

Monday, 8 December 2014

Captions on Television

Sir/Madam

I am writing to you to tell you that I am concerned at the proposal to abolish the rule that free-to-air television broadcasters must complete an annual captioning compliance report.

I am deaf, but hear with cochlear implants. This does not mean that I can hear language, only that I hear when it is spoken and certainly not the words. This means that I need captions to understand what is being said on ALL television programs.

I find that I am increasingly isolated when there are no captions on programs, be they entertainment or documentaries... and this being so I am totally reliant on members of my family telling me what is happening on the program, or any other program, be it the news or a documentary. This, in more ways than one, takes away my independence. My family is annoyed that I take them away from their leisure activities, and this makes me feel really guilty.

I need captions because it is impossible to understand people with accents in every way.

I am finding that on the secondary channels even though a program was previously captioned, and when it is repeated it is not captioned...

Being able to read captions on TV means that I can keep up with events, warnings that are flashed on the screen, what not to do and so forth. Without captions I have no idea of what is going on in any way.

Having captions means I am not isolated and can communicate with other members of my family and within the community.

I could write a very long submission, but I have chosen to abbreviate as the main points of needing captions are outlined above.

Please do not take away our years of hard work to get captions on television for the Deaf and Hearing Impaired.