



Annual Report 2002 - 2003

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Australian Association of the Deaf Inc

Our vision

A national Deaf community with equal rights and full access in Australian society.

Our Mission

Representing on a national level, Deaf people who use Australian Sign Language.

Our Work

AAD is the national peak organisation for Deaf people in Australia. It represents the views of Deaf people who use Auslan (Australian Sign Language). It is a true consumer organisation - only Deaf people have the right to vote on AAD business and to be elected to the Board.

The Deaf community can be recognised by their unique sign language - Auslan. AAD is committed to promoting and preserving sign language as the official and indigenous language of the Deaf community. AAD believes that Deaf people belong to a linguistic minority group and are disadvantaged by a lack of access to communication, education and services. AAD works with and on behalf of Deaf people in seeking their rights as citizens of Australian society.

AAD's major aims are:

- to educate the Deaf community about their basic rights and obligations under the law;
- to educate the general community about issues relating to Deaf people;
- to lobby the Government and other decision making bodies to ensure that the rights of Deaf people are taken into account in policy reform and service provision.

AAD has six state branches: New South Wales, Queensland, Victoria, Tasmania, South Australia and Western Australia and is a member the World Federation of the Deaf (WFD).

Our History

AAD was established in 1986 at the National Deafness Conference in Adelaide, South Australia to improve the quality of life of Deaf people in Australia.

In 1992 AAD began receiving funding from the Commonwealth Government. At the opening of the National Advocacy Service, set up with this funding, Bruce Muller, who was AAD's first Secretary/Treasurer said:

"The Deaf in Australia were beginning to accept that they were a group entitled to a separate identity because of their unique language and culture... and they were entitled to determine their own destiny."

The first Board of AAD communicated with one another via written correspondence. No funds were available then to hold face-to-face meetings and Board members had to pay their own way to get to a Board meeting.

Over the years, the membership of AAD has grown and AAD's financial position has improved. The AAD Board now meets usually four times a year. Between meetings the Board communicates regularly by email, SMS and TTY.

Organisation Chart

Board

President:

Robert Adam, NSW

Secretary:

Ann Darwin, Vic

Treasurer:

Brett Casey, Qld

Board members:

Kyle Miers, NSW

Patricia Levitzke-Gray, WA

Kimberley Pickering, Qld

Stephen Nicholson, NSW

Sub-committees

Deaf Culture and Arts

Convenor: Ann Darwin

Captioning

Convenor: Kyle Miers

Employment

Convenor: Stephen Nicholson

National Deaf TV

Convenor: Tony Clews

Telecommunications Access

Convenor: Brett Casey

Youth

Convenor: Alastair McEwin

Expert Groups

Education

Health

Sign Language

Sign Language Interpreting

Staff

Manager:

Karen Lloyd

Information & Communication Officer and NDTV Project Officer:

Natalie Sandon

DTAN Project Officers:

Cathy Clark

Phil Harper

Administration:

Gillian McGregor

Judy Clews

State member organisations (state branches)

NSW Association of the Deaf

Tasmanian Council of the Deaf

Queensland Association of the Deaf

Victorian Council of Deaf People

South Australian Association of the Deaf

Western Australian Association of the Deaf

President's Report

It is my great pleasure to present to you the Australian Association of the Deaf's 17th Annual Report. AAD continues to go from strength to strength, and achieve so much more with such limited resources, both financially and human. The list of achievements in this Annual Report will show that AAD has continued to work hard to represent its members all around Australia.

As President of AAD and as a Deaf person I was especially privileged to be a part of the first National Week of Deaf People tour, where I visited all State capital cities over a period of six days. The warmth and hospitality of Deaf Communities was wonderful to experience, and it was a worthwhile activity, meeting with government officials in each city and lobbying for equality of Deaf people, nationally and statewide. I don't think anyone else has had this opportunity to meet with so many Deaf people in so many places and participate in so many National Week of Deaf People events. Special thanks are extended to Karen Lloyd and Natalie Sandon at the AAD Office for their efforts in making this such a great success.

It is especially pleasing that AAD has continued at its current level of funding, and has had some successes in obtaining extra funding. We must not rest on our laurels, and continue to work towards the long-term financial security of AAD. It is not so long ago when I was a new Board member of AAD that the annual budget was about three thousand dollars. I would like to ensure that AAD is able to use its secure financial base to represent the Deaf community of Australia.

We have also seen some sadness. Jack Shaw, husband of our Founding President, the late Dorothy Shaw OAM died during the year. It is fitting that his grand-daughter, Patricia Levitzke-Gray was a member of the AAD Board during the year and so the link with the Shaw family continues to this day. Special thanks are extended to the Shaw family for their donation.

I would also like to congratulate our Board members who have reached milestones in their own lives. Brett Casey (Treasurer) and Michelle Stark welcomed Aidan in mid 2002 and Kim Pickering (Board member) and John Pratt welcomed Stella in late 2002. In early 2003, Kyle Miers (Board member) and Rachel Miers welcomed their second child, Georgia. This will continue into 2003 as Karen Lloyd (Manager) and John Louttit have announced Karen's pregnancy! We wish all these families all the very best for future happiness and health!

Finally I must thank all my Board colleagues, AAD staff and members for their support during the year. Without these people, AAD would not have been as successful. I must also acknowledge my family, friends and employer (The Deaf Society of NSW) for their support and forbearance for another year. I look forward to seeing you around the country and continuing our fruitful working relationship and building on the strength of the Deaf Community.

ROBERT ADAM
President and Life Member.

Manager's Report

It is always a pleasure to write an annual report and reflect on the year past, and 2002 has been an especially satisfying year for us at AAD.

We had six staff this year, all part-time except myself. You will see from the list of highlights for the year what a difference this has made to our ability to make inroads into advocating for positive change and working towards a stronger Deaf community.

The Deaf Telecommunication Access and Networking Project had a full-on first year, and made very significant contributions to raising AAD's profile with industry, government and regulatory bodies. The project's output in terms of discussion papers, consultation workshops and input into government inquiries was exceptionally high. Cathy Clark and Phil Harper, the two Project Officers, are to be congratulated on their outstanding contribution to this area of AAD's work.

The National Deaf TV project also benefited this year from direct and ongoing input from staff. Natalie Sandon worked closely with the Sub-committee to advance the campaign, and one outcome of this is that during 2003 our members are enjoying a series of Deaf Film/TV evenings.

One important development this year was that our President was able to get out into the community in a much more visible way, particularly during National Week of Deaf People when he undertook a gruelling visit to all states, meeting with many people and with government Ministers. One important outcome of this tour was that we managed to get interpreting onto the national agenda.

During 2003, there will be much more focus by government on interpreting issues. Our President will do another national tour during National Week of Deaf People.

We have continued to have input into the development of standards in various areas. This year this included standards under the Disability Discrimination Act (DDA). The first of these standards was finally passed by Parliament, ten years after the DDA came into effect. We also had input into other standards developed by industry, in particular the telecommunications and banking industries, and late in the year Standards Australia asked us to have input into their development of AS1428.5, which covers communication access for people who are Deaf or hearing impaired. For most of us, talking about standards is rather tedious, but it is very important work because standards set a benchmark for business and service providers to follow and it makes it easier for us to advocate for Deaf people's rights to access.

During the year we had input into a number of government policies and documents, including advocating against the proposed changes to the Disability Support Pension, and advocating for changes to the education system in Queensland. We also had input into documents such as the NAATI proposals to change their testing methodology and accreditation procedures.

Youth and leadership development has always been an area close to my heart, and one of the most difficult areas for AAD to progress, so it was especially pleasing this year to be successful in obtaining a grant for a two year youth leadership and networking project. This project begins in 2003 with funding from the Telstra Foundation.

2003 promises to be another productive year. We look forward to working with you all towards our vision of a national Deaf community with equal rights and full access in Australian society.

Special thanks to all the staff who have worked so hard this year, and to our Board for their ongoing support and assistance.

Karen Lloyd
Manager

Highlights of 2002

- Paper presented at a Forum at the National Library, on making libraries accessible for disabled people.
- Input into the Australian Bankers Association industry standards on telephone banking.
- Workshops on various issues held in Melbourne, Hobart, Lismore, Canberra.
- Presentations/discussions held at universities and TAFE colleges in Brisbane and Sydney, and schools in Brisbane, Melbourne, Hobart and Sydney.
- Visit from Carol-lee Aquiline, General Secretary of the WFD, and Kim Nichols from the Canadian Association of the Deaf.
- Development of a media plan.
- Responded to a number of media articles and reports.
- Responded to the NAATI discussion paper and proposed changes to their test format and methodology.
- Provided comments on the Telstra Disability Action Plan and the ANZ Bank Disability Action Plan.
- Met with Commonwealth Bank to discuss provision of Auslan interpreters at home loan interviews.
- Provided comments on a NSW Government Discussion Paper on the Forensic DNA Sampling of Serious Indictable Offenders.
- Attended a meeting (including a media conference) in Canberra organised by Australian Council of Social Services to discuss changes to the Disability Support Pension and welfare reform.
- Worked with Australian Federation of Deaf Societies (AFDS) and Australian Sign Language Interpreters Association (ASLIA), and with the Office of Disability and HREOC to advocate for a research project into interpreting issues, and more funding for Deaf Societies for Interpreting services.
- Organised with QAD a forum for the Director of Inclusive Education at Education Queensland to talk with the Deaf community about inclusive education.
- New AAD website launched. National Library of Australia chose our website for inclusion in their database of culturally significant websites.
- Participated in the Victorian State Deaf Conference.
- Visited Darwin and Canberra to discuss the establishment of branches of AAD in the NT and ACT.
- Obtained \$48,000 grant over 2 years from the Telstra Foundation for a new Youth Project, to commence in 2003.
- NDTV project employed a staff member for one day per week to help advance the campaign.
- Provided feedback on a draft standard funding agreement to be used by all government departments.
- Provided support for two families in a complaint to HREOC against the Queensland Education Department, and to a family lobbying the same department for improved education access.
- Lobbied members of MCEETYA (a cross-governmental ministerial committee) to support the DDA Education Standard.
- Attended the National Deafblind Conference.
- Met with AusAID to discuss options for obtaining funding to set up overseas aid programs.

Highlights of 2002

- Reformed the AAD Youth Sub-committee. Held a training weekend for the new sub-committee.
- AAD's President visited every state during National Week of Deaf People in October. In each state he attended Deaf community events and, with a representative from the state branch of AAD, met with the state Minister responsible for disability issues to discuss issues of concern to Deaf people.
- Held an Open Day at the AAD office during National Week of Deaf People.
- Worked with children in bilingual education programs around Australia to design an umbrella featuring their handprints. Umbrellas were released for sale during National Week of Deaf People.
- Attended Deaf Festivals in Hobart and Brisbane.
- Presented a paper on accessible information for Deaf people at a forum in Canberra on the Commonwealth Disability Strategy, organised by the Department of Family and Community Services and the National Disability Advisory Council.
- Discussions with Deaf Education Network on the possibility of developing a national "Auslan for the family" program, but this has been put on hold due to funding issues at DEN.
- Discussions with Standards Australia on AAD input into the development of AS1428.5 Design for Access and Mobility: Communication for people who are deaf or hearing impaired.
- Attended an information sharing forum "Disability and the Media" and participated in a group that was formed with the aim of increasing representation in and access to the media by people with disabilities.
- Attended events in Sydney and Brisbane for International Day of People with Disabilities.
- Attended the Indigenous Disabilities conference.
- Established the DTAN project. See the report on Telecommunications for information on project activities.
- Funding received to continue the DTAN project for another 12 months.
- Represented Deaf people's interests at meetings of the following committees and forums:
 - ◇ Australian Federation of Disability Organisations Working Group
 - ◇ HREOC working party on free to air TV captioning
 - ◇ HREOC working party on pay TV captioning
 - ◇ HREOC working party on cinema captioning
 - ◇ Disability Discrimination Act Standards Project Steering Committee
 - ◇ Australian Bankers Association working group on industry standards
 - ◇ Centrelink Disability Customer Reference Group
 - ◇ Toowong State School Bilingual Program Advisory Committee
 - ◇ Education Queensland working group to review education provisions for Deaf students
 - ◇ Telstra Consumer Consultative Council (until November 2002)
 - ◇ Telstra Disability Forum
 - ◇ Telstra Consumer Advisory Group
 - ◇ Optus Consumer Liaison Forum
 - ◇ National Relay Service Consultative Council (ACA)
 - ◇ TEDICORE Project Advisory Board
 - ◇ Australian Communications Industry Forum Disability Advisory Board
 - ◇ Smart Internet Technology Co-operative Research Centre
 - ◇ ACA Communications Technical Regulation Advisory Committee—

Sub-committee Reports

Telecommunications

The Telecommunications Access Sub-committee has been active through the Deaf Telecommunication Access and Networking Project. Much of the work TASC does is currently being done by DTAN. All TASC members are on the DTAN Reference Group and provide an important advisory role to the DTAN Project workers Phil Harper (until September 2002) and Cathy Clark.

The DTAN Reference Group oversees the objectives of the project and ensures the objectives from our funding contract are met. Reference Group members are: Brett Casey (Convenor); Karen Lloyd (AAD Manager); Shane Mundy (TASC member), Phil Harper (TASC member – September 2002 to present time) and Teresa Corbin (Consumer Telecommunications Network). This team brings a wealth of experience in telecommunications and Deaf advocacy issues. The group met once during the year and provided valuable advice and support to the staff via email and/or face to face when the opportunity arose.

Some of the highlights of the DTAN Project throughout the year include:

- Consumer Representation work
- Industry meetings
- National Relay Service
- National Community Consultation workshops
- Submission, discussion papers and position papers
- Website
- DTAN Forum
- Communications Research Forum
- Further funding

Consumer Representation work

Over the last 15 years, AAD has built up a strong network of contacts within the telecommunications industry; much of this work has been through the TASC and in particular Phil Harper and Brett Casey.

TASC represents AAD on the following committees and feeds information back to DTAN to be included as part of the project

- Telstra Consumer Consultative Council (until November 2002)
- Telstra Disability Forum
- Telstra Consumer Advisory Group
- Optus Consumer Liaison Forum
- National Relay Service Consultative Council (ACA)
- TEDICORE Project Advisory Board
- Australian Communications Industry Forum Disability Advisory Board
- Smart Internet Technology Co-operative Research Centre
- ACA Communications Technical Regulation Advisory Committee— Disability Standards Working Group

The work that AAD do on these committees is vital in ensuring that Deaf people are represented on the peak industry groups in the telecommunications industry and regulatory fields. This enables us to keep abreast of industry views, regulatory and government issues in relation to telecommunications in general. AAD is then able to feed information into these groups at meetings and via written submissions. AAD's presence at these meetings is currently very strong and with support from other disability representatives, AAD is able to have a voice within these organisations. This is a credit to the hard work that members of our TASC sub-committee have put in over the years in a voluntary capacity to ensure AAD's profile remains high.

Industry meetings

DTAN throughout the period organised many meetings outside of regular representation forums as a result of requests from the Deaf community/organisations or through trying to advocate for better service delivery. These meetings included:

- Australian Mobile Telecommunication Association
- HREOC (Telecommunications Access inquiry)
- Australian Communications Authority

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- Vodafone mobile phone services
- Optus mobile phone services
- Department of Communications, Information Technology and the Arts
- Telstra payphones

National Relay Service

AAD alongside other consumer organisations and the NRSCC lobbied the Government to improve the problematic PIN numbering system to make STD or mobile phone calls. At the NRS Forum in Brisbane there was a great deal of discussion regarding failure of the PIN system. In February 2002, the Australian Communications Authority announced a trial from June 2002 which removed the PIN number and allowed people to make any STD or mobile call via the NRS for the cost of a local call.

For people who wanted to make an international call or a 1900 number call, there was still a requirement to use the PIN number. This decision by the Government and the ACA has vastly improved the quality of service provided by the NRS and reduced the number of complaints received by ACE.

National community consultation workshops

One of the main objectives of the DTAN Project is to conduct regular 'national community consultations' around Australia. Workshops were held at the following Venues:

- Adelaide
- Canberra
- Perth
- Melbourne (Victorian State Deaf Conference)
- Hobart
- Brisbane
- Cairns
- Sydney and
- Lismore

The workshops were approximately 3 hours and provided an opportunity for the

DTAN team to provide the Deaf community with current information on telecommunications issues. We were also able to ask the Deaf community a series of questions to get feedback on how they think AAD should respond to issues of concern. The information that was received from Deaf community members has been very valuable and gave us different perspectives of Deaf people accessing telecommunications especially in the regional areas. This feedback was then used at our consumer representation meetings with industry and regulatory organisations and to enhance our discussion or position papers.

Submission, discussion papers and position papers

One way we use the information gathered from the national community consultations is to develop a series of papers that are circulated to the Deaf community, and industry. We also develop submissions in response to various telecommunications inquiries that arise. All of these documents are public and available via the AAD website:

- High cost of telecommunications for the Deaf community
- Disability Equipment Program discussion paper
- Disability Equipment Program position paper
- Networking the Deaf Nation paper presented at the Communications Research Forum
- Mobile phones and Deaf people discussion paper
- Emerging Technology
- Telecommunications Affordability Issues for Deaf people
- Service Access Issues for Deaf people
- Service Access at Retail Service Centres discussion paper

Website

AAD's new website was released in March 2002. This website provides updated information on the project and dates for consultation workshops around Australia.

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The URL is: <http://www.aad.org.au/advocacy/dtan.htm>

We have also launched a "Discussion Page" for the DTAN Project to encourage Internet users to provide comments and suggestions on issues for telecommunications. The direct URL for access to the DTAN discussion page is: <http://www.aad.org.au/discussion/dtanmsg.htm>

Networking the Deaf Nation Forum

In September 2002, DTAN hosted this forum at the Avillion Hotel in Sydney. Representatives from telecommunications companies such as Telstra, Optus, Vodafone and IBM were invited. We also invited people from government bodies such as Telecommunications Industry Ombudsman (TIO), Australian Communication Authority (ACA), Australian Communications Industry Forum ACIF), Department of Communications, Information Technology and the Arts (DoCITA). Other organisations invited included Australian Communication Exchange, TEDICORE, Consumer Telecommunications Network and Printacall.

The forum was well attended by representatives from all these bodies as well as AAD members. It was terrific to see a mix of AAD members, Industry and Government representatives all inter-mingling and receiving the same information.

This event provided another opportunity for DTAN to present its findings from the last 13 months and offer industry an opportunity to advise on what they are doing to improve access for Deaf people. Feedback from people who attended confirmed that it was a very successful and timely event.

Communications Research Forum

AAD was one of the few community organisations successful in having its paper accepted as this highly prestigious annual Forum. This Forum is conducted through the National Office of Information Economy (NOIE) and is an opportunity for researchers, academics, policymakers and industry

representatives to get together to share views on a wide variety of national telecommunications issues in Australia.

DTAN staff presented their paper which was quite well received and is now published in the complete book of proceedings from the conference.

Further funding.

AAD was delighted to receive a 2nd funding grant to continue the DTAN project for another 12 months until September 2003. The downside of this achievement was that the funding received was actually \$20,000 less than in the first year which means that some of the excellent work we have done during 2002 will have to be passed back to the TASC or put on hold.

It also meant that Phil Harper was no longer part of the DTAN team and reverted back to his old role of being on the TASC. AAD would like to thank Phil for his work on the project and we are pleased that he has agreed to stay on and provide valuable support and advice to the part time DTAN officer, Cathy Clark.

Conclusion

It can be seen that AAD has worked extensively within the telecommunications area to ensure that access for Deaf people to basic telecommunications is fair and equitable to that of our hearing peers. Additionally from the work of the DTAN project, AAD has built a solid reputation of a major force in lobbying for Deaf people's rights. Where new programs are set up by the telephone companies, they now seek advice from AAD on how to make the service accessible to Deaf people rather than AAD having to lobby to make this access happen. This partnership between AAD and the industry has grown over the years and we hope to continue in this way as we strive to ensure the needs of Deaf people are considered.

Brett Casey
Convenor

Sub-committee Reports

National Deaf TV

To speed up the National Deaf TV sub-committee's work in establishing a Deaf TV program in Australia a project officer, Natalie Sandon, was employed to work with NDTV. Natalie started working with us on 6 June 2002 for 7 hours per week and her salary was funded from past fundraising activities, eg. movie night.

Between 6 June and the end of December 2002, NDTV:

- established contacts with various international Deaf TV programs including UK, South Africa, Germany and Sweden;
- collated various short Deaf films and TV programs from local and overseas contacts so NDTV can organise Deaf TV/Film nights in major capital cities around Australia;
- drafted an information sheet about NDTV;
- researched relevant policies at ABC & SBS to help NDTV with its lobbying work;
- liaised with ABC & SBS;
- liaised with Melbourne's DeafTV Inc., a group of Deaf volunteers who have successfully set up a weekly Deaf TV program on Channel 31 Melbourne.

2002 has been a productive year for NDTV and we look forward to holding the Deaf TV/Film nights around Australia in 2003.

We are also keen to work with the Human Rights and Equal Opportunity Commission regarding a complaint against Australia's national broadcasters regarding lack of access to Auslan on TV for Deaf Australians.

Finally, I would like to thank NDTV sub-committee members and the project officer for their commitment to NDTV this year, and to AAD for its continuing support.

Tony Clews
Convenor

Youth

In mid-2002 the AAD Board re-constituted the AAD Youth sub-committee. Previously, not all States were represented on this committee. With a fresh new start, the Board's aim was to ensure all State branches would have a nominee on the sub-committee. The following people are its members:

- Mevlut Cet (NSW)
- Ben Clifford (Tas)
- Josie Hodgetts (WA)
- Kate O'Brien (Qld)
- Kylie Phillips (SA)
- Philip Waters (Vic)
- Al McEwin (NSW, Convenor)

A planning weekend was held in October 2002. The purpose of this weekend was to set in place strategies for increasing Deaf youth knowledge and participation around Australia. Some of the aims for 2003 include:

- ensure representation and participation in national and international Deaf youth activities such as camps;
- information sharing between the State branches, especially via the Internet;
- fundraising to increase the profile of the AAD Youth sub-committee;
- lobbying service providers to include Deaf youth in their services.

The AAD Youth sub-committee looks forward to a successful 2003!

Al McEwin
Convenor

Sub-committee Reports

Deaf Culture and Arts

The National Week for Deaf People was highly successful due to our President Robert Adam attending every State in the same week. During his visit, he attended meetings with one representative from the state to meet with the Minister to lobby for funding for their branch. Robert Adam also attended their functions, which was great to see many Deaf people from far away to attend the functions.

The AAD Board are aiming to do it again in 2003 to support the State Branches.

Sub-committee members are: Patti Levitzke-Gray, Breda Carty and Trevor Maggs; Bruce Muller resigned a few months ago due to other commitments. Natalie Sandon, staff from AAD has been fantastic working with us. In the last few months, Natalie is working on the history of Deaf people posters and hopefully it will be launched at the next National Week of Deaf People. The next National Week of Deaf People will be held on 11th to 17th October 2003

I thank the sub-committee members for their wonderful support through the emails and also Natalie for her great ideas and never stop working. I thank the State Branches for organising the National Week of Deaf People and Deaf people who attended the functions. It is very important for the Deaf community to continue for the sake for the future generations and remember, "it is your community and be proud of your identity".

Ann Darwin
Convenor

Captioning

As a new Convenor of the Captioning Sub-committee, I have found this role challenging and rewarding in a short period of time. But first, I would like to show my appreciation to former Convenor, Cathy Clark, for setting a benchmark to meet our ultimate goal. It is my intention to keep this goal and I am certain that it can be achieved.

Captioning covers many areas and we have three areas currently being reviewed under the Human Rights and Equal Opportunity Commission: Free to Air TV (Commercial Broadcast), Pay TV (Foxtel, Optus, Galaxy) and Cinema Captioning.

Free to Air

The Commercial Television Authority (CTVA), formerly FACTS, made a proposal that by 2007, 60% of programs would be captioned. The AAD Board in September rejected this proposal. We met with HREOC in December to negotiate with CTVA along with other consumer representatives (Deafness Forum and Deafness Council of W.A.) to increase the percentage. CTVA said that if they increase the percentage, we need to support their application for temporary exemption under section 55 of the Disability Discrimination Act. Negotiations continue into 2003 with CTVA submitting a revised proposal.

Cinema

In December, consumer representatives met with HREOC to put together comments and issues that will be raised at the next HREOC meeting with the cinema industry in 2003. Since the inception of captioned films, we were able to review the progress and the issues we raised were:

- length of time between release date and availability of captioned films;

Sub-committee Reports

- limited and inconvenient screening times;
- continued isolation of the screenings as 'special events' including failing to include trailers and adverts as part of the program;
- limited promotion and advertising of the availability of captioned movies by the industry;
- sense of responsibility for the program has not been fully taken on by the industry which relies on the efforts of the Australian Caption Centre.

We are of the view that the program has now established the basic mechanism for distribution and exhibition of captioned films, but the program needs to be reviewed with a view to expanding it and re-focusing responsibility for promotion and delivery back to the industry. This will include looking at:

- number of prints brought into Australia;
- screening venues;
- screening times;
- promotion of captioned films, for example in trailers and other cinemas;
- ensuring the cinema 'experience' is the same as for other filmgoers;
- bringing other cinema chains into the program; and
- lobbying for Australian produced films to be captioned.

Pay TV

Pay TV is on 'hold' pending the outcomes of the Free to Air case with the HREOC. There is not much activity happening in this area, however, we are expecting more activities to happen in 2003.

Others

I have received a complaint from a Deaf person wishing to watch a captioned video 'W.W.3' as the video jacket advised it was captioned when it was not. Having discussed this issue with the distributor, I

was informed that this was because they received a master copy and the caption component in the master copy was damaged. They went ahead and made videos and they were not captioned. As a result, I have successfully requested that they produce a captioned version and post the video to the complainant at no cost. The distributor has also advised that they will not produce any videos that have damaged captioned components in any future master copies.

Future Projects

Along with members of the Captioning Sub-committee, I hope to develop a strategic plan for the next 3 – 5 years. This plan, I hope, will set a time frame of activities we need to undertake to achieve the ultimate Australian Association of the Deaf's goal – 100% captioning.

Kyle Miers
Convenor

State Reports

NSW Association of the Deaf

It is with much pleasure that the Board of NSWAD presents its report for the AAD 2002 Annual Report.

In April 2002, the new Board was made up of: Robert Adam (President), Mevlut Cet (Vice President), Alastair McEwin (Secretary), Phillip Mitchell (Treasurer), Julia Allen, Trevor Maggs, Lise Clews and Sandra Sweeney.

At the start of each year, NSWAD develops a Strategic Plan which acts like a road map for the Board during the year. The Strategic Plan has six parts: Liaison, Information Dissemination, Education and Advocacy, Finance, Events and Youth. It is pleasing that most of NSWAD's strategic objectives have been achieved, with the following highlights:

Liaison

NSWAD would like to enhance its role as the peak body representing Deaf people who use Auslan in NSW and work closely with other organisations such as: Deaf Sports and Recreation NSW, ASLIA (NSW), The Deaf Society of NSW and Sydney Deaf Senior Group.

NSWAD has collaborated with these four organisations during 2002, though a meeting has been scheduled for 2003 where NSWAD will meet with the Sydney Deaf Senior Group.

It is hoped that in 2003 NSWAD will have regular meetings with these groups in order to achieve common goals.

Information dissemination

NSWAD published four editions of Silent Messenger and advertised closing dates for contributions from members of the Deaf Community. Trevor Maggs continued his role as an excellent editor of Silent

Messenger and NSWAD is greatly indebted to him for his contributions.

It was hoped to launch a website, but due to unavailability of funds and personnel, this has not been possible to date. It is pleasing though that a youth website was recently launched by the NSW Deaf Youth Sub-committee and the website address will be announced at the AGM. Additionally, it has been agreed that a basic website will be launched in 2003 with the NSWAD Constitution, the Annual Strategic Plan and a copy of Silent Messenger available for all.

Events

NSWAD held a number of events, the most successful of which were 'Night of Entertainment II' and 'Night of Entertainment III'. These were organised in association with the Games Organising Committee. The first one was held on June 29 2002 and Robert 'Rob Roy' Farmer was the star attraction. The second one was held on 6 December 2002 and members of both GOC and NSWAD performed 'Grease'. This was a highly successful evening attended by approximately 400 people. This resulted in approximately \$2,000 additional income for NSWAD which is pleasing.

NSWAD continued to work with the Games Organising Committee in planning the Australian Deaf Games Cultural Festival which would have concluded by the time this report is published, and will be in NSWAD's 2003 Annual Report.

NSWAD also held a consultative meeting with ASLIA NSW on 6 September 2002 to discuss issues of interest to both organisations. It is important that interpreters and consumers have a continuing and effective dialogue. It was obvious that both Deaf people and interpreters had different starting points and a new series of meetings are scheduled for the 2003 calendar year, in order to facilitate communication between interpreters and consumers.

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Education and Advocacy

NSWAD continued its role as a leading organisation in the Working Party on Provision of Educational Services to students who are Deaf or hearing impaired in NSW Government schools, which was established in 2000 as a result of representations to the Department of Education and Training regarding concerns about the quality of services, particularly with respect to Auslan programs. The Working Party met a number of times during 2002 to receive reports from the project officer as well as progress reports from Renwick College on the literature review.

As a result of the research undertaken by the Project Officer and the Working Party, the following will occur:

- The establishment of a pilot bilingual program at the primary school level at Newington Public School;
- The establishment of a pilot program at the high school level at Sydney High School; and

DET will be working closely with the Royal Institute for Deaf and Blind Children and other key groups to develop these programs and guide their success. The Working Party will also publish a monograph on best practice in the delivery of educational outcomes for students who are Deaf or hearing impaired. NSWAD will continue to monitor developments in Deaf Education in NSW.

NSWAD, in association with the Deaf Society of NSW, has also been represented on the Attorney General's Disability Advisory Council. Issues raised include:

- Deaf jurors – the NSW Law Reform Commission invited submissions for a review and NSWAD prepared a Deaf Community response with the Deaf Society of NSW.
- Interpreting access in civil court cases, which has not yet been resolved.

NSWAD also prepared a paper with the Deaf Society of NSW in response to a Community Consultation organised by the Department of Transport, where interpreters were not booked. This was for the Consultation on the Draft Accessible Transport Action Plan for NSW Transport Agencies, and the submission emphasised:

- Auslan interpreting for public meetings, seminars and interviews where Deaf people are participants;
- Captioning of all Department of Transport television and video productions; and electronic signage where there are voice announcements;
- Availability of TTY contact numbers for Deaf people to contact the various instrumentalities of the Department of Transport, particularly information lines, as well as TTY payphones for use of members of the public; and
- All trains and trams should have electronic destination signage (and not just railway stations).

NSWAD also expressed concern about the Emergency Help Points which are not accessible for Deaf people.

It has been disappointing that it has not been possible for NSWAD to be represented at the State Peak Body Caucus as meetings are usually held during business hours.

Finance

NSWAD hoped to introduce an investment strategy as there is now \$30,000 in funds in the bank which could be more effectively invested, but this will need to take place in 2003. Additionally, NSWAD was not approved for Deductible Gift Recipient Status and so the Constitution had to be changed at an Extraordinary Meeting in October 2002. It is hoped that NSWAD will be exempt from paying GST in the near future.

Youth

NSWAD established a Youth Sub-Committee under the leadership of Mevlut Cet. Mevlut is also the NSW representative

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for the AAD Youth Sub-committee. The NSWAD Youth group has established a website, which will be a point of reference for all young Deaf people in NSW. This was funded by the donation received from the Temasek Club in 2001.

Other Activities

- Deaf Telecommunications and Networking Project Community Workshop in September 2002
- NSWAD Office Clean up Day in October 2002
- Attendance in May 2002 at the AAD Annual General Meeting, AAD Board/States Meeting as well as the Victorian Deaf State Conference. Trevor Maggs and Julia Allen were the NSW Representatives

Robert Adam
President

Queensland Association of the Deaf Inc.

Deaf Deaf World

QAD had two DDW training workshops in June and July 2002 with a success. Bobbie Blackson and Kim Pickering worked together to set up training and Bobbie led the groups. DDW is deafness awareness workshop that enables community groups including schools, business and government departments to become familiar with deafness issues. We advertised "Express of Interest" and we received good number of participants and they are on call for future workshops. It enabled participants to be trained to run the workshop.

Deaf Telecommunication Access and Networking Project

There were two workshops "Have Your Say" in Queensland on 26th July 2002 in Brisbane and 27th July in Cairns. Cathy Clark from Australian Association of the Deaf who aimed the Deaf Community and given the information on telecommunication

issues and round up the feedbacks from the community. It was a great success!

Annual General Meeting

Our AGM was held on 14 September 2002 and was a success. President: Kim Pickering, Vice President: Lloyd Janetzki, Secretary: Kathryn O'Brien, Treasurer: John Pratt (Acting), Directors: Gaye Inall, Julie Kirkwood, Janelle Ravlich, Louis Bonoguore and Stephen Pay. Our board members are very committed people who are willing to give their time, skills, knowledge and experience voluntarily to ensure our organisation is a success and stays alive. Without their continued commitment QAD would not be where it is now.

Meeting with the Disability Minister

During National Week of Deaf People in October, AAD President Robert Adam flew into Brisbane for the day for a meeting with the Disability Minister. Also in attendance at this meeting was QAD President, Kim Pickering. All were very interested and the meeting seemed to go well. The outcome of the meeting was that they advise us to write a proposal letter for some funding for advocacy. We discovered in April 2003 that proposal letter for funding was unsuccessful. Though thank you Karen Lloyd for preparing the proposal letter.

Deaf Festival 2002

Brisbane's 8th Deaf Festival on 26th and 27th October at South Bank Parkland. Our Deaf Festival was a huge success. It provided an enormous opportunity for the Deaf community to celebrate their history and culture. It was wonderful to see so many information booths and to have so many individuals and organisations with connections to the Deaf community participate over the weekend. Talented clowns, storytellers and performing artists made the weekend truly special. Deaf Festival is essential for both the Deaf and hearing communities. It is place where information can be found, whether you are a parent, child or adult there was something for everyone! On conclusion we need to thank all those involved, from our booth holders, to the organisations involved and our dedicated team of volunteers. Without

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volunteers, Deaf Festival couldn't happen.

Grant Applications

In year 2002 QAD has been very fortunate to receive 3 funding grants. We received \$4,667 dollars from FACES. This grant is from the Australian Communication Exchange. This money is to be used to create a website and other promotional materials such as brochures etc. From the Gaming Machine Community Benefit Fund, we received \$15,809 dollars. This money has helped us to set up our new office with the office equipment we need. This includes things such as a desktop computer, printer, lap top computer, data projector, and office furniture. This grant enables us to organise QAD paper work and promotional material effectively. We also received \$8,400 for our Deaf Festival 2002. Much to our surprise, the Commonwealth Bank also gave us a donation of \$1,000 for Deaf Festival. These donations are greatly appreciated by us all!

Bouncing Baby Bulletin

Lloyd Janetzki has been conducting Presidential duties for QAD for a few months as from November 2002. Kim Pickering has given birth to a girl in December, Stella so Lloyd has taken over temporarily as QAD President. The QAD board members and all QAD members would like to congratulate Kim Pickering and John Pratt on their new daughter and wish them all the best. Kim Pickering will return in her capacity as President soon.

Education Night with Michael Walsh

People attended the information session, on the 26th November 2002, have issued a challenge to Education Queensland! About 50 people including parents, teachers and other interested people has attended and provided invaluable feedback. The session, conducted by Michael Walsh Director of Inclusive Education, was to inform interested people about Education Queensland's "Inclusive Education" policy. It is hoped that Michael Walsh will take those comments to Education Queensland and with the collaboration of Queensland

Association of the Deaf and Australia Association of the Deaf, teachers and other parties will provide better opportunities for deaf students in any education institutions particularly in the pre-schools and primary schools. Kim Pickering is on the bilingual education program's advisory committee. This committee was established by Toowong State School that began its program for Deaf children in 2001. This committee consists of several deaf people including AAD Manager Karen Lloyd, parents and teachers. Kim's role is to provide a link to the Deaf Community and to provide information and ideas on such things as how to promote the program.

Education Queensland is currently reviewing the education of Deaf students. They have set up a committee to carry out this task. Karen Lloyd was the nominated representative chosen by QAD to maintain feedback from the committee to the community.

Education Queensland and Commerce Queensland

Lloyd Janetzki and Kathryn O'Brien attended the White Paper Forum organised by Commerce Queensland on the 10th of December 2002. The purpose of the forum was to provide information about reforms in education for organisations that are interested in promoting employment and education opportunities. The keynote speakers of the evening were Anna Bligh, Minister of Education and the CEO of Commerce Education. Anna Bligh spoke of the White Paper reforms, which aims at the young people aged 15 to 17 in increasing participation in education and employment initiative schemes. The paper discussed ways to increase employment prospects by changing the education curriculum to build up skills and training needed in employment sectors. The paper also discusses new legislation that will increase high-level requirements of education and training needed for future employment.

Lloyd Janetzki
Acting President

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South Australian Association for the Deaf

It has been a challenging time being President and I have to learn two new skills quickly as a president and secretary. The fact SAAD operated without an official secretary for the whole year increased the difficulties. Secretarial duties were shared between the board and myself. While things may not have been done as thoroughly as they could have been, it was enough to keep SAAD functioning smoothly.

A number of South Australian community members are participating in the SMS relay service trial, which is really exciting to be participating in.

Adult Community Education funding to run Literacy classes for Deaf Adults has continued this year. Classes run every Monday night from 7-9pm at the Royal Deaf Society.

We also had a successful Deaf Studies workshop run by Breda Carty, which was fully booked out. Very rewarding two day workshop.

Kylie Phillips was nominated by SAAD board to be our SA rep on the AAD Youth Sub committee, she attended a rewarding workshop in Sydney.

In October 2002 SAAD had a very busy month with National Deaf Week. A number of activities happened during that week. Family Townsend House Picnic and Blue Ribbon ceremony went really well we had quite a number of people who attended the two activities and some of the older generation enjoyed looking at the history of Townsend House. Klemzig CHIC signing choir in Rundle Mall, which was really successful with people stopping and watching at what a beautiful language

Auslan is. Official opening of the Deaf Art Exhibition there was some wonderful artwork displayed ranging from primary to adults. And we had a lovely cake to celebrate this special event. School Big Day Out at Glenelg was a very successful enjoyable day. We had over 160 Deaf/Hearing Impaired students, staff, volunteers, parents participated on this day. The Grand Stamford Hotel sponsored BBQ and drinks. We had a fantastic theatre night with over 100 people attend to watch Nadia Nadarajah and Debra Swann perform "Deaf Moulin Rouge". Throughout the week all the Deaf proudly wore blue ribbon to represent this special event.

AAD umbrellas were sold to members and non-members, this was sold really quickly.

Robert Adam's visit to Adelaide on October 15th he attended a meeting with Nadia Nadarajah as the SAAD rep had a meeting with Andrew Coidan, Chief Planning Disability Service Officer of Health and Human Services and James Rundle, Ministerial Liaison for the Minister for Social Justice, Hon. Stephanie Key.

Nadia Nadarajah was SAAD delegate to attend the AAD AGM and state meeting in Melbourne. I also attended which is found really rewarding meeting other Deaf adults. Congratulation to AAD for a smooth and successful series of workshops and to VCOD for their organisation of the State Deaf Conference.

I would like to personally thank Katrina Parker and Donovan Cresdee for helping me out by doing the minutes at the meetings. I also like to thank Bruce Muller for taking on the role as a treasurer from Nadia Nadarajah when she resigned and last of all the committee for supporting me in anyway they could.

Thanks to our members who continue to support SAAD and AAD. Also to our non-members who attended SAAD functions and helped us to stay afloat in our fundraising activities.

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Unfortunately we lost some valuable committee members during the year. Nadia Nadarajah as Treasurer, Marnie Kerridge, David Morgan and Kristine Stephenson due to moving interstate. So we had a very tight board to continue the meetings on 5 for the rest of the year.

I wish the new committee all the best for 2003/4.

Melissa Grivell
President

Tasmanian Council of the Deaf

After a long lapse of non activities due to unforeseen circumstances, TCOF decided to go ahead with their 3rd Deaf Festival from October 25th to 27th in Hobart.

We were thrilled to have Deaf role model Dr Therese Pierce and Natalie Sandon for our theme "Deaf Achievers".

Highlights of our Deaf Festival were the stalls, Jimbo the Clown, Kinetic Danczing Group, Finger spelling speed competition and the special award of Life Membership of TCOF to Peter Bailey. He earned the award for his past involvement in TCOF, and his outstanding contributions to the Tasmanian Deaf community.

A vote of thanks goes to our Acting President, Robyn Whitney who carried out her role as our Convenor of the Deaf Festival most efficiently.

Diana Hodgetts
Secretary

Victorian Council of Deaf People

During the past 12 months there have been highs and lows of VCOD achievements. The high was the successful 2nd State Deaf Conference which had two excellent keynote speakers, Breda Carty and Dr Robert Sparrow. Over 200 registered delegates attended the conference.

The low was the break-in of VCOD office at Jolimont which led the Board to make the decision to relocate the office to Cook House at VSDC Services for Deaf Children. The move has been most positive with the number of people aware of VCOD increasing as more visitors have been seeking information about our services.

In reflecting the year in terms of achievements and outcomes, there were not many success due to number of factors. Those reasons were:

- Not many Deaf people made complaints
- VCOD Board members resigning throughout the year
- Focus on completing unfinished business such as Deaf Youth Web site.

However prior to the end of 2002, VCOD achieved some success which will be carried over into 2003. VCOD is following up on these projects:

- TXT Radio for the Deaf via mobile phones
- Advocacy worker to be located in Horsham once a month from February on a trial basis.
- Federation Square accessibility for Deaf
- Deaf organisation weekend forum for all Deaf groups in Victoria
- Developing workshops for businesses with Melbourne 2005 Deaflympics in mind

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- Appointments for people who feel they are discriminated against due to Deafness related issues with the Discrimination Legal Service Solicitor once a month
- Events to promote Deaf pride and Deaf culture throughout the year.

Rob Roy Show, June 2002

We were very pleased to have Robert Farmer perform here. Over 100 people came to watch Rob Roy Show.

National Week of Deaf People, October 2002

The week was launched by Peter Adams who is from the country and gave a speech about the country life and what services they have there. We had many other events over the week such as: Family Day at Emerald Lake, DAN Art Exhibition, Debate Night, Launch at Vicdeaf Chapel, 1st Anniversary at Young and Jackson's Pub.

Barry Darwin
President

Western Australian Association of the Deaf

WAAD is pleased to say that 2002 has been another successful year for the Board and its members.

Highlights of the year 2002

- Sending two representatives from WAAD to attend the AAD State Branch Meetings in Victoria, 2002. This is the first time that WAAD has been financially capable of sending two delegates in a very long time.
- National Week of Deaf People – another successful year with many events that attracted the Deaf community and other families/friends.
 - Interpreted Ghost Tour
 - DEAFOutback Dinner

- Meeting with Minister for Disability Services with Robert Adam
- Movie Night – “The Bourne Identity”
- Sports Night with WAAD/WADRA
- And many more!
- Community/Fundraiser events
 - Punter Night
 - Dog Obedience Classes
 - Rob Roy Show
 - Good Friday Picnic
 - DTAN Workshop
- Successful grant applications for Interpreting and National Week of Deaf People towards promotional materials such as Posters and Mouse pads.
- Community Representatives at/in the
 - Joint Steering Committee
 - WADS Board of Management
 - TAFE - COAT reaccreditation
 - Dewson's Captioning Launch

Annual General Meeting

On Friday 30th August, 2002 – WAAD celebrated their 15th AGM. To make it a special evening to remember, donations were gathered from various local businesses. Big thanks to Party Town and JP's Bakery. We also had a special guest, Russell Lockwood who is an organisational coach to give us a workshop on how to work together as a community organisation and how to plan for the future. Some very interesting facts about the human mind was brought up by Russell! Three committee members were re-elected to remain for another 3 year term, the content of the committee remains the same as being:

President: Robert Farmer
Vice President: Josie Hodgetts
Secretary: Patricia Levitzke-Gray
Minutes Secretary: Josie Hodgetts
Treasurer: Shannon Scarvaci
Committee: Carole Noonan
Peter Kozuh
Melissa Bryson
Vikki Gear

Future Plans

- WAAD aims to send two representa-

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tives to the AAD State Branch Meetings in Brisbane, 2003. We feel that this is crucial to maintain funds to ensure that in the future that delegates are able to represent WAAD at State Branch meetings.

- Also to provide quality events and access to courses/events. Some submissions for courses (Scuba Diving and Literacy courses) have been sent in and results are yet to be announced. We are optimistic about this, and hope to see some courses conducted for 2003.
- To develop and strengthen Community partnerships between other Deaf organisations in WA. WAAD is now working with WADRA (WA Deaf Recreation Association) towards the Scuba Diving course.
- Other aims are to continue representing WAAD in the community and to ensure that we are to be kept in the picture with any developments in relation to the Deaf community such as SMS projects, Course accreditations etc.
- Propose Research Topics to Research/Thesis students in Universities around WA. This is hoped to stem to significant research into the Deaf community and the impacts of other aspects.

Deaf West Australians and families/friends! If there is anything that you feel WAAD is the right organisation to help you or organise something that you desire to see occur in the Deaf community. Please feel free to contact us and we will see what we can do for you! National Week of Deaf People sub-committee is now open for interested parties, if you are interested in helping out organise the biggest week to celebrate Auslan and recognition of the Deaf community, contact us!

Robert Farmer
President

Looking after your interests

AAD—

Treasurer's Report

As the organisation continues to grow so do our financial accounts. AAD once again has shown strong determination to plan and budget our resources in order to maximise our future service capacity to members of the Deaf community.

This last year has seen AAD finances remain stable. We have had a number of small donations throughout the year and our fundraising efforts have seen extra income for the organisation to budget. The umbrella sales were an important and successful fundraising effort by the organisation this financial year. When a fundraising activity is targeted, the Board ensures that the activity reflects the positive image of Deaf people. We will be planning more fundraising events in the coming years to supplement the funding grants and membership fees that we receive.

Along with our recurrent grant by the Federal government as the peak consumer body for Deaf people that allows AAD to advocate on behalf of the Deaf community, we also received another grant to continue our telecommunications (DTAN) project from the Department of Communications Information Technology and the Arts. The funds received have allowed the targeted projects as planned by the Board to continue to be delivered in a timely manner. To this end a lot of hard work by the staff and Board of AAD has been spent on budgeting our finances to account for these projects. I am sure that you will all agree that receiving funding is

pivotal for the survival for AAD to continue in the manner that we do. Our appreciation to the funding bodies must be recorded here.

The running of a national organisation also requires face-to-face meetings by the Board and travel expense has become a standing item on our budget. As per our Constitution it is important that the Board is represented by a cross section of the Deaf community across Australia. We are also looking at ways of maximising our investments that will in turn allow our financial base to be increased and targeted for future projects. Our profile has also been raised internationally and AAD is also identifying ways in which we can attend future international events.

The treasurer's position sees me working closely alongside with our staff members in planning and development of budgets and responding to the appropriate reporting requirements of our finances to government bodies and others. I would like to record my appreciation to the staff especially Karen Lloyd and Gillian McGregor who have always been helpful whenever financial issues arise within the organisation. My fellow board members have also played an important role as we have worked through the financial aspects of the organisations. A final vote of appreciation is given to all our donors who have financially supported AAD as we strive to protect and promote the human rights of the Australian Deaf community.

Brett Casey
Treasurer

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