



Queensland Association of the Deaf Inc.

06/11/2009

Dear Australian Human Rights Commission,

We are an advocacy organization in Queensland representing Deaf people who use Auslan – Australian Sign Language. We have over 130 members throughout Queensland from Cairns to Townsville to South-Eastern Queensland.

It has come to our attention that the four large cinema companies – Hoyts, Village, Greater Union and Reading Cinemas are intending to apply for exemption from the Disability Discrimination Act over the amount of captioned movies being shown in cinemas. They intend to only improve 3 cinemas with captions and audio descriptions every three months over the next 2 and half years once the exemption is granted. This is NOT enough.

We strongly feel this is discrimination against us Deaf people because once the exemption is granted; we cannot lodge any complaints against them for the next 2 and half years over inadequate access to captioned movies. Also we currently only have access to three sessions a week to watch captioned movies at the cinemas in a central place (Myers Centre in Brisbane for example) while hearing people in the wider community enjoy the choice of many cinema locations and many movies. Often we have to wait for a new release movie to be shown with captions many weeks long after they have been released to the general hearing public.

Also better advertising times and notices of each captioned film screening is strongly recommended as several of our members have gone to the cinema in anticipation of a certain captioned film, only to discover it had been switched at the last minute to something totally different, or that the captioning equipment had broken down without any notice. This has resulted in a wasted trip, as there's only one cinema which shows captioned movies in each major city or dissatisfied members watching a movie with no captions.

We, Queensland Association of the Deaf, strongly feel that we have the right to:

- View ANY movies captioned at ANY time, ANY location in Australia;
- Be informed of ANY changes in captioned movie times;
- Be able to lodge ANY complaints against cinema companies.

Thank you for taking the time to consider this very serious matter,

Yours sincerely,

Queensland Association of the Deaf

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