

Senate Standing Committee on Environment and Communications
Answers to Senate Estimates Questions on Notice
Additional Estimates February 2017
Communications Portfolio
Department of Communications and the Arts

Question No: 10

Program 1.1

Hansard Ref: Written, 10/03/2017

Topic: Audio Description – Free-to-air and catch-up

Senator Siewert, Rachel asked:

1. What are the Government's next steps regarding the implementation of audio description across free-to-air broadcast television and catch-up services?

Answer:

The Australian Broadcasting Corporation (ABC) completed its audio description (AD) trial on iview on 30 June 2016. The ABC provided the Australian Government with its final report of the trial on 17 October 2016. The government is currently considering the results of the trial and will release the ABC's final report in due course.

The results of the ABC's iview trial, combined with results from the 2012 ABC terrestrial AD trial, add to the government's understanding of the delivery options available for AD in Australia.

Any long term regulatory or other options to provide permanent AD services on free-to-air television or catch-up services need to be carefully considered.