



Media Release

SENATOR JAN MCLUCAS

Parliamentary Secretary for Disabilities and Carers

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Local Disability Award finalist captioning their way to the top

A Macquarie Park business, featured on *The New Inventors*, which introduced a unique innovation for real-time, speech to text live captioning in Australia has been selected as a finalist for the Australian Government's National Disability Awards.

It is one of only three Australian businesses to be shortlisted as a finalist and Parliamentary Secretary for Disabilities and Carers, Senator Jan McLucas visited Ai-Media to congratulate the co-founders and staff.

Senator McLucas said the Awards highlight some remarkable stories and recognise outstanding contributions that individuals, organisations and businesses make to the community and to the disability sector.

"Ai-Media was co-founded in 2003 by Tony Abrahams, and Alex Jones who was born deaf. The company currently employs 56 people, including three people with disability," Senator McLucas said.

"Businesses like Ai-Media help more than two million Australians with hearing loss to be better included in Australian culture and current events through live captioning.

"Live captioning – where text is typed as the word is spoken – is adaptable to any program and can be applied to settings like children's education.

Today more than 6.5 million Australians view captioning across a broad range of programming including primetime TV, current affairs and local drama.

"This technology enables families to enjoy a program together, or people with hearing impairment to more easily connect to local, national and international news and events.

The National Disability Awards recognise the outstanding achievements and contributions individuals, organisations and businesses make to the community and to the disability sector across seven categories

The National Disability Awards will be announced at a gala dinner in Parliament House, Canberra, on 22 November and is part of the Australian Government's celebration of International Day of People with Disability.

For more information visit the International Day of People with Disability website www.idpwd.com.au or visit the Families, Housing, Community Services and Indigenous Affairs website www.fahcsia.gov.au.

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