

With regard to the consultation on Broadband Connect and associated programs, TEDICORE is unable to write a formal submission due to time pressures. However, TEDICORE wishes to submit the following point (that was also raised at the Brisbane consultative meeting):

That the Government encourages ISPs to offer symmetric speeds such as 512 kbps for their customers at a reasonable price. This is beneficial for Deaf people using broadband communications for videoconferencing to enable them to communicate via AUSLAN (Australian Sign Language), this being their first language. ISPs offering this type of symmetric speed will also attract educational services both in metropolitan and rural areas that wish to encourage students to undertake multimedia projects online. This type of approach could be considered by the Government for Broadband Connect, Metropolitan Broadband and Clever Networks.

TEDICORE is the voice of Australia's peak organisations of people with disabilities on telecommunications and is supported by the Commonwealth through the "Grants to Fund Telecommunications Consumer Representations"

program of the Department of Communications, Information Technology and the Arts. TEDICORE is administered by the Australian Federation of Disability Organisations. It represents the interests of people with a disability in relation to telecommunications issues and promotes equity and accessibility. A Project Advisory Body with members from peak disability bodies such as Australian Association of the Deaf, Deafness Forum of Australia, Physical Disability Council of Australia, Women with Disabilities Australia, Blind Citizens Australia as well as Assoc. Prof. Christopher Newell AM ensure that there is broad representation.