

Senate Standing Committees on Environment and Communications
PO Box 6100, Parliament House
Canberra ACT 2600

Via: ec.sen@aph.gov.au

Attention:

Senator Ruston (Chair)
Senator Siewert
Senator Urquhart

Broadcasting and Other Legislation Amendment (Deregulation Bill) 2014.

Dear Senators

On behalf of Deaf Australia and members of deaf and hard of hearing community, I wish to express sincere appreciation and thanks for the invitation to expand our submission on Deregulation Bill in areas of captioning on 2 February 2015 at the Senate Inquiry held in Sydney.

I note that Deaf Australia is the only consumer representative organisation attending the inquiry.

To recap yesterday's presentation, I wish to bring to attention 4 key points:

1. That caption is a right, not a privilege. Deaf and hard of hearing people find it is difficult to access information through various mediums, such as radio, public announcements, movies, theatres that are not readily available and accessible for deaf and hard of hearing people. Television is the only source of current information.
2. That complaint mechanism approach does not work. Given years of extensive experience with Disability Discrimination Act (1992) deaf and hard of hearing people still experience discriminations in wider community.
3. That 5 Stars Captioning Standards be developed to ensure consumer's satisfaction, industry compliance and continuous improvements. This model is similar to ANCAP's 5 Stars Safety Rating for vehicle widely accepted by automotive industry. That 5 Stars Captioning Standards be developed independently with collaboration and endorsed by all stakeholders including Deaf Australia.

4. That deregulation is deferred until full and proper consultations with relevant stakeholders (including Deaf Australia) are achieved because quantity and quality of captioning is two separate issue.

I look forward collaborating with the committee and relevant stakeholders to ensure consumer's safeguards and quality of captioning is achieved.

Again, thank you for inviting Deaf Australia to present at the inquiry.

Regards

Kyle Miers
Chief Executive
Deaf Australia

3 February 2015

