My submission

I went 100% deaf in 2008 and use a cochlear implant.

Hearing is a health issue just as sight is.

It should be covered by the Health department and Medicare, not Department of Ageing. The issue of captions on TV should be a primary issue with the ACMA.

Health insurance for cochlear implants is charged at the highest rate. Why aren't they and hearing aids covered by Medicare and perhaps hearing aid and cochlea batteries a tax deduction? They should be.

Cochlear implants need to be insured as part of household goods, not as a special top-dollar one-off item.

There should be requirements for media outlets, TV and cinema in particular to maximise the access provided for those who can't use their existing facilities. The media outlets collect plenty of advertising revenue - they can cover the cost of captions on TV and audio loops in cinemas.

## **ABCTV**

iView [internet media] needs to have captions NOW. No more delays. Other TV outlets too.

Thanx

John Couani