

FORUM: ICT ACCESSIBILITY

THURSDAY 4 FEBRUARY 2016

Accessibility of Information Communications and Technology (ICT) products and services is more and more frequently being regarded as one of the key considerations for ICT vendors and procurement officers. Across the world, leading economies have implemented measures to support the ICT accessibility needs of citizens.

The USA's Section 508 amendment of the US Rehabilitation Act 1973 provides standards for the accessibility of ICT and the European Commission's EN 301 549 Accessibility requirements for public procurement of ICT products and services assist in guiding USA and European stakeholders with supporting the ICT needs of people with disabilities.

While Australia currently does not have a standard to address the accessibility requirements for the procurement of ICT products and services, initial discussions with stakeholders indicate that there is both a need and a will on the part of government, industry and consumers to develop one.

Standards Australia will be hosting a forum on Thursday 4 February 2016 to consider the potential benefits and issues surrounding the development of an Australian Standard for the procurement of ICT products and services, including:

- Supporting access to ICT for people with disabilities in an appropriate time frame;
- Providing domestic ICT procurers with accessibility guidelines and certainty;
- Promoting industry interest in delivering accessible ICT;
- Creating an accessibility benchmark to encourage competitive innovation and greater accessibility in ICT; and
- The respective European and USA measures providing a platform for Australia to develop or adopt an ICT accessibility standard.

Guest speakers will present various stakeholder perspectives on Australia's need for an ICT accessibility standard. All relevant stakeholder groups are invited to participate in discussion which will take place after the presentations at the forum. Their views will assist in the shaping of future standards development work in the critical ICT Accessibility sector.

As a valued stakeholder, Standards Australia invites you to participate at the forum.

WHEN/WHERE

Thursday 4 February 2016
Standards Australia
Level 10, 20 Bridge Street, Sydney

10:00 am to 1:00 pm
Registration from 9:30 am

Light lunch to be provided – please advise of any specific dietary requirements by RSVP.

RSVP

This is a complimentary forum and places are limited. To confirm your attendance, please RSVP by Friday 15 January to nsm@standards.org.au providing your name, organisation and email address details.

ENQUIRIES

Varant Meguerditchian
Senior Manager, Stakeholder Engagement & Public Affairs
02 9237 6119 or
varant.meguerditchian@standards.org.au