

15 Linum Street
Blackburn
Victoria, 3130
Australia

Objection: AHRC Captions Exemption Submission by Cinemas

Dear Sir/Madam,

As someone who relies on captions to fully understand the dialogue in movies screened in cinemas, I am obliged to object to the submission by the applicants.

The current program that involves shunting captioned screenings into off-peak sessions is not satisfactory. The access issues associated with this are illustrated when one of my groups of hearing friends want to go and watch a movie - which is generally in the evenings. Firstly, there are never any captioned movies scheduled in this timeslot, and secondly, the choice of movies is extremely limited and it is unusual for any of the movies I want to watch to be captioned. Consequently I either attend - and miss out on much dialogue (I note that the cinemas do not offer any compensation/discount for this) or I don't attend at all - and entirely miss out on an activity, along with attendant social activities with my hearing friends. The submission by the applicants outlines a geographical expansion of what is an ineffective accessibility program in that it only caters to a small subset of those who can benefit from captions.

I object to any request for exemption that is not based on a real improvement in accessibility. This is not a new issue, and the cinemas have had ample opportunity to come to grips with the relevant legislation and technological and other means of improving accessibility, but have not done so.

Yours sincerely,

Stephen Swann