



Egan, Brendhan (REPS)

From: Phil Harper [harp@ozonline.com.au]
Sent: Friday, 21 June 2002 11:22 AM
To: Brendhan.Egan.Reps@aph.gov.au
Cc: Cathy Clark
Subject: Broadband Inquiry follow up

Brendhan Egan
Inquiry Secretary
House of Representatives Communications Committee's Inquiry into wireless broadband technologies
Parliament House
Canberra. ACT. 2600

Dear Brendhan,

I am following up the request from members of the Inquiry committee for extra information following my appearance as a witness to the Inquiry on Thursday 13th June.

The following information will assist the committee providing further detail on the subject matters. You will notice that that I have provided either attachments or website addresses where the precise information can be found. This will make it easier to gather the information at your end and also seek further information from the site.

1. Videophone provision in Norway

I cannot recall if I said Norway or Finland during our meeting. I would need to check the Handsard draft when I receive it. However, below is an extract of the information announced in April 2002 by both the Norwegian Government and Motion Media (videophone suppliers) regarding provision of videophones to young Deaf people in Norway.

Motion Media PLC, a world leader in the design and development of visual communications technology and products, has secured preferred supplier status to provide young deaf people in Norway with its desktop videophones.

The Government Department announced its intention to provide every deaf child and young person under 18 with videotelephony at home so they can communicate via a video link using sign language. The videophones have been supplied by Motion Media's Norwegian distributor, Teknisk Marked AS, who have been instrumental in supporting the testing and trial period. Motion Media's mm225 is also being integrated with a vibrating paging system that alerts deaf people to a video call.

As part of Norway's social security system, the Ministry of Social Affairs has responsibility for providing solutions for people with special needs, including the deaf, either for free or heavily subsidised if there is a proven need.

Website: <http://www.motion-media.com/html/about/pressoffice/news/2002/020415.htm>

2. Federal Communications Commission (FCC) decision to force digital wireless service providers to be capable of transmitting 911 (emergency call number) calls made using TTY devices by June 30, 2002.

An attached document is a copy of the ruling.
FCC's website is www.fcc.gov/

3. Americans with Disabilities Act. Title VI details standards that relate to telecommunications. The ADA in comparison to Australia's Disability Discrimination Act (DDA) is more specific in that it details technical standards that must be applied to provide access in relevant telecommunication areas such as payphones, relay services, etc.

Information can be found at:

www.usdoj.gov/crt/ada/adahom1.htm (homepage for the ADA)

www.usdoj.gov/crt/ada/911ta.htm (relates to 911 / emergency services)

4. WISDOM Project (Wireless Information Services for Deaf people on the Move)

Wisdom project is an innovation sponsored by the European Commission with many direct partners that include British Deaf Association, Vodafone (UK), Bristol University, Mtion Media technology (UK), Omnitor AB (Sweden), Ericsson (Spain) and others.

The project expects to develop a mobile phone video telecommunications device for Deaf people.

Information can be found at:

www.mobilewisdom.org/main.htm

www.bris.ac.uk/Depts/Info-Office/news/archive/wisdom.htm

5. OFTEL (Office of Telecommunications) UK regulator for the telecommunications industry

OFTEL has specific rulings that include provision of reduced tariff rates for TTY users through its universal service obligation.

Information can be found at:

www.oftel.gov.uk/publications/consumer/uso0801.htm

www.oftel.gov.uk (homepage)

6. Deaf Australia Online Projects I & II

Both projects funded by Accessibility grants from the Department of Communications, Information Technology and the Arts involved a project that was to look at online accessibility for Deaf Australians. The organisations involved included: Victorian Deaf Society, Circuit-RMIT, NMIT - TAFE, Australian Association of the Deaf and Australian Communication Exchange.

The initial project sought to gather information and look at issues, gaps and technology needs. The second phase of the project looked into trialling various technology to see where access was possible or was required. Trials included videophones, multi-mode communication hubs, mobile phones, on-line training and Auslan videos online.

Copies of the Full reports can be obtained through:

<http://circuit.primeinternet.com.au/projects/dao1/>

<http://circuit.primeinternet.com.au/projects/dao2/final1.htm>

7. V. 18 Technical standard

V.18 is a standard developed and adopted by the International Telecommunication Union - Telecommunication Standardizations Sector. It is a standard for modems with TTY capacity allowing different textphone protocols to communicate with a modem and computers. This universal design concept seeks to allow globalisation of TTY's enabling Deaf people from around the world to communicate with each other.

It is currently adopted in Europe, not yet Australia.

Information can be found at:

<http://tap.gallaudet.edu/faq2.htm>
<http://www.itu.int/ITU-T/>

Nokia Communicator 9210 mobile phones allow a range of applications that include voice telephony, sms, email, WAP internet, fax, etc. In Europe, the Nokia Communicator phones also allow communication with TTY's and Relay Services because they include provision of the **V.18 standard**. Not available in Australia.

Information can be found at:

http://www.aspiro.com/templates/Page___2206.asp
www.royaldeaf.org.uk/cable.htm

I would appreciate if you can pass the above information to member of the Inquiry committee.

Should you require further information, please let me know. Again, thank you for the opportunity for Australian Association of the Deaf to appear before the Inquiry committee.

sincerely,

Phil Harper
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Australian Association of the Deaf
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