



Australian Government

Department of Families, Housing,
Community Services and Indigenous Affairs

Response to the Productivity Commissions Draft Research Report - Annual Review of Regulatory Burdens on Business: Social and Economic Infrastructure Services

The Department of Families, Housing, Community Services and Indigenous Affairs (FaHCSIA) has reviewed the Draft Research Report. The Department understands the need to review regulatory burdens on businesses and the need to monitor impacts as changes are being implemented. To this end the Department complies with the Office of Best Practice Regulation guidelines.

In reviewing the report the Department would like to specifically address recommendation 4.7:

Draft Recommendation 4.7 – Captioning Services on Television

FaHCSIA supports the proposal to align the *Broadcasting Services Act 1992* provisions with the existing *Disability Discrimination Act 1992* (DDA) provisions, but considers that the DDA provisions should not be lowered. Ideally, free-to-air networks should provide closed captioned programs as a matter of course rather than as an exception. Such an approach would increase the accessibility for Australians with hearing loss or deafness to the news, sports and entertainment that is freely available to all other Australians and which forms an important enabler of social inclusion.