



DISGRUNTLED: Protester Barry Priori outside the cinema

Captioned films rally

DEAF and hearing impaired people and their families have rallied for better access to cinema sessions.

A group of about 50 protesters, including children, gathered outside North Adelaide's Piccadilly Cinema yesterday calling for South Australian cinemas to screen more films with captions.

Deaf Can Do worker and member of Deaf Australia Barry Priori, 53, of Adelaide, said deaf and hearing impaired people had waited too long for better access to films.

"Australia is so far behind," Mr Priori said. "The hearing community forgets about us."

Rally organiser Katrina Parker, who works with Deaf Australia's state branch, said holding a rally was out of character for the group.

"It's over the top for us but we're fed up," Ms Parker said.

Only three SA cinemas screen captioned films several times a week - Greater Union Megaplex Marion, Whyalla Cinema and Palace Nova, in Rundle St, city.

"We need a lot more than that," Ms Parker said. Village, Greater Union, Hoyts and Reading cinemas have applied for exemption from the Disability Discrimination Act for 2½ years.

According to Dignity for Disability's Paul Collier, this would initially exempt the cinemas from screening any captioned films. A decision will be made on Tuesday.

SARAH MENNIE