

AusNet Services Complaint and Dispute Resolution Policy

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AusNet Services Complaint and Dispute Resolution Policy

1. Background

AusNet Services recognises the major role we play within local communities across Victoria, and the impact our activities can have on these communities, residents and families.

AusNet Services values customer queries, complaints and feedback as an important tool in monitoring and responding to customer expectations. In order for AusNet Services to respond appropriately, customer's queries, complaints and feedback should be properly recorded and assessed as part of an on-going complaints management process.

Open communication and feedback are regarded as essential elements of satisfying and productive service delivery, and a positive customer experience. Our customers should feel comfortable discussing their complaint with AusNet Services.

AusNet Services is committed to activities that help us to know, engage with, and empower our customers that seek our advice and assistance.

2. Purpose

The purpose of the AusNet Services Complaint and Dispute Resolution Policy is to:

- establish an effective and equitable complaint and dispute resolution process for complaints that involve or relate to AusNet Services.
- recognise, promote and protect customers' rights to complain about their dealings with AusNet Services.
- maintain a high level of service to AusNet Services' customers by ensuring that any disputes are resolved in as consistent, fair and quick manner as possible.
- define procedures that enable disputing customers to identify and resolve issues of contention on a mutually acceptable basis.
- record, assess and review complaints on an ongoing basis in order to improve services offered by AusNet Services.

Every customer has the right to make a complaint to AusNet Services if they are not satisfied with our services. AusNet Services will not discriminate against anyone as a result of that person making a complaint.

3. Objectives

The objective of this Policy is to embed an effective and efficient complaints management process within AusNet Services, aligned with our business values, vision and strategic objectives.

(a) The Policy applies the following guiding principles:

- a. Timeliness - issues should be resolved quickly rather than allowing them to escalate through inaction.
- b. Fairness – all relevant parties should be consulted, and investigation should be thorough.

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- c. Sensitivity – complaints should, where possible and appropriate, be resolved in a sensitive environment with recognition of personal information and privacy.
 - d. Transparency – the Policy and complaint handling process should be made known to customers and other participants.
- (b) This Policy applies to all individuals who wish to make a complaint or dispute relating to AusNet Services.

- (c) In developing this Policy, AusNet Services has adopted industry best practice and ensured that its customer complaints management process is compliant with the Australian Standard AS ISO 10002-2006 'Customer Satisfaction – Guidelines for complaints handling in organisations'.
- (d) The Policy is also supported by the various AusNet Services corporate policies and procedures, in particular our:
 - a. Customer Charter.
 - b. Guaranteed Service Levels scheme.
 - c. Code of Conduct.

4. Process

When a complaint or dispute is received by AusNet Services:

- (a) Complaints are allocated to a complaints handling officer.
- (b) AusNet Services accurately records the details of the complaint as part of our complaint management process, gives it fair and genuine consideration and seeks to achieve a fair outcome.
- (c) AusNet Services informs the customer that we will handle their complaint in accordance with the AusNet Services Complaints and Dispute Resolution Policy.
 - a. The Policy can be found on the website or a copy of which can be provided to a customer on request.
- (d) AusNet Services ensures the complaint is managed in accordance with the principles of the International Standard ISO 10002.
- (e) AusNet Services investigates the complaint within a reasonable timeframe, having regard to the nature and complexity of the complaint.
- (f) If a customer's complaint cannot be resolved at first contact, we will keep them informed of the progress and aim to give a full response to the complaint within 21 days.
- (g) If the complaint is not resolved by that time, AusNet Services will keep you advised at regular intervals of the status and progress of your complaint.
- (h) AusNet Services treats the complaint respectfully and handles all personal information in accordance with the Privacy Act and AusNet Services' Privacy Policy.

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- (i) AusNet Services reviews and analyses complaints to determine trends, and uses these trends to improve the services we provide to our customers, and if appropriate, AusNet Services makes changes to remedy a situation to prevent the situation reoccurring.

If a complaint is unresolved:

- (a) AusNet Services informs the customer they have a right to raise the complaint to a higher level within our management structure.
- (b) After further internal investigation if a complaint cannot be resolved to a customer's satisfaction, customers may contact the Energy & Water Ombudsman of Victoria (EWOV).
 - a. EWOV receives, investigates and assists in the resolution of a range of enquiries and complaints customers may have with electricity and gas companies. It is an independent service, easy to access and free of charge to you.

5. Contact Information

Customers are able to lodge a complaint or dispute relating to AusNet Services by:

Phone: 1300 360 795

Email: csc@ausnetservices.com.au

In writing: Customer Contact Centre

AusNet Services
Locked Bag 14051
Melbourne City Mail Centre
Victoria Australia 8001

Through your retailer: (the company that issues your electricity or gas bill)

Energy and Water Ombudsman of Victoria (EWOV): 1800 500 509 (Freecall)