Fixing auto-captions on YouTube

ACCAN has become increasingly aware of the issue of inaccurate auto-captions in online videos and is calling on all Government agencies, politicians, political parties and any other organisations that post videos online to fix their auto-generated captions.

When uploading videos to YouTube, Google's voice recognition software automatically interprets the speech and adds captions to videos. It's clear that there are issues with this process. There are countless examples of auto-caption fails on YouTube. See below for some examples of when auto-captions make serious videos look like an unintended joke.

If your video has background noise, loud music overlay, quiet voice audio, people speaking too quickly or features people with strong accents, the voice recognition software struggles to accurately caption the video. But you can fix this! Below are some simple instructions on how to edit auto-captions on YouTube.

Thousands of people around the country depend on these captions to enjoy watching YouTube videos and to access important information from Government agencies and organisations. You'd be surprised how many people neglect to edit the auto-captions on their videos, but it can make a world of difference for people who are Deaf, hard of hearing and those who rely on captions to access information.

So, what's the solution?

You can edit auto-captions in YouTube quite easily! All you have to do is:

1. Log-into your YouTube Video Manager
2. Click the pencil (edit) icon on your video
3. Select 'Subtitles and CC'
4. You can then edit the auto-captions by clicking on them and selecting 'edit.' This has the advantage of speed. As the timings are already set, all you need to do is correct the wording. Alternatively, you can create your own captions by either uploading a timed transcript, typing or pasting a transcript into the captions editor and selecting 'transcribe and set timings' or creating new captions by typing them as you watch the video play back.

There are a number of other online resources available to help make the editing of automated captions straightforward. Some of these resources include: Amara, Google YouTube support, No More Craptions and How to caption a YouTube video by Media Access Australia.