

Parliament
PO Box 1556
Wellington, 6012

24th September 2015

To whom it may concern

The **New Zealand Speech-Language Therapists' Association (NZSTA)** welcomes this opportunity to contribute to the Parliamentary Inquiry into **Captioning in New Zealand**. We are the professional association for over 700 speech-language therapists across New Zealand working in education, health and private practice. We support the government's initiative to further develop captioning services, as these are of benefit to many of the people we work with as speech-language therapists.

There are several studies internationally which have shown the benefit of captioning.

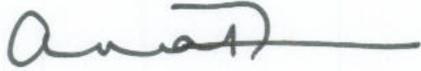
These include:

- Improvement of reading scores of children (Linebarger, Piotrowski, & Greenwood, 2010).
- Boost written and spoken vocabulary of teenagers (Davey & Parkhill, 2012).
- Improvement of literacy rates of adults (Kothari & Bandyopadhyay, 2014).
- Improvement of comprehension of television shows for Deaf/hard of hearing students (Jelinek Lewis & Jackson, 2011).

Overseas, in countries such as the USA, there are already laws in place to ensure Deaf/hard of hearing people are able to access media, from their education setting through to workplace settings. These are in relation to the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act (IDEA), the Rehabilitation Act of 1973, and the Americans with Disabilities Act. (<https://nad.org/issues/technology/captioning/when-required>).

In summary, we fully support captioning of all media, so that every New Zealander regardless of whether they have a disability or not is able to access all media. NZSTA would be happy to be involved with further discussions with Parliament and further support this work. NZSTA can offer both academic support and research evidence to support the rationale behind captioning. Thank you for the opportunity to contribute to this inquiry.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Anna Miles', with a long horizontal stroke extending to the right.

Anna Miles PhD

Professional Standards

New Zealand Speech-language Therapists' Association

professionalstandards@speechtherapy.org.nz

References

National Association of the Deaf, <https://nad.org/issues/technology/captioning/when-required>

Davey, R., & Parkhill, F. (2012), Raising adolescent reading achievement: The Use of sub-titled popular movies and high interest literacy activities. *English in Aotearoa*, 78, 61-71.

Jelinek Lewis, M.S., & Jackson, D.W. (2001), *Journal of Deaf Studies and Deaf Education* 6(1), 43-53.

Kothari, B. & Bandyopadhyay, T. (2014). Same language subtitling of Bollywood film songs on TV: Effects on literacy. *Information Technologies and International Development*, 10, 31-47.

Linebarger, D., Piotrowski, J.T., & Greenwood, C.R. (2010). On-screen print: The role of captions as a supplemental literacy tool. *Journal of Research in Reading*, 33, 148-167.