

## Complaint Policy

Whilst aaNet hopes that its customers (former, current and potential) will not have cause to be dissatisfied, we absolutely acknowledge the right for our customers to make a complaint and for it to be resolved in an objective, efficient and fair manner. aaNet's complaint handling process meets the following broad principles:

- it is accessible, transparent and easily understood; and
- it is free of charge; and
- it provides for the courteous, timely and fair resolution of complaints.

## Making a Complaint

You can contact aaNet via the following methods:

- Phone: 1300 665 076 (Monday to Friday 10am – 7pm AEST/AESDT)
- Mail: aaNet – Customer Service  
PO Box 631, Collins Street West MELBOURNE VIC 8007
- Email: [complaints@aaNet.com.au](mailto:complaints@aaNet.com.au)  
(aaNet- Customer Service)
- Online/Live Chat available at [www.aaNet.com.au](http://www.aaNet.com.au)
- During our discussions, if we are in doubt, we will confirm with you if your expression of dissatisfaction is a complaint.
- We will work with you to help you compile your complaint.
- **Another Person Acting on your Behalf**  
You may wish for someone else to deal with us on your behalf. This might be a family member, friend, your carer or your advocate. If so, you need to let our Customer Service Team know who that person is, so that we can add them to your account as an "authorised representative". Contact the Customer Service Team using the details listed above.
- **Customers with Hearing or Speech Impairments**  
If you are deaf or have a hearing or speech impairment and/or you use a text phone (TTY) or a computer with a modem, you can contact us by using the National Relay Service (NRS). You can use the NRS for no additional charge. Contact the NRS using a



modem or TTY by dialing 133 677 and quoting the relevant aaNet telephone number (listed above).

- **Customers with English Language Difficulties**

Customers having difficulty with English can communicate with us via the National Translator and Interpreter Service by calling 13 14 50.

## Complaint Reference

When you make a complaint, you will be allocated a unique reference number. This will be provided:

- immediately if you have made your complaint by telephone and had direct contact with our customer service staff; or
- within two working days of receipt if you have made your complaint by:
  - Email
  - The aaNet website
  - Post; or
  - Telephone and a message is recorded without direct contact with our customer service staff.

## Complaint Handling

Where possible, we will endeavour to resolve your complaint at the first instance as this is in everybody's interests.

We will discuss the elements of your complaint to enable appropriate classification into different categories and enable us to analyse trends and identify potential systemic issues. We will use our findings to continually strive to improve your customer experience.

When making a complaint that involves the disputation of charges, you will need to specify the amount or the nature of the charges that you are disputing. We will not take any further Credit Management action in relation to a specified disputed amount whilst the complaint remains unresolved and continues to be investigated by either aaNet, the Telecommunications Industry Ombudsman (TIO) or another recognised external dispute body, nor will we cancel your service just because you are making a complaint.

Credit Management action in this case refers to the process by which we manage credit risk and/or the collection of outstanding debts from current and former customers.



If, during our discussions regarding your complaint, it seems you may be having trouble paying your account, we will talk to you about the possibility of payment options, including our Financial Hardship Process.

We will delay the commencement of any legal proceedings while your complaint is being handled internally and for 7 Working Days after you are advised of the outcome of the complaint.

## Internal Escalation

In some cases, either upon your request or upon the discretion of our customer service staff, the complaint may need to be referred to a Team Manager. The Team Manager may then need to call upon the authority or expertise of staff in other departments or relevant third parties. In this instance a "first contact" resolution may not be possible however you will receive a complaint reference and we will endeavour to resolve your complaint within our resolution timeframes.

If you are not happy with the response times given, or wish to have your complaint assessed and treated as an Urgent Complaint, we will advise you within 5 Working Days (or 2 Working Days if you wish your complaint to be treated as urgent) of;

- Our internal prioritization and escalation process, and
- Options for contacting the Telecommunications Industry Ombudsman (TIO) or another recognised external dispute body.

## Resolution

We will endeavour to resolve your complaint at first contact but, if after our initial assessment we are unable to reach a resolution, we will advise you of our proposed resolution of your complaint as soon as possible following the completion of our investigation, but in any event:

- within 15 Working Days from the date the complaint is received by us; or
- if we do not believe the complaint can be resolved within 15 Working Days we will advise you before Working Day 15 of:
  - The reasons for the delay;
  - The specific timeframe for completion of the resolution; and
  - If the anticipated delay is a further 10 Working Days or more (and is not the result of a mass services disruption), we will advise you of your options for external dispute resolution including the TIO.

At all times we will advise you of any delays in the proposed timeframes.



You can request to have in writing, and we will provide it within 5 Working Days of your request;

- Confirmation of the proposed resolution, or
- Confirmation that the matter has been resolved.

You can monitor your complaint, by any of the methods available to make an initial complaint, by using your unique reference number.

Our proposed resolution must be accepted by you before we are required to implement the solution, however we can choose to implement a solution to your benefit without your prior approval.

Following your acceptance of the proposed resolution or earlier if we choose, we will complete all the necessary actions to deliver the resolution offered within 10 Working Days of providing that resolution unless:

- both parties agree otherwise; or
- the actions are contingent on your actions that have not been completed;

Provided we have either:

- obtained your consent;
- responded to any dissatisfaction you have told us you are experiencing with the progress of your complaint or the outcome/ resolution of your complaint by providing information regarding our internal escalation process and the options for external dispute resolution including the TIO; or
- first attempted to make contact with you to discuss your complaint or advise of the progress of the proposed resolution and following this have written to you at your last known address, stating that we were unable to contact you, providing details of the contact attempts and an invitation to contact us within a specific timeframe of no less than 10 Working Days but we have not had a response from you; we can close your complaint. Where a complaint is closed with your consent, you can request written confirmation of the resolution which will be sent to you within 5 Working Days.



## Urgent Complaints

We understand that all customers would consider their complaint in some way "urgent" and desire a speedy resolution in all cases. However, some complaints by definition are more urgent than others as they may involve the customer being in a vulnerable position until the complaint issue is resolved. For these complaints, there needs to be a process of escalation that is respected by us and in turn all of our customers. These involve complaints where:

- the complaint is made by a customer who has applied for or has been accepted as being in Financial Hardship under our Financial Hardship policy and where the subject matter of the complaint can reasonably be presumed to directly contribute to or aggravate the Financial Hardship of that customer;
- disconnection of a service is imminent or has occurred and where due process has not been followed.

For urgent complaints, we will provide confirmation of the proposed resolution of the urgent aspects of the complaint and, if accepted by the complaint, implement the urgent aspects of the resolution within 2 Working Days after the date the complaint is received.

If we believe we are unable to resolve your urgent complaint within 2 Working Days we will, within that time, advise you of;

- The reasons for the delay;
- The specific timeframe for completion of the resolution; and
- If the anticipated delay is a further 10 Working Days or more (and is not the result of a mass services disruption), we will advise you of your options for external dispute resolution including the TIO.

## Vexatious or Frivolous Complaints

In very rare cases we sometimes may encounter complaints that are frivolous or vexatious or behaviour from complainants that is in our reasonable opinion, fraudulent, racist, threatening or abusive.

We will not conclude that a complaint is frivolous or vexatious unless we have given the matter careful consideration and it has been appropriately escalated within our internal channels. After this, if we can do nothing more to assist the complainant or, in view of the complainant's behaviour, we choose not to deal with the complainant any further, we will inform the complainant, including in writing if requested, of the reasons within 5 Working Days and tell them about the options for external dispute resolution including the TIO. We are not then required to accept any further complaints from that complainant on the same or similar issues other than in the course of an external dispute resolution process.



## Escalation

If, after the internal escalation and complaint handling process has concluded, you are still not satisfied with the outcome or resolution of your complaint you are entitled to refer your complaint to the TIO.

The Telecommunications Industry Ombudsman is a free and independent alternative dispute resolution scheme for small business and residential consumers in Australia with unresolved complaints about their telephone or internet services. The TIO's contact details can be found on [www.tio.com.au](http://www.tio.com.au), or call 1800 062 058.

## No Contact

If we have been unable to contact you to discuss your complaint or offer a proposed resolution, we will write to you at the address or email we have on file for you to;

- Advise we have been unable to contact you;
- Provide details of our contact attempts; and
- Invite you to contact us within 10 Working Days.

