

ACTION ON CINEMA ACCESS

**all films,
all cinemas,
all sessions.**

ARTS ACCESS VICTORIA SUPPORTS ACTION ON CINEMA ACCESS

Arts Access Victoria strongly supports the campaign Action on Cinema Access.

Whilst the cinema may be one of our most popular entertainment spaces, it remains one of the least accessible.

With ONLY 0.3% of screenings across Australia being accessible to people who are deaf, hard of hearing, blind and vision impaired, the cinema industry is out of step with Australia's social inclusion agenda. Only 105 of the estimated 41,000 weekly screenings shown nationally are accessible to these members of our community.

We often hear that access is too costly or too hard. This is far from the case. For the past nine years, Arts Access Victoria has partnered with Melbourne Museum to host The Other Film Festival.

The Other Film Festival is Australia's only disability film festival. The festival is known nationally and internationally for its commitment to outstanding cinema concerned with the experience of disability. It is equally recognised for exemplary and innovative access to the immersive experience of cinema. The Other Film Festival delivers universal, innovative and practical access to the pleasures of cinema for people with a disability. In partnership with the Melbourne Museum, the Other Film Festival continues to highlight best practice cinema accessibility. At the Melbourne Museum, the Other Film Festival is presented in The Age Theatre.

The vision of this partnership is to deliver best practice for the inclusion of the broadest audience in Victoria. With the proportion of Victorians with a disability reaching 20%, creating a focus on access has become an imperative. Our growing audience of people with a disability, now numbering into the thousands, are flocking to The Age Theatre to enjoy a fully immersive and accessible cinema experience.

This partnership has demonstrated that where there is commitment to the inclusion of people with a disability, universal access to cinema is achievable.

We encourage all Australians to get behind this campaign and send a signal that the inclusion of people with a disability in community life is important to us all.

COMMUNITY PROTEST LOCATIONS ANNOUNCED!

Attend your local protest in each of the following capital cities on **Saturday 13 February at 11am, local time:**

Melbourne:

On the street in front of 131 Russell St Melbourne

Main contact: Dean Barton-Smith

Brisbane:

In the Queen Street Mall outside 167 Queen Street.

Meeting point is outside, in front of the David Jones store on 167 Queen St Mall, Brisbane City. If numbers swell, then we will walk together along the Queen St Mall to Brisbane Square (5 min. walk).

Main contacts: Brett Casey & Emma Bennison

Hobart:

On the street in front of 181 Collins St, Hobart

Main contact: Grant Roberts

Sydney:

On the street in front of 525 George St, Sydney

Main contact: Gareth Wreford

Perth:

On the street in front of 8 William Street, Fremantle

Main contact: Geoff Manton

Adelaide:

On the street in front of 181 O'Connell St, Nth Adelaide

Main contact: Katrina Parker

For up-to-the-minute details or to check any changes to protest locations, log onto the [Action On Cinema Access Facebook page](#).

If you have any queries, please contact Veronica Pardo at vpardo@artsaccess.com.au or Dean Barton-Smith at dbartonsmith@optusnet.com.au

Possible slogans for placards:

We encourage you to bring along a placard! See below for some possible slogans -

- Inaccessible is unacceptable
- This cinema is inaccessible
- Don't accept inaccessibility
- 0.3% is not enough
- Discrimination is illegal
- Even blind people can see this is discrimination
- Don't turn a Deaf ear to discrimination
- Are you listening?
- I'm Deaf but you're not listening
- "Up in the Air" - will cinemas provide equal access to movies?
- "It's Complicated"? Nothing complicated about discrimination!
- I'll have what they're having!
- Go ahead, make my day!

Rules of a Peaceful Protest

1. No offensive language
2. Please do not interfere or disturb patrons entering or leaving the cinema
3. Please refer all media to the protest leader or spokesperson
4. This is a Stay-Put Protest which will occur at the gathering point
5. Do not block sidewalks & streets with your bodies or signs
6. Do not leave any trash, except in receptacles
7. SIGNS: no offensive words or symbols; wording must pertain to demonstration theme
8. No violence, no racism, no law-breaking

SEND A MESSAGE TO PARLIAMENT!

If you feel that all Australians have a right to access the cinema, then email the messages below to the Hon. Robert McLelland, Attorney General; Bill Shorten MP, Parliamentary Secretary for Disabilities; Senator Stephen Conroy MP, Minister for

Communications; and Peter Garrett MP, Minister for the Arts.

To: Hon. Robert McLelland, Attorney General

attorney@ag.gov.au

Parliament House, Canberra ACT 2600

Dear Attorney General,

Less than 0.3% of all cinema sessions are accessible to people who are deaf, hard of hearing, legally blind or who have vision impairments. This means 4 million Australians are excluded from going to the cinema. We believe that EVERYONE has a right to access the cinema.

Recently, Village Roadshow, Greater Union, Hoyts and Reading Cinemas applied for exemption from the Disability Discrimination Act for two and a half years. If the exemption is granted, cinemas will get away with providing a minimal amount of captioning and audio description at only 105 of 41,370 screenings per week.

THIS IS NOT GOOD ENOUGH!

ALL Australians have a right to cinema access - this means all films, all cinemas, all sessions.

Sincerely,

[Insert your Name & Address]

To: Bill Shorten, Parliamentary Secretary for Disabilities

bill.shorten.mp@aph.gov.au

PO Box 214, Moonee Ponds Vic 3039

Dear Bill Shorten MP,

Less than 0.3% of all cinema sessions are accessible to people who are deaf, hard of hearing, legally blind or who have vision impairments. This means 4 million Australians are excluded from going to the cinema. We believe that EVERYONE has a right to access the cinema.

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Sincerely,

[Insert your Name & Address]

To: Peter Garrett MP, Minister for the Arts

peter.garrett.mp@aph.gov.au

PO Box 6022, Parliament House, Canberra ACT 2600

Dear Minister,

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Sincerely,

[Insert your Name & Address]

To: Senator Stephen Conroy, Minister for Communications

minister@dbcde.gov.au

Suite MG70, Parliament House, Canberra ACT 2600

Dear Senator,

Less than 0.3% of all cinema sessions are accessible to people who are deaf, hard of hearing, legally blind or who have vision impairments. This means 4 million Australians are excluded from going to the cinema. We believe that EVERYONE has a right to access the cinema.

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Sincerely,

[Insert your Name & Address]

Email sent by Alison Kenny to Parliament House, cc. Dean Barton-Smith (Action on Cinema Access spokesperson), published below with her

permission:

Dear Hon. Robert McLelland, Seanator Stephen Conroy, Bill Shorten and Peter Garrett,
I am forwarding this [email] regarding cinema access.

Every time I take my eight year old who is deaf (I am hearing), to see a movie I have to translate using sign language, because there is never captioning at the movies, which is what he uses to understand the television at home.

My gorgeous little boy LOVES the movies and is always so excited when I tell him that we are going. It breaks my heart every time (I'm starting to cry now as I write this) while I watch him trying to enjoy and watch the big screen and at the same time (I don't know how, him and I do it, but we do!) watch me signing to him in the DARK!) his little head turning constantly like he is watching a game of tennis and him straining his eyes to see me.

Then we have a little break but it gets the better of him and he starts calling out "what are they saying?" "what did they say?" We are both exhausted after this! I feel uncomfortable and a nuisance to other people as they are constantly looking at me to see why a woman is waving her hands around. But I have to, I tell my self!! My son has every right! I hope you can please help us to no longer be discriminated against like this. Please!

Please Help Us!

Kind Regards

Alison Kenny, Brisbane

Response from Dean Barton-Smith:

Alison,

Can I say what a beautiful and heart felt message that you generated. It even touched me as well! I sincerely hope that you get a response from these people and if you do I'd be grateful to let me know.

If I can have your blessing, can I forward this to the key Cinema Action Group people working on this campaign for their interest as we are collating stories such as this as evidence in this regards.

Good on you for doing this. We need more people like you!

Kind regards

Dean

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