



**Australian  
Human Rights  
Commission**

President

---

The Hon Catherine Branson QC

21 June 2012

Ms Sophie Dunstone  
Acting Committee Secretary  
Parliament House  
Canberra ACT 2600

Sent by email: [ec.sen@aph.gov.au](mailto:ec.sen@aph.gov.au)

Dear Ms Dunstone

**Inquiry into Broadcasting Services Amendment (Improved Access to Television Services) Bill 2012**

Thank you for inviting the Australian Human Rights Commission to provide a submission to the Environment and Communications Legislation Committee's inquiry into the Broadcasting Services Amendment (Improved Access to Television Services) Bill 2012.

The Bill amends the *Broadcasting Services Act 1992* to introduce new legislative requirements, and increase some existing requirements for the provision of captioning services by commercial, national and subscription television broadcasters.

The Commission welcomes the focus towards increasing captioning services in the legislation and supports the provisions of the Bill as introduced into Federal Parliament on 30 May 2012 without amendment. Progress towards equitable access to electronic media for people with disability is a positive step, which the Commission supports.

Should the Committee wish to discuss directly with the Commission any specific issues regarding the Bill, the Commission would be pleased to do so. The relevant contact for this matter is Disability Discrimination Commissioner Graeme Innes, [graeme.innes@humanrights.gov.au](mailto:graeme.innes@humanrights.gov.au), (02) 9284 9692.

Yours sincerely

Catherine Branson  
**President**

T +61 2 9284 9614  
F +61 2 9284 9794  
E [associate@humanrights.gov.au](mailto:associate@humanrights.gov.au)