

I wish to make a submission to the enquiry into broadcasting deregulation in relation to the deregulation of the mandatory reporting requirements for compliance with closed captioning regulations for free to air television.

As a hearing impaired member of the community I rely on the availability of closed captioning to be informed of current affairs and to make my television viewing meaningful and enjoyable. As one in six in the Australian community has some level of hearing impediment it would seem logical to strengthen captioning requirements rather than introducing deregulation which has the potential to reduce the level of useful captioning on free to air television. Captioning requirements are much stronger in the USA and UK and I suggest Australia look to those countries for guidance in strengthening our captioning regulations.

Sincerely
Peter Lowe