



Terms of Reference – Audio Description Working Group

The Audio Description Working Group will:

- identify options to sustainably increase access to audio description (AD) services for Australians who are blind or vision impaired and others who may benefit from AD;
- identify any impediments to implementation of such options, including technical, financial, cultural or capability issues;
- bring together industry and consumer stakeholders with relevant expertise and experience to provide advice on these options and impediments; and
- provide a report to the Minister for Communications and the Arts and the Assistant Minister for Social Services and Disability Services on its findings by 31 December 2017.

The Audio Description Working Group will, in performing this role, consider:

- the benefits of AD and the impact of the provision of AD services on consumers who are blind or vision impaired;
- the content best suited to AD and the content users would seek to access with AD;
- the current availability of AD services in Australia;
- the use of AD across different platforms (i.e. terrestrial TV, online platforms, apps);
- learnings from the two AD trials conducted by the ABC in 2012 and 2015-16;
- challenges to accessing and providing AD including technical and compatibility issues, content and copyright issues, and the financial cost of implementation;
- incentives to encourage future provision of AD services in Australia; and
- alternatives to legislated requirements to provide AD services.