



NEWS RELEASE

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INTERNET SOCIETY OF AUSTRALIA CHARTS NEW COURSE – APPOINTS CEO

--- "Helping Shape Our Internet Future" ---

The Internet Society of Australia (also known as ISOC-AU) today announced the outcomes from an internal review – “Helping Shape Our Internet Future”. The focus of the review is a renewed strategy to ensure the ongoing evolution of the Internet for the benefit of all Australians.

The review highlighted a number of ‘hot button’ issues confronting industry, government and individual users. These include increasing concerns about privacy and security, copyright, 'Net neutrality, online safety, the storage and use of metadata and the urgency to deploy IPv6 across Australian corporate and commercial networks.

The review noted that for Australia to fully benefit from new Internet based opportunities the country needs a fast, effective broadband network.

The President of the Internet Society of Australia, George Fong, said: “Without a ubiquitous broadband network providing reliable Internet connections and appropriate speeds Australia will be unable to be competitive and take advantage of important developments in the fields of commerce, medicine and social development”.

“We need to ensure that Australia remains a world leading creator and adopter of Internet technologies and we need networks that allow for new services as they emerge”, Mr Fong added.

As a critical element of the Internet Society’s renewed strategy, Mr Fong announced the appointment of Laurie Patton as its first CEO. Mr Patton takes on this role following an extensive career in media, IT and event management. He is a former Seven Network executive and the founding CEO of community television station TVS (Television Sydney) and the highly acclaimed Foxtel World Movies channel.

Mr Patton's immediate priority will be to engage with Internet communities, government and business to ensure that the Internet Society fulfils its central role in informing debates on Internet issues through the provision of rigorous technical and financial analysis.

"There has never been a more important time for the Internet Society to make a contribution. There is so much confusion and ill-informed comment that needs to be countered with expert advice and reliable data", Mr Patton commented.

The Internet Society of Australia provides high level technical information to Internet user groups, governments and regulatory authorities. It makes submissions on important issues to government and regulatory reviews here in Australia and internationally.

"Our members hold significant roles in Internet related organisations nationally and overseas. This means we are ideally placed to lead the debate about how to best develop the Internet for the benefit of all Australians", Mr Patton added.

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About the Internet Society

The **Internet Society of Australia** (also known as ISOC-AU) is the Australian chapter of the worldwide Internet Society and is a non-profit organisation founded in 1996 to promote Internet development for the benefit of the whole community. Its directors and members hold significant roles in Internet related organisations and enable the Society to provide high level technical information to Internet users groups, governments and regulatory authorities. See: www.internet.org.au

The Internet Society (www.internetsociety.org) is the world's trusted independent source of leadership for Internet policy, technology standards and future development. The Society works with its members and country chapters to ensure the Internet continues to grow and evolve as a platform for innovation, economic development and social progress for people around the world.

About Laurie Patton

Laurie Patton has held wide ranging management and board roles in media, IT and event management. He is a former journalist, working for each of the three Australian commercial television networks.

Mr Patton was the inaugural CEO of TVS (Television Sydney), which the first Australian television channel to live stream continuously on the Web. He was a member of an expert panel for a 2010 Federal Government review of the Indigenous broadcasting and media sector and was instrumental in having the National Indigenous Television Channel (NITV) provided with free-to-air coverage on SBS. More at http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Laurie_Patton
