

**Senate Standing Committee on Environment and Communications**  
**Answers to Senate Estimates Questions on Notice**  
**Additional Estimates February 2017**  
**Communications Portfolio**  
**Australian Broadcasting Corporation**

**Question No: 115**

**Australian Broadcasting Corporation**  
**Hansard Ref: Written, 10/03/2017**

**Topic: Audio description**

**Senator Brown, Carol asked:**

1. The ABC's iView Audio Description trial ended in June last year – has the ABC provided a report to the Minister as it said it would do in its interim report in November 2015?
2. What did that report recommend?
3. Why is it taking so long to get Audio Description when it is widely available in other parts of the world?
4. In the UK, all broadcasters have been working towards 10% of audio described programming since 2003, with many channels doing more than this. In the US, legislation passed in 2010 will see the major networks and cable stations broadcast 7 hours of audio described programs per week by 2012. So why does Australia not yet have Audio Description services for blind and vision impaired Australians?
5. How long will it be before we have Audio Description in Australia?

**Answer:**

1. Yes, in October 2016.
2. The ABC's report has been sent to the Minister and the issue is a matter for government.
3. The ABC considers this a question of policy and it is therefore a matter for government.
4. See response to Question 3.
5. See response to Question 3.