

**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: 129**

**Australian Broadcasting Corporation**

**Hansard Ref: Written, 14/03/2017**

**Topic: Transcription services**

**Senator Urquhart, Anne asked:**

1. What activities has the ABC undertaken to update its access strategy for captioning, audio description and transcription of ABC services?
2. When will the ABC's access strategy be completed?
3. Will the ABC maintain its level of transcription services?
4. The ABC's iView Audio Description trial ended in June last year. What does the ABC's report to the Minister recommend?
5. Why is it taking so long to get Audio Description when it is widely available in other parts of the world?

**Answer:**

1. The ABC is developing an overarching media access strategy that takes into consideration relevant factors, including available technology, the cost of that technology, the ABC's legislative requirements and audience demand. The ABC has also consulted with representatives from relevant stakeholder groups in consideration of its strategy and will continue to engage with key stakeholders as a matter of course.
2. The ABC intends to finalise its media access strategy by 30 June 2017.
3. The delivery of transcription services will be addressed in the strategy.
4. The report delivered to government in October 2016 sets out the findings from the technical trial of audio description on the iView platform. The report includes observations of the trial but does not set out any recommendations.
5. The ABC is of the opinion that to achieve the most satisfactory result for the audience there is a requirement for a whole of industry approach that includes proper consultation with the broadcast industry, advocacy groups, key stakeholders and relevant audiences.