demographic size   |
|---------------------------|--|
| <b>Urban</b>              | Township/community grouping of 10,000 people or more   |
| <b>Major Rural</b>        | Township/community grouping of more than 2,500 people but less than 10,000 people                                  |
| <b>Minor Rural</b>        | Township/community grouping of 201 people or more but not more than 2,500 people within a standard zone            |
| <b>Remote</b>             | Township/community grouping of less than 200 people or township/community grouping located outside a standard zone |

**The guaranteed maximum fault repair periods specified by the CSG Standard.**

ABACUS TELECOM aims to repair faults or service difficulties on your Standard Telephone Service and specified Enhanced Call Handling Features within time frames consistent with the CSG Standard. Please note that the CSG Standard does not cover non-voice faults or service difficulties such as modem and fax dropouts.

We will repair faults and service difficulties within specified time periods based on the service location (see table).

Where ABACUS TELECOM envisages a delay in repairing your Standard Telephone Service, we will notify you in writing of the reason for the delay and the expected time frame for completion of any infrastructure upgrade. We will also offer an alternative service arrangement such as a call diversion to a mobile or fixed telephone service.

You may be entitled to a CSG payment for every working day of delay beyond an agreed repair date. Please refer to “How much does ABACUS TELECOM pay?” for more details.

ABACUS TELECOM will apply the “guaranteed maximum fault repair periods” set out below.

| Service location   | Time for repair                             |
|--------------------|---|
| <b>Urban</b>       | End of one full working day after report    |
| <b>Major Rural</b> | End of two full working days after report   |
| <b>Minor Rural</b> | End of two full working days after report   |
| <b>Remote</b>      | End of three full working days after report |

**Please Note:** The time for repair relating to “end of one full working day after report” applies to all service locations where the fault occurs due to an administrative error by the telephone company, or if the fault can be rectified without the telephone company attending customer premises or undertaking internal or external plant work.

### Appointments

ABACUS TELECOM aims to keep agreed appointments in relation to connection and repair of your Standard Telephone Service and specified Enhanced Call Handling Features.

If ABACUS TELECOM fails to keep an agreed appointment, you may be entitled to receive a CSG payment for a missed appointment. A new appointment may have to be arranged.

If an appointment time or location is changed either by you or by ABACUS TELECOM or its supplier with reasonable notice of at least 24 hours, or by agreement, you are not entitled to receive a CSG payment.

For appointments, the CSG Standard allows the following grace periods as shown:

| Service location              | Appointment period                                     | Grace period |
|-------------------------------|--|--------------|
| <b>All Locations</b>          | Less than or equal to 4 hours                          | 15 minutes   |
| <b>Urban and Major Rural</b>  | Greater than 4 hours and less than or equal to 5 hours | None         |
| <b>Minor Rural and Remote</b> | Greater than 4 hours and less than or equal to 5 hours | 45 minutes   |

**Please Note:** The grace period is extended to 45 minutes, where there is a need to travel a long distance, such as in the case of Minor Rural and Remote locations.

### Notifying ABACUS TELECOM

When requesting a connection or reporting a fault, customers are required to contact ABACUS TELECOM by 5pm on a working day for the specified connection and fault time frames to apply from that day. Customer requests received after this time will be taken to have been received the following working day.

A working day is a day that is not a Saturday, a Sunday or a public holiday in the customer service area.

### How much does ABACUS TELECOM pay?

There is no need for you to contact ABACUS TELECOM to lodge a claim for CSG. If ABACUS TELECOM fails to meet its obligations under the CSG Standard we will credit your account, no later than 16 weeks after your Standard Telephone Service is connected or the fault is repaired. You may request a refund from any credit balance that may appear on an invoice following our payment of the CSG.

For connection, repair and appointment liability incurred on or after 31 October 2006, ABACUS TELECOM is liable to make a CSG payment to you in accordance with the CSG Standard in the following circumstances:



- If we fail to connect or repair your service within the specified time period or on an agreed date, you may be entitled to receive a CSG payment of \$14.52 (for residential/charity customers) or \$24.20 (for business customers), for each working day that we miss, for the first five working days of delay. After the initial five working days of delay, you may be entitled to receive a CSG payment of \$48.40 (for all customer types) per additional working day of delay.
- If only one Enhanced Call Handling Feature is not connected or repaired within the specified time period or on an agreed date, you may be entitled to receive a CSG payment of \$7.26 (for residential/charity customers) or \$12.10 (for business customers) for each working day of delay. After the initial five working days of delay, you may be entitled to receive a CSG payment of \$24.20 (for all customer types) for each additional working day of delay.
- If two or more Enhanced Call Handling Features are not connected or repaired within the specified time period or on an agreed date, you may receive a CSG payment of \$14.52 (for residential/charity customers) or \$24.20 (for business customers), for each working day of delay. After the initial five working days of delay, you may be entitled to receive a CSG payment of \$48.40 (for all customer types) for each additional working day of delay.
- If an appointment is missed on a day that is not a day in relation to which you are entitled to receive a CSG payment in accordance with any of the above circumstances, you may be entitled to receive a CSG payment of \$14.52 (for residential/charity customers) or \$24.20 (for business customers), for each missed appointment.
- The maximum CSG amount payable under the CSG Standard is \$25,000.
- The Goods and Services Tax (GST) introduced on 1 July 2000 does not apply to CSG payments.

#### **How to contact ABACUS TELECOM**

To make a service guarantee enquiry in relation to the **connection** or **fault repair** of your Standard Telephone Service, including a missed appointment, please call ABACUS TELECOM Customer Service.