



Access to arts, news and other services in rural and regional Australia to be examined

Access to the arts, news and other services in rural and regional communities will be under the spotlight when the National Rural Health Alliance and ACT Government appear before the House of Representatives [Standing Committee on Communications and the Arts](#) for its inquiry into broadcasting, online content and live production to rural and regional Australia.

Committee Chairman, the Hon Bronwyn Bishop MP, said the Committee looked forward to hearing from the National Rural Health Alliance and the ACT Government regarding the importance of access to these services.

“The Committee will hear from the National Rural Health Alliance, a peak body for 36 national organisations working to improve the health and wellbeing of people living in rural and remote Australia, which will highlight the value of the arts to people in these communities,” Mrs Bishop said.

“The ACT Government will also appear before the Committee to discuss the importance of local content and community broadcasting, and the provision of timely, accurate and consistent information by local media to the community during emergencies.”

Mrs Bishop also said that it is encouraging to hear that access and engagement with the arts in rural and regional communities could not only improve the cultural experiences of these communities, but also their health and wellbeing.

Public hearing details:

Date: Tuesday, 1 March 2016

Time: 3.40pm to 4.45pm

Location: Committee Room 1R2, Parliament House, Canberra

[Live webcast \(audio only\)](#)

The committee will continue to gather evidence from key stakeholders, community members, and media and broadcasting organisations at public hearings over the coming months.

For media comment:

The Hon Bronwyn Bishop MP (Chairman of the [Standing Committee on Communications and the Arts](#))

Phone: (02) 6277 4210

For further background information on the inquiry and Committee, please visit the Committee website www.aph.gov.au/communications or contact the secretariat: (02) 6277 4386 or communications.reps@aph.gov.au