# What's new in accessible social media

Vithya Vijayakumare Senior Digital Accessibility Specialist VisAbility

# VisAbility



## Who am I?

### Professional:

- Digital Accessibility Specialist
- Round Table on Information Access for People with Print Disabilities Working Group
- Perth Web Accessibility Meet-Up & Committee member
- Sound Designer Specialising in 3D audio creation

#### • Academic:

- Bachelors of Creative Industries (Sound Design and Multimedia) ECU
- Masters of Innovative Technology (Sound Design, 3D audio/surround sound) ECU
- Professional Certificate in Web Accessibility, University of South Australia
- Personal:
  - Sound Enthusiast, Photography and Video production, Accessibility Advocate, Marathon & Ultra Trail Runner, Indoor soccer and netball player <sup>(2)</sup>



## **Disability Statistics**

"At least 466 million people of the world population have hearing loss"

"At least 2.2 billion people have a vision

impairment or blindness"

"Hundreds of millions of people worldwide are

affected by neurological disorders."

World Health Organisation (WHO)

## Social media and accessibility

- Major accessibility improvement in the last few years
- Adding Alt text for images in Facebook, Twitter, Instagram, LinkedIn.
- Capitalise the first letter of each word for #hashtags i.e. #DigitalAccessibility.
- Use Twitter hashtags such as #a11y for accessibility.
- Use emoji and emoticons sparingly.

## Social media and accessibility

- Avoid using terms like "Click here" Use descriptive call for actions
- Write in plain language
- All caps are not recommended
- Good colour and contrast
- Captioning and audio describing videos

## Latest accessibility updates!



• Twitter



Instagram



LinkedIn



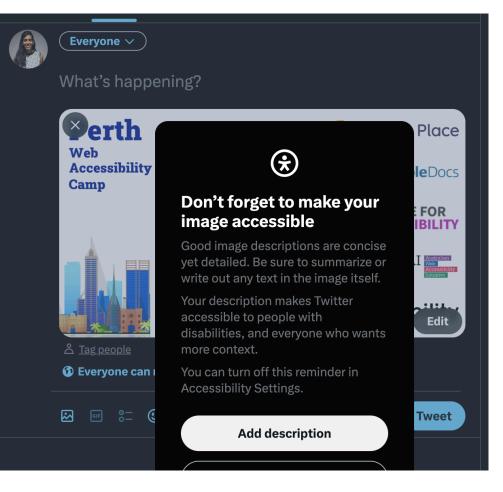


## **O** Twitter: Designing accessible sounds

- The "Chips" are out!
- Twitter introduced the "chirps" when you refresh you home timeline.
- Promoting accessibility for those with sensory sensitivities
- Keeping sounds short and smooth
- Attracting attention without being distracting
- Example

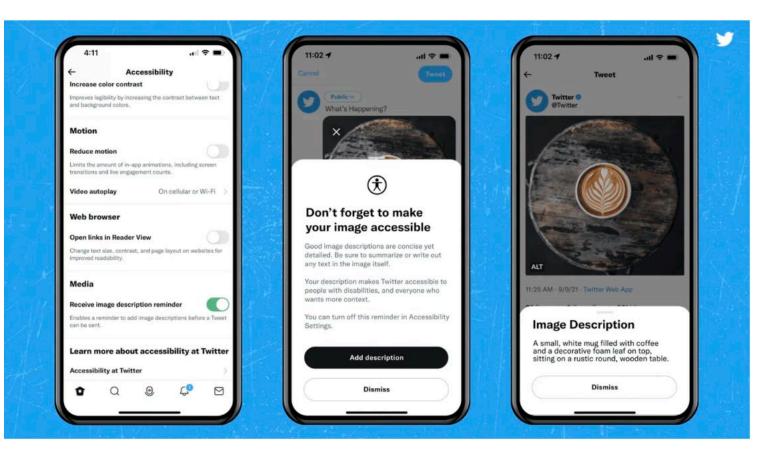
## Twitter – Image Description Reminder

- Introduction to the "Alt Text"
  - tool reminder
- Reminds you to add alt text before tweeting



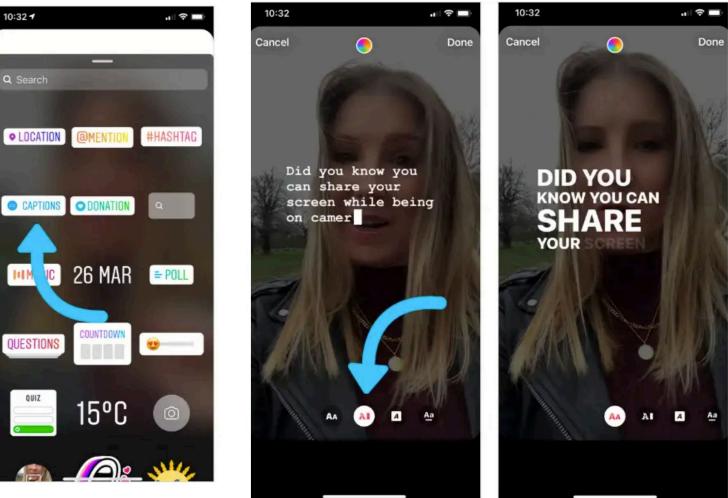
## **Twitter – Image Description Reminder**

- Enable the feature on your settings
- Follow @TwitterA11y

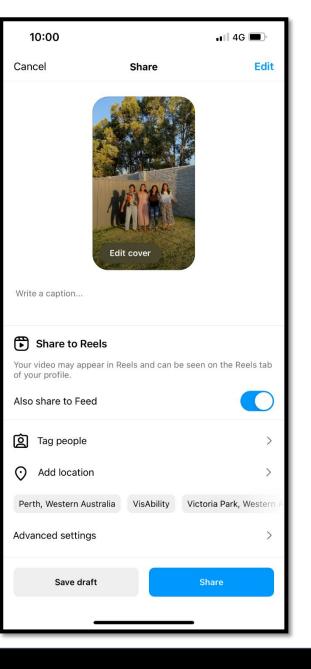


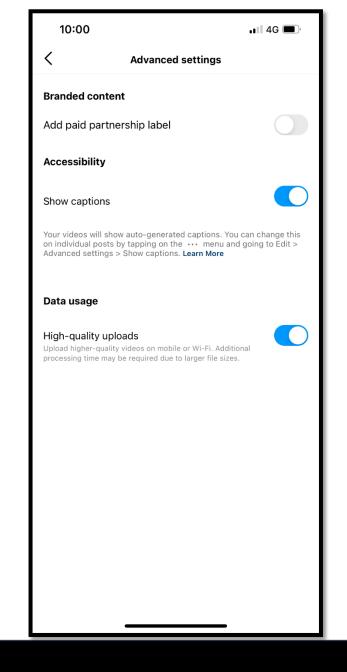
# Instagram stories/Reel (Caption sticker)





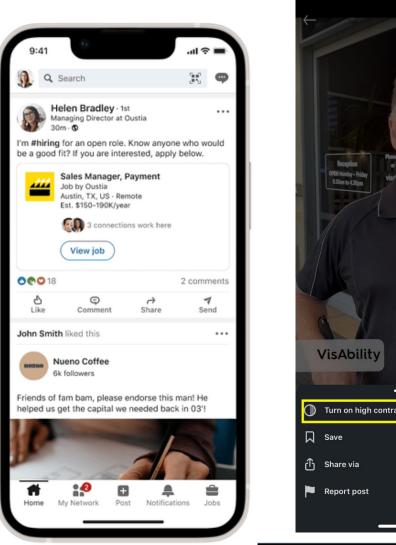
## Auto-generated captions for Instagram Reels

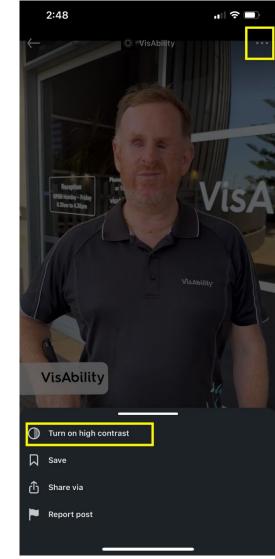




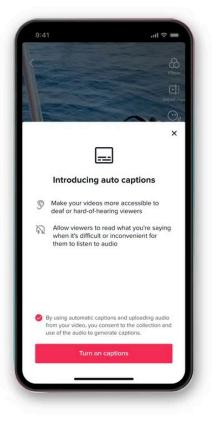
## LinkedIn – Auto Captioning & High contrast mode

- LinkedIn generates auto caption for videos
- High contrast mode available when watching videos on LinkedIn App









9:41

Cancel



## Thank you!

• Email: <u>vithya.vijayakumare@visability.com.au</u>

accessible@visability.com.au

- Twitter: <u>@vithyavv</u>
- In Linkedin: <u>Vithya Vijayakumare</u>

https://www.linkedin.com/in/vithya-vijayakumare-b802a45b/

• Phone: 1800 847 466 (1800 VISION)



## Visability Every support at any stage.

VisAbility website: www.visability.com.au