



# ICS User Representative Newsletter

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- **22 years experience in the ACS**
- **Worked with CMR since 1998**
- **Resigned from ACS to be ICS User Representative**

*"I am keen to gain an understanding of Industry issues, concerns and ideas..."*

*"...providing a central contact point to seek and consolidate industry input to the CMR project"*

## Grant Allison-Young

Let me introduce myself. My name is Grant Allison-Young, and I have recently taken on the role of the Integrated Cargo System (ICS) User Representative. Paul Zalai, who formerly held this position, has moved to a managerial role in the Customs Brokers and Forwarders Council of Australia (CBFCA). My responsibilities in this role are detailed below, but I would firstly like to provide some information about my background.

I joined the Australian Customs Service (ACS) in 1981, and in the nine years before I moved to Canberra, I worked on the Sydney waterfront, in the Invoice Room, and Air Cargo screeners. In 1990, I moved to Canberra to join the Air Cargo Automation development team.

I formed the Sea Cargo Automation (SCA) team in 1991, and we successfully (!?) built and implemented that system nationally. In July 1998 I joined the Cargo Management Re-engineering (CMR) project as a foundation member. For the past three years I managed the Import Declarations team.

Being with CMR from the start in 1998, I have a solid background in the reasons why Customs decided to undertake this ambitious project. Leaving the project towards the end of the analysis phase, I also have a solid grasp of the functional aspects of the new Imports and Exports processes. Note, I have resigned from the ACS to accept this position.

I am keen to gain an understanding of Industry issues, concerns and ideas for the successful implementation of the ICS over the next eighteen months.

## My Charter

Overall, my mission is to assist **all** industry sectors in the implementation of the ICS and transition from current import/export cargo systems. To the extent possible, I will be providing a central contact point to seek and consolidate industry input to the CMR project. I will continue to work in relation to legacy system issues and broad policy liaison with government agencies on behalf of industry. Other aspects of my role are to:

- Provide feedback to Customs on industry reactions to CMR and progress with implementing CMR ready IT systems and business practices,
- Provide input to awareness raising and learning and development plans and materials
- Provide input to the development of the pre-production industry testing environment to ensure that its set up reflects industry testing needs, Working in concert with Customs in promoting the

cutover to the ICS and encouraging the early rollout of and familiarisation with industry software.

• **Here to help with the 3 T's:**

- **TESTING**
- **TRAINING**
- **TRANSITION**

***“My commitment to all industry sectors is to represent your views impartially, and to add value to your business with regards to CMR.”***

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## **How can I help your Sector?**

While I have a lot of knowledge about CMR from a Government perspective, there is a great deal I need to learn about issues from an industry perspective. Further, I want to quickly get up to speed on export matters given that this will be the most urgent topic in the immediate future.

Remember, I am here to help, but in order to be effective, **I need your help!** I need you to provide me with problems, solutions, and suggestions even if you just want to have a chat about CMR in general.

My commitment to all industry sectors is to represent your views impartially, and to add value to your business with regards to CMR.

My Sydney office is in Alexandria, but I will be spending a fair amount of time working with Customs and AQIS in Canberra. In the near future, I plan to visit most capital cities and I would like to offer an invitation for any interested party to contact me to discuss any concerns or issues you have with CMR.

My contact details are in the column on the right, I look forward to hearing from you soon!

## **In the next Newsletter...**

I plan to produce a regular CMR newsletter for the import/export community. I will be sharing information on a range of topics: upcoming events, milestones, answers to FAQs and 'matters of concern', interest items, (and probably) calls for assistance. I would like to consider industry at large to be a "master-mind" group, where experiences and suggestions can be shared for the community good.

In the next newsletter, I will provide a brief outline of the CMR Implementation strategy, the difference between the 5 phases and the 3 releases as well as an update on progress from both ACS and AQIS.

On with the re-engineering!

Grant A-Y