

PUBLICLY FUNDED COMPUTERS

WHAT IS THE MEASURE?

The National Emergency Response Act (Cth) outlines a new system for checking that Publicly Funded Computers are used appropriately.

Under the system the individual or head of the organisation must:

- ensure each computer is installed with a filter accredited by the Telecommunications Minister
- keep records of each individual who uses a computer
- develop a policy on acceptable use of computers which prohibits communications that break the law, are defamatory, offensive, obscene, abusive or threatening, or harass on the basis of sex, race or disability (the Minister may determine other matters which the policy must include)
- audit each computer on 31 May and 30 November each year in a manner determined by the Minister.

Failure to perform any of the above is an offence.

WHAT IS A PUBLICLY FUNDED COMPUTER?

A Publicly Funded Computer is any computer:

- owned by a individual or organisation that receives government funding
- on loan from a individual or organisation that receives government funding, or
- owned or leased by a individual or organisation that directly or indirectly receives government funding for employment services

that is located in a Prescribed Area.

where are Prescribed Areas?

Prescribed Areas are:

- all Aboriginal land granted under Land Rights Act (Cth)
- all community living areas granted under Lands Acquisition Act (NT)
- town camps declared by the Minister
- any other area in the NT declared by the Minister.

WHEN DO THE CHANGES START?

Checking requirements – 18 August 2007

Offences – 15 September 2007

WHAT ARE THE POSSIBLE PROBLEMS?

The scope of Publicly Funded Computers is very wide and the checking requirements are strict.

WHERE CAN I FIND OUT MORE?

Northern Territory National Emergency Response Act 2007 Part 3