



AUSTRALIAN
ASSOCIATION
OF THE **DEAF** INC.

Annual Report 2003 - 2004

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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

Australian Association of the Deaf is the national peak body that represents, promotes and preserves the Australian Deaf community, its language and cultural heritage.

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 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:

Ann Darwin, Vic (from November 2003)
Robert Adam, NSW (until November 2003)

Secretary:

Ann Darwin, Vic (to November 2003)
Brent Phillips, Vic (from December 2003)

Treasurer:

Brett Casey, Qld

Board members:

Kyle Miers, Vic
Kimberley Pickering, Qld
Patricia Levitzke-Gray, WA (to June 2003)
Brent Phillips, Vic (June– December 2003)
Stephen Nicholson, NSW (to May 2004)
Alastair McEwin, NSW (from June 2004)

Sub-committees

Deaf Culture and Arts

Convenor: Ann Darwin

Captioning

Convenor: Kyle Miers

Employment

Convenor: Stephen Nicholson

National Deaf TV

Convenor: Brent Phillips

Telecommunications Access

Convenor: Brett Casey

Youth

Convenor: Alastair McEwin

Genetics

Convenor: Breda Carty

Expert Groups

Education

Health

Sign Language

Sign Language Interpreting

Staff

Manager:

Karen Lloyd

Information & Communication Officer and NDTV Project Officer:

Natalie Sandon (to May 2003)

DTAN Project Officer:

Cathy Clark (to May 2003)

Community Liaison and Projects Officer:

Andrew Wiltshire (from June 2003)

Youth Liaison Officer:

Phillip Brown

Administration:

Gillian McGregor (to February 2003)

Judy Clews (to June 2004)

Peter Davies (from June 2003)

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 my first report as President of AAD. This is AAD's 18th Annual Report. Robert Adam resigned as President of AAD in November 2003 to live overseas and I took over as President. Before this, I was Secretary of AAD.

The AAD staff and Board have been very busy over the past 18 months. Some activities have been:

- Reviewing our strategic plan;
- National Week of Deaf People;
- New membership structure;
- Attended Australian Communication Exchange (ACE) function to meet the new interim CEO;
- Attended meetings of Australian Federation of Disability Organisations;
- Attended various workshops, conferences and presentations;
- Met with States Branches and presented community workshops;
- Maintained contact with and worked with government;
- Networked with and maintained good working relationships with other relevant organisations;
- Ongoing consultation with our members;
- Regular information distribution to our members and subscribers.

Highlights of AAD's achievements:

- \$18.4 million funding for a national Auslan Interpreting service for private medical appointments;
- Funding from Jupiters Casino to buy a computer, software, some office equipment and air-conditioning;
- Continuing funding for the Deaf Telecommunications Access and Networking (DTAN) project;
- Youth leadership camps as part of the Networking Australia's Deaf Youth project, funded by the Telstra Foundation.

You will see more reports and activities elsewhere in this Annual Report.

Between January 2003 and June 2004 the Board met three times, with an additional Executive meeting. We would like to meet more but the financial situation does not

allow this. Hopefully the situation will improve with more members and more fundraising.

The Australian Deaf community has lost a great ambassador, John Lovett AM who died on 30th October 2003 after an illness. John was a founding member and always a strong supporter of AAD. He was involved with Deaf Sports Australia, Comite Internationale des Sports des Sourds, worked as Manager of Vicdeaf – Customer Services, Co-ordinator of VCOD, and was involved in so many committees, including the AAD committee that organised the WFD Congress in Brisbane in 1999. Our sincerest condolences and our grateful thanks will always be with his wife Jill and her family for their tremendous support of John over 30 years. It was John's dream to have Deaflympics held in Australia and we all will remember him at the Opening Ceremony of the Melbourne Deaflympics in January 2005.

During the past 18 months I thanked the resigning Board member, Stephen Nicholson and welcomed Alastair McEwin back to the Board. To the other Board members, Brett Casey, Treasurer, Kyle Miers and Kim Pickering, I thank them for their guidance and support.

Thanks also to the staff of AAD: Karen Lloyd, Manager – a fantastic worker, always with some success looking for grants and funding; Karen and her husband John for welcoming me in their home for billeting; Gillian McGregor, Natalie Sandon, Cathy Clark and Judy Clews, who resigned during the past 18 months, for their commitment to AAD; current staff Andrew Wiltshire, Peter Davies and Phil Brown, for all their hard work and their support to the Board and Manager.

From the bottom of my heart I specially appreciate the support of my husband, Barry and my daughter Fiona who are always there if I need their help.

And I thank the Australian Deaf community for their continued support. Together we have all made AAD grow and be **a strong voice for all the Australian Deaf Community.**

Ann Darwin
President

Manager's Report

This Annual Report is a bumper one covering 18 months rather than the usual 12 months. The 2003 Annual General Meeting saw some changes to the Constitution and our financial year now ends on 30 June instead of 31 December.

It has been a huge 18 months with many changes and achievements.

The first half of 2003 saw major changes in office and staff arrangements. In April we moved the Sydney office out of the city to the grounds of the Royal Institute for Deaf and Blind Children at North Rocks. At the same time we established a new head office in Brisbane.

Gillian McGregor, our long-standing Administration Officer left AAD in February 2003. Her position was vacant until Peter Davies joined us early in June. Natalie Sandon and Cathy Clark both left in May 2003. Their positions were both part-time so we combined them into one full time Community Liaison and Projects Officer position and Andrew Wiltshire began working in this position in late June. Phillip Brown began working with us one day per week in March 2003 as Youth Liaison Officer.

Since all these major changes, the office and staff arrangements have remained stable and we have all rolled up our sleeves and got on with the job.

There have also been some changes to the Board. Robert Adam left to live overseas and Ann Darwin became President. Brent Phillips then took over Ann's position as Secretary. In May 2004 Stephen Nicholson resigned from the Board and Alastair McEwin joined it in June.

Highlights of the past 18 months are outlined in the following pages, but there are some that I particularly want to comment upon.

I am especially pleased with our new Networking Australia's Deaf Youth project, which commenced in March 2003 with funding from the Telstra Foundation. The major aim of this project is to build networks between Deaf youths around Australia, to begin

training Deaf youths to become leaders and to see them become actively involved in their community. There have been some problems with the project and we were terribly disappointed to have to postpone the planned April 2004 junior recreation camp, but overall it has been a great success. Becoming a good leader is an on-going process that takes much longer than the life of this project, but I believe we have made a good start, and I see some young Deaf people with wonderful potential to become tomorrow's Deaf community leaders emerging from this program.

We are also very happy with the outcome of our lobbying for a research study into interpreting issues and the need for funding for private health interpreting. We were pleased to work with AFDS and ASLIA on these issues and the outcome—the announcement in the May 2004 Commonwealth budget of \$18.4m over 4 years to establish a new Auslan interpreting service for private health interpreting—is very gratifying. Of course much more needs to be done to solve a whole range of interpreting issues, and we will continue to work on this.

2003 was also a big year for the World Federation of the Deaf, with their World Congress and International Youth Camp in Canada in July. AAD sent 2 representatives and 2 interpreters to the Congress and 4 youth representatives to the Youth Camp.

A major international issue during the past 18 months has been the development of a draft United Nations Convention on the rights of people with disabilities. AAD has been active in lobbying the Australian government to support this Convention, and we have seen some progress in the right direction. Work on this continues.

It has been a very demanding but immensely rewarding 18 months. My thanks to the staff for their dedication and excellent work, to the Board for their on-going support and to the Deaf community for their continued involvement. Special thanks to volunteers Tim Earl (Sydney office), John Louttit and Annette Lund (Brisbane office).

Karen Lloyd, Manager

Highlights of 2003-2004

- Provided comments to government on the proposed United Nations Convention on the rights of people with disabilities; attended a conference on the proposed UN Convention.
- Provided comments to the Department of Family and Community Services (FaCS) on their proposals for “Building a simpler system to help jobless families and individuals”; attended a round table meeting on the proposal, organised by the National Disability Advisory Committee.
- Worked with the Australian Federation of Deaf Societies (AFDS) and the Australian Sign Language Interpreters Association (ASLIA) to lobby government to provide funds for a research study into interpreting issues, and funds for private health interpreting.
- Government appointed a consultant (Orima) to conduct a study into the supply and demand for Auslan interpreting. AAD was a member of the reference group. Liaised with Orima throughout the process: provided input into the research methodology and design, sent surveys to our members, provided comments on the findings and suggested recommendations for the report to government.
- Announcement in May 2004 Commonwealth budget of \$18.4m over 4 years to establish a new Auslan interpreting service for private health appointments.
- Attended the Australian and NZ Educators of the Deaf conference in Perth, January 2003.
- With the QAD President, met with (then) VSDC to provide input into their study into the feasibility of setting up support programs for Deaf education in Queensland.
- Agreement reached with free to air TV stations on increases in captioning to 70% of all programs between 6.00am and midnight by 2007.
- Liaised with Standards Australia on the development of AS1428.5 Design for Access and Mobility: Communication for people who are deaf or hearing impaired
- Completed the series of Personal Interpreting Allowance workshops
- Workshops for AAD members held after the 17th AGM in June 2003 in Brisbane. Topics covered were: Bilingual education; Genetics; Youth; Working with parents; Deaf Deaf World Train the Trainer; Interpreting.
- Shared a stall with NSWAD at:
 - ⇒ the Gay and Lesbian Mardi Gras Fair Day February 2003;
 - ⇒ the Deaf Society of NSW community consultation day October 2003.
- Attended the launch of children’s story books and videos at Toowong State School (bilingual program) and cut the launch ribbons with the Principal, June 2003.
- President’s tour of the states during National Week of Deaf People 2003.
- Obtained continued funding for the DTAN project for 2003-2004 and 2004-2005.
- Raised funds from chocolate sales.
- Selected and provided financial support to four young Deaf people to represent Australia at the WFD Youth Camp in Canada, July 2003.
- Sent two Board members to represent AAD and two interpreters to the WFD Congress in Canada, July 2003.
- Commencement of the Networking Australia’s Deaf Youth project, funded by the Telstra Foundation:
 - ⇒ first Deaf Youth Leadership Camp held September 2003 in the Blue Mountains NSW; two youths from each state attended;
 - ⇒ camp participants began organising youth activities in their local areas;
 - ⇒ camp participants visited schools to talk about the junior recreation camp planned for April 2004;
 - ⇒ junior recreation camp organised and 30 participants applied; unfortunately numbers were too low for the camp to

go ahead. It has been deferred to September 2005.

- Film nights (part of the National Deaf TV campaign) held in all state capital cities, Broome and Bunbury WA, and Darwin.
- New office established in Brisbane; Sydney office moved to North Rocks.
- Submission sent to the Productivity Commission Inquiry into the Disability Discrimination Act.
- Following the passing of well known Deaf community identity, AAD founding member and ongoing supporter, John Lovett AM, a tributes page was put on the AAD website, attracting a large number of postings from Australia and around the world.
- Articles written by AAD Manager and published:
 - ⇒ in WFD News - about the Commonwealth funding for private health interpreting;
 - ⇒ in Disparity magazine (ACROD) – about interpreting.
- Provided comments for articles by authors external to AAD:
 - ⇒ about the cochlear implant and children for the Western Independent at Curtin University, WA;
 - ⇒ about the cochlear implant for the Eureka Street Magazine;
 - ⇒ for a publication about disability (Sage Encyclopedia).
- Delivered speeches about community co-operation and partnerships at:
 - ⇒ the Vicdeaf AGM in October 2003;
 - ⇒ SAAD AGM in March 2004.
- Presentation about Deaf and hard of hearing people and how to communicate with them as part of a training program for people doing audits of employment services for people with disabilities.
- Presentation to TAFE students about AAD and Deaf community issues.
- Attended the Sign Language Symposium at Renwick College, September 2003.
- Establishment of the Australian Federation of Disability Organisations (AFDO). AAD is a founding member and has a representative on its Board. The first Board meeting was held in January 2004.
- Met with FaCS to discuss their review of the National Secretariat Program.
- Visited Darwin, NT, October 2003 to discuss issues there.
- Met with AFDS representatives to discuss the NT situation and possible support for the NT. Ongoing liaison between AAD and the Deafness Association of the NT.
- Provided input to an AFDO paper on “Welfare to Work” delivered at the ACOSS conference in November 2003.
- Submission to the FaCS Review of Carer Allowance Child Disability Assessment Determination Lists of Recognised Disabilities.
- Attended a meeting with the Australian Electoral Commission, hosted by HREOC, to discuss how to make the electoral process accessible for people with disabilities.
- Three people nominated by AAD were accepted by the WFD to be members of WFD Expert Groups. They are:
 - ⇒ Breda Carty – Deaf Culture
 - ⇒ Brett Casey – Human Rights
 - ⇒ Phil Harper – Telecommunications
- Participated in a PhD research study by Phil Harper, into the use of video over the Internet in the workplace.
- Visited Adelaide March 2004:
 - ⇒ met with the CEO of SA Deaf Society to discuss issues of mutual interest and concern;
 - ⇒ guest speaker at the SAAD AGM
 - ⇒ held workshops for SAAD Board.
- Accompanied AFDS representatives to a hearing of the Senate Inquiry into participation in paid work.
- Agreement with pay TV providers for the introduction of captioning on pay TV.
- Attended an information session on the draft DDA Standards on Access to Premises and changes to the Building Code of Australia.
- Visited Broome and Bunbury, WA:
 - ⇒ community consultation workshops on DTAN issues and general

- ⇒ community issues;
- ⇒ NDTV film night;
- ⇒ visits to schools and other community organisations.
- National tour by Carol-lee Aquiline, Secretary General of the WFD, to deliver workshops on “Standing up for our rights: how do we do it?”
- From February 2004 AAD Outlook changed from a quarterly newsletter to monthly.
- Attended the “Perspectives on Ethics and Deafness” conference at Renwick College March 2004 and presented:
 - ⇒ response to a presentation about genetic testing;
 - ⇒ presentation about Deaf community perspectives on ethics.
- Developed a new logo.
- Submitted an Expression of Interest in holding an International Deaf Film Festival and Competition as part of the M2005 Deaflympics Cultural Festival. Submission successful.
- Met with Deaf Children Australia to discuss possible AAD/DCA collaborative projects.
- Two-day visit to Canberra: 11 meetings with Ministers, Shadow Ministers and Democrats and/or their advisors on issues of Education, Employment, Health, NDTV, Genetics, Youth, Telecommunications.
- Planning commenced for upgrading the website.
- Special General Meeting on 20 May to make changes to the Constitution.
- 12 months sponsorship (April 2003 – April 2004) from Australian Communication Exchange for the NDTV project.
- Sent out a number of media releases:
 - ⇒ about two complaints made to HREOC about medical interpreting;
 - ⇒ about a deaf man who died in a fire in Tasmania, and the need for government to subsidise the cost of fire alarms (other organisations, eg WA Deaf Society then used this media release for their lobbying activities);
 - ⇒ about National Week of Deaf People
- 2003;
 - ⇒ about the youth project;
 - ⇒ about the \$18.4m announced in Commonwealth budget for private health interpreting.
- Attended meetings of the following committees:
 - ⇒ Free-to-air TV Captioning Working Party
 - ⇒ Pay TV Captioning Working Party
 - ⇒ Cinema Captioning Working Party
 - ⇒ DDA Standards Project steering Committee
 - ⇒ Australian Federation of Disability Organisations Board
 - ⇒ Australian Communications Industry Forum – Any to Any Text Connectivity Options Working Group
 - ⇒ Australian Communications Industry Forum – Disability Advisory Body
 - ⇒ Australian Communications Authority – National Relay Service Consultative Committee
 - ⇒ Optus Consumer Liaison Forum
 - ⇒ Telstra Consumers Advisory Group
 - ⇒ Telstra Disability Forum
 - ⇒ Telstra Disability Equipment Program Consumers Advisory Group
 - ⇒ TEDICORE (Telecommunications and Disability Consumers Representatives)
 - ⇒ Telstra Payphone Working Group
 - ⇒ Centrelink Disability Customer

Membership of AAD benefits

You

&

All Australian Deaf people

Sub-committee Reports

Telecommunications

The Deaf Telecommunication Access and Networking (DTAN) project has come a long way since 01 January 2003 and continues to receive funding from Department of Communications, Information Technology and the Arts (DCITA). We have secured another funding year that will see DTAN continue to the end of September 2005.

There have been some subtle changes made with TASC & DTAN. TASC (Telecommunications Access Sub-committee) has been a long-running AAD sub-committee. With the establishment of the DTAN project in 2001, and the need for a DTAN Reference Group to oversee the project, the role of TASC became unclear. The same people sat on TASC and DTAN. DTAN effectively now covers all areas of operation that TASC used to cover. So while the DTAN project continues, the TASC has become inactive as a Sub-committee of AAD.

During the last 18 months, Shane Mundy resigned from the DTAN Reference Group and Anthony Young from Melbourne replaced him. Thank you Shane Mundy for your contribution to DTAN. Anthony's first DTAN Reference Group meeting was one held in Sydney in June 2004. We continue to meet 2 or 3 times a year (depending on funding from DCITA).

Cathy Clark left AAD in May 2003 and Andrew Wiltshire was appointed to continue the project, as part of his Community Liaison and Projects portfolio. As part of our funding agreement, our program activities are clearly specified and have been consistent since we commenced the project funding in October 2001. These activities cover regular community consultations, writing and distributing discussion papers and collating and analysing feedback, attending several industry, regulators and consumer meetings, and at the same time keeping our finger on the pulse of a fast changing telecommunications environment.

Community consultations have taken place in places like Darwin, Broome and Bunbury with several planned for 2004 & 2005. DTAN is currently represented on industry, government and regulatory meetings listed below.

- Telstra Disability Forum
- Telstra Payphones Working Group
- Telstra Disability Equipment Program Working Group
- Australian Communication Authority National Relay Service Consultative Council (ACA NRSCC)
- Australian Communications Industry Forum:
 - ⇒ Disability Advisory Body
 - ⇒ Text Any to Any (TATA) Working Group
- Optus Consumer Liaison Forum

One of the most significant activities over this period was the HREOC Telecommunications Forum in Canberra in November 2003. This Forum has set the benchmark on what outcomes we should be working on and these are spread across a wide telecommunications spectrum. DTAN is now working on developing further information about telecommunication solutions and these will be made available on the AAD Website.

National Deaf TV

The National Deaf Television (NDTV) Sub-committee continues to work towards having a Deaf TV program on free to air networks even though approaches made to the networks have not been successful to date. With the advent of Digital TV, it is now felt that our approach would be best directed by creating programs presented on Digital TV.

The group now consists of Caroline Conlon, Cathy Clark, Cameron Davie, Andy Carmichael and Sofya Gollan, and Andrew Wiltshire continues to act as the meetings' notetaker whenever meetings are held in Sydney.

Youth

In 2003 we obtained sponsorship for the NDTV project from Australian Communication Exchange (ACE). Part of this funding was used to tour the Deaf TV and Film nights to capital cities in Australia. We managed to do this during the first 9 months of 2003. Also during the last 3 months of 2003 and first 6 months of 2004, we managed to take the Deaf TV and Film Roadshow to rural areas in Darwin, NT and Broome and Bunbury, WA. It was very well received and everyone loved the films!

With the same sponsorship funding from ACE, AAD was able to allocate Natalie Sandon one day per week to do the work for NDTV and when Natalie left AAD, Andrew Wiltshire continued the work until the agreement expired in April 2004. Andrew continues to use some of his work time to support the work of the NDTV Subcommittee when required.

We were also successful in our application to host the International Deaf Film Festival during the Melbourne 2005 Deaflympic Games. We encourage every aspiring Deaf actor, film maker, film producer and film writer to come up with wonderful films for the short film competition. It must include 'Sport' somewhere in the film. Information about the competition is available on the AAD website.

During the Film and TV Roadshow, we prepared letters ready for Deaf people to sign and send to Senator Alston, the then Minister for Communications, Information Technology and the Arts, asking for Deaf TV program. His Department (DCITA) has replied and said that our request was not being considered.

Some of the group members have commenced work on developing a new proposal that will look into the possibility of creating a National Deaf TV for the New Media (which covers Digital TV and Internet TV) and will be reporting to AAD on the progress.

We are also happy to hear of any Deaf people who have experience in New Media or of the TV & Film industry to contact us about being involved in lobbying for Deaf TV in Australia. Contact Andrew Wiltshire.

Late in 2002 AAD was successful in obtaining a grant of \$48,000 from the Telstra Foundation for a youth project called "Networking Australia's Deaf Youth".

The project is a two-year youth leadership and community development program. It involves leadership training programs for deaf youth aged 18-30, junior youth recreation camps for deaf youth aged 12-17, and local community youth activities. Junior youth recreation camps and local community activities are organised and run by deaf youths who have attended a youth leadership training camp.

The project commenced in March 2003 with the employment of a part time Youth Liaison Officer, Phillip Brown. From March 2003 until June 2004, the following outcomes have been achieved:

- Working one day per week, the Youth Liaison Officer organised the first leadership training camp. This camp was held from 25th to 28th September 2003 at Katoomba in the Blue Mountains, NSW. In organising this camp the Youth Liaison Officer, as well as arranging camp logistics such as identifying and booking a suitable venue, transport, accommodation, food, also did the following with support from AAD Manager Karen Lloyd:
 - ⇒ Liaised with AAD's Youth Subcommittee for input and advice from experienced Deaf youth leaders.
 - ⇒ Developed the program for the camp. Topics/activities included in the program were: teamwork activities; public speaking/presentation skills; conflict resolution; an introduction to Deaf history – "Deaf leaders and how they changed Australia"; what is leadership; organisational skills; community organisations; youth leaders' roles and responsibilities in local communities; and a workshop to plan the first junior deaf youth recreation camp, planned for April 2004.
 - ⇒ Identified and arranged suitable trainers for the camp. All trainers were themselves Deaf people with experi-

- ence and skills in both leadership and presenting training workshops.
- ⇒ Liaised with state branches of AAD to identify suitable Deaf youths (aged between 18-30) to attend the camp.
- ⇒ Sent information about the camp and application forms to AAD state branches and other Deaf community organisations.
- ⇒ Liaised directly with contacts in the NT and ACT in an attempt to identify suitable camp participants from those areas.

Unfortunately we were not able to identify suitable people in the NT and the ACT so there were 12 participants at the camp.

An evaluation form was emailed to all training camp participants shortly after the camp. Evaluations were very favourable, with a few criticisms about some aspects, particularly the travel arrangements and the small size of the workshop room. Some comments from campers:

"The camp was good because we were able to interact with each other and work together."

"The camp was excellent I really did enjoy myself expect (sic) the traveling arrangements."

"Very good, learn some skills"

"Overall the camp was great, and it gave me and others an opportunity to develop our leadership skills, and hopefully to be a role model the best we can for the younger generation."

"It was a fantastic and rewarding experience and I surely did learn many new things and how to become a better leader and to be able to continuing (sic) working within the Deaf community!!"

- Participants in the leadership camp developed a strategic plan for organising the first junior deaf recreation camp for 12-17 year olds, planned for April 2004 in Victoria.
- Commenced planning of monthly follow

up training activities for camp participants.

- Letters and an expression of interest form were sent to 74 schools around Australia known to have Deaf students. The letter briefly introduced the project and asked if the school would like a Deaf youth leader to visit the school to talk about the project and the junior youth camp. Responses, were mostly positive, and several schools were visited.
- Lisised with youth leaders, state branches of AAD, schools and in a few cases directly with families, to encourage junior youths to apply to attend the junior recreation camp planned for April 2004.
- Organised the logistics for the Junior Youth Camp in April 2004 at Weekaway in country Victoria.

Unfortunately the number of applicants for the camp was too low. The Youth Liaison Officer endeavoured to negotiate with the camp owners to accept a smaller group of campers and did succeed in getting the acceptable number lower than originally agreed. However, we needed 6 more campers before Weekaway would accept the smaller group and we were not able to meet the quota. The camp unfortunately had to be cancelled. This was a great disappointment to the prospective campers, the AAD State branches, and to AAD.

AAD now plans to hold a junior camp in September 2005 at a venue that will accept smaller group. The Youth Liaison Officer is currently working on locating a suitable venue.

- As June 2004, organisation for the second leadership training camp was well underway. This camp was to be held in September 2004 at Wanawong in Loftus, NSW.

In April 2003 the Board decided to disband the Youth Sub-committee since its role was being covered by the Networking Australia's Deaf Youth project.

Captioning

In the last Annual Report, we reported one major achievement. That was having Free to Air TV programs to increase captioning to 70% by 2007.

We have continuously been involved in a number of activities since the last annual report.

Free to Air Broadcasting:

In response to the Commonwealth Department of Communication, Information Technology and the Arts (DCITA) review of the Broadcasting Services Act, AAD provided a submission on the Department's *Issues paper on provision of services other than simulcasting by free-to-air broadcasters on digital spectrum*.

Multi-channelling (or simulcasting) where one broadcaster could broadcast different programs at the same time, this can be done only through digital spectrum.

We have outlined three major points:

1. That broadcasters have the responsibility to caption all programs in line with in the Broadcasting Service Act and the agreement between HREOC, Free to Air Broadcasters and AAD (and other stakeholders). This should apply to all channels, both main channels and multi-channels.
2. All new television (40 cm or larger) should be required to have teletext capability.
3. Legislation/regulations are needed for a Captioning Code (or Standards).

We have yet to hear recommendations from DCITA.

Pay TV: AAD have been involved with negotiation with the Australian Subscription Television and Radio Association (ASTRA)

and have come to an agreement based on a proposal made by ASTRA to the Human Rights and Equal Opportunity Commission (HREOC). HREOC accepted this proposal on 4th June 2004.

The agreement is that subscription television providers will caption 5% of programs in the first year across 20 channels; 10% of programs across 20 channels in the 2nd year; 15% of programs across 40 channels in the 3rd year; 20% across 40 channels in the 4th year; and 25% across 40 channels in the 5th year. In accepting the proposal, HREOC placed some conditions on it. One of these conditions is that ASTRA must begin negotiations to improve on these quotas before the end of the 3rd year, and they must have a plan ready to start at the end of the 5th year.

Cinema Captioning: Captioning in cinemas came into our life in 2001. However, there has been little or no improvement since then.

We are currently looking at digital cinema system which will be cheaper to purchase and re-produce caption files for distribution in Australia, than to purchase laser etched caption films. This technology is widely used in the United Kingdom and is spreading in the United States.

If this technology becomes available in Australia, it is possible that we will see more captioned films than before. It is likely to be sooner than later.

About Captioning Sub-committee: AAD is in the process of re-establishing the Captioning Sub-committee. I hope to get it established fairly soon because there is so much we need to do. I need one more volunteer to make this team complete.

Kyle Miers
Captioning Sub-committee Convenor

State Reports

NSW Association of the Deaf

It is with much pleasure that the Board of NSWAD presents its report for the AAD 2003-04 Annual Report, covering the period 1 January 2003 to 30 June 2004.

Each year the NSWAD Board sets its goals and challenges by formulating a Strategic Plan. The Strategic Plan has five parts: Liaison, Information Dissemination, Events, Education and Advocacy, Finance and Youth. The following are highlights of NSWAD's strategic objectives for 2003-4.

Liaison

NSWAD aims 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 Seniors Group.

Meetings were held with ASLIA to discuss common issues on interpreting, with a view to presenting workshops on this in 2004.

Discussions were commenced with the Deaf Society of NSW to join together in promoting Deaf issues in rural areas.

NSWAD continues to distribute copies of Silent Messenger to members of the Sydney Deaf Seniors Group.

NSWAD attended a special meeting held by Deaf Sports and Recreation NSW in August 2003.

Information dissemination

NSWAD published four editions of Silent Messenger. Julia Allen, with assistance from Sandra Sweeney, has worked hard in her role as editor of Silent Messenger. NSWAD is greatly indebted to Trevor Maggs, the previous editor, for his outstanding contributions to Silent Messenger.

Julia and Sandra have made an excellent start as the new editors. Silent Messenger is very popular with the NSWAD members and other people in the Deaf community, including interstate and overseas residents.

Events

NSWAD had one of its busiest times ever when it hosted the Deaf Cultural Festival during the Australian Deaf Games in April 2003. Heartiest congratulations are extended to the Games Organising Committee for a most successful Deaf Games. Four Cultural Festival events were held.

A Comedy Night, hosted by David Parker and Mademoiselle Coco, was the first event. The hosts kept the audience highly entertained before, during and after the individual comedy acts. This was attended by 500 people. Then there was the Great Debate. The topic was 'That Men Gossip More than Women'. Some excellent arguments were presented and the night drew 400 people.

There was also a harbour cruise which, while part of the Cultural Festival, was not organised by NSWAD. People dressed in different colours - red for 'not available', orange for 'maybe' and green for 'available'. As hoped, it was a riotously funny evening and a good time was had by all, even though it rained! The concluding event for the Deaf Cultural Festival was the Film Festival, held at Revesby Workers Club. It is apparent that there are some very talented and budding film-makers out there in the Deaf community! We showed eleven entries, all featuring Vegemite in one form or another, from across the country and overseas. They were all received well by the audience, which was 600 strong that night. The winning entry was produced by Todd Wright of NSW.

NSWAD is honoured to have been involved with the first ever Deaf Cultural Festival and hopes that future Australian Deaf Games will celebrate Deaf Culture in a similar way. NSWAD held its highly-popular 'Day of Entertainment IV' in November 2003. The

Board and the Youth Group joined together to produce 'The Wizard of Ozlan', a story about Australian Deaf culture based on the famous story 'The Wizard of Oz'. It was a successful day, with over 200 people of all ages in attendance, all laughing as Dorothy made new friends. Special thanks to Ida Rogers and Andrew Wiltshire for producing this event. Many thanks also to our interpreters, Jemina Napier and Andy Carmichael.

The 9th NSWAD Annual General Meeting was held in May 2003. We were very pleased to have as special guest Breda Carty, who presented on deafness and genetics.

The 10th NSWAD Annual General Meeting was held in April 2004. We were delighted to have as special guest Carol Lee Aquiline, a former resident of Sydney who now lives in Finland, working as General Secretary of the World Federation of the Deaf. Carol Lee presented on recent happenings at the United Nations and its effects on the international Deaf community. She also spoke on Deaf life in Europe, generating a lively discussion about the differences between Deaf life there and here in Australia.

NSWAD hosted its highly-popular 'Night of Entertainment V' in May 2004. The Board and a number of other Deaf community members teamed together to put on 'Cluedo Part I'. This was a mystery murder story. At its conclusion, someone murdered Jean-Paul, the dashing Frenchman who was visiting his friend at the Prime Minister's residence. Cluedo Part II, scheduled for November 2004, will reveal the identity of the murderer. There were well over 200 people in attendance. Many audience members have made personal bets with each other on who they think killed Jean Paul! Many special thanks to Caroline Conlon, our director, and Della Goswell and Andy Carmichael, our interpreters for this event.

Education and Advocacy

NSWAD continued its role in advocating for equality across a wide spectrum of services for Deaf people of NSW.

NSWAD was represented at the Reference

group set up to review the issue of Deaf and blind people serving as jury members. It is expected that more work will be done on this in 2004.

Breda Carty represents NSWAD on the Disability Advisory Council, which is the official advisory body to the NSW Government on disability issues.

NSWAD met, in October 2003, with representatives of the Department of Transport. The meeting outlined the key issues affecting Deaf people when using public transport. NSWAD continues its relationship with the Department into 2004.

Finance

It is pleasing to note that NSWAD's cash reserves continue to remain in a strong position.

Youth

NSWAD's Youth Group continues to progress well under the leadership of Mevlut Cet. 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. NSWAD thanks Mevlut and his team for their excellent work.

NSWAD supported Ida Rogers and Paul Nordheim to attend the 3rd International World Federation of the Deaf youth camp in July 2003 in Canada.

Kristen Hingerty and Briana Sommer are the NSWAD representatives for the AAD Youth leadership camps. They work with others from across Australia to organise camps and other events for Deaf youth.

The Youth group organised a quiz night in May and a Halloween night in October, both as fundraisers for the group.

Other Events of Note

- NSWAD notes with much sadness the tragic passing of Robert Profilio in January 2003. Robert was President of Deaf Sports and Recreation NSW.
- NSWAD also notes with much sadness the untimely passing of John Lovett in October 2003. John was President of CISS and an

- outstanding achiever in the Deaf community.
- Attendance in June 2003 at the AAD Annual General Meeting and AAD Board/States Meeting in Brisbane. Julia Allen was the NSW Representative.
 - NSWAD assisted AAD in several events by its support, such as the Film Night hosted by the National Deaf TV project.
 - NSWAD supported Breda Carty in her attendance at a conference on deafness and genetics at Gallaudet University.
 - Natalie Sandon of AAD presented a workshop with the NSWAD Board on the proposed Personal Interpreting Allowance.
 - NSWAD moved, with AAD, to North Rocks in May 2003.

Alastair McEwin
President, NSWAD

Queensland Association of the Deaf Inc.

This year has been a very busy year for QAD, but a very good year with lots of things achieved for the Deaf community. The current board of QAD has enjoyed working for the Deaf community. QAD has worked on the following:

Deaf Club: a once a month event held at the Muddy Farmer, allowing the Deaf community to catch up and socialise.

Deaf Rights: "Standing up for our rights: how do we do it?" Carol Lee Aquiline from WFD in Finland presented the workshop. There was information session about what are rights, what is happening, how the system works under the UN, how do we bring change and how do we know what rights are. The workshop was beneficial and informative.

Deaf Studies On-line Launch: Breda Carty decided that while Carol Lee was in Brisbane it was an ideal time to launch the Deaf Studies On-line. Some videos were shown and it was interesting and informative presentation. It was a successful launch and we appreciated Breda's presentation.

Film and TV Night: Andrew Wiltshire from AAD presented Deaf Films from overseas and Australian film maker/actors. There was an information session about the National Deaf Television Sub-Committee and also the AAD lobbying for Deaf TV.

ATOD: We invited the Australian Theatre of the Deaf to come and perform for us. They did a wonderful performance on a story about refugees. Everyone enjoyed it and everyone enjoyed the hot food!

Deaf Festival: QAD's Deaf Festival is an important contribution to both the Deaf and hearing community. The Festival raises awareness within both parts of the community of what is available and it also celebrates Deaf Culture. The overall success of this event is dependant on the many wonderful QAD board members and volunteers who willingly provide their time and effort to help out in all aspects to make this an eventful and enjoyable day on 23rd October at South Bank.

Youth: Sherrie Emir attended AAD's Youth Leaders Training Camp in September 2003 and the following Training Weekend on 9th to 11th July 2004. It was an interesting weekend and she learnt a lot about Youth issues. Karen Lloyd gave some pretty interesting lecturers on leadership and representing AAD. There have been some youth events in Brisbane such as bowling and paintball. Sherrie intends to do a mass email to all Deaf youths to ask them what they want to have or do. This will allow for the planning of events for youth events and activities for the remainder of 2004 and for 2005. Sherrie is now focusing on research into what activities to have for children and teenagers at the upcoming Deaf Festival.

AAD Special Meeting in Brisbane: An amendment was made to the constitution allowing a new membership structure. This meeting with AAD members and AAD board members was held in Brisbane.

QAD AGM: It will be held on 28th October 2004 at Qld Deaf Society. There will be a guest speaker from Griffith University.

AAD Board and States Meeting: It will be held on 10 to 12 November 2004 in Hobart.

Kim Pickering will be attending for AAD. Julie Kirkwood and Phil Brown will be representatives for QAD.

Overall we, the QAD board members, attended some government and disability meetings, workshops and the Multi Cultural Festival. We had a booth and we developed good networks at this event.

Current QAD Board Members:

President: Kim Pickering
Vice President: Lloyd Janetzki
Secretary: Kathryn O'Brien
Treasurer: Julie Kirkwood
Board members: Gaye Inall, Diana Laing, Louis Bonogno, Phil Brown and Sherrie Emir

South Australian Association for the Deaf

The Board members of SAAD are an essential network of support and belief which keeps SAAD functioning smoothly. Over the course of 18 months we've undertaken projects, run courses, and organised National Week of Deaf People.

Funding from *Adult Community Education* helped us to run Literacy classes for Deaf Adults throughout the year. Classes ran every Monday night from 6-9pm at the Deaf Society in 2003 and have continued on in 2004.

We also have a leadership program underway, thanks to AAD and the Telstra Foundation for making this possible. The board feels this is a wonderful opportunity to encourage and recruit young blood for SAAD for the future. For the first leadership camp held 2003 Allie Johnstone and Leigh-Anne Beard were made the SAAD Youth Camp Leaders and Kylie Phillips the State Representative. An Information Night was held for Parents and Students interested in attending the camp in April. All the parents were very interested in sending their children to the camp, a wonderful experience for them to mix with Deaf and Hearing Impaired students from across Australia.

This is a really exciting time for SAAD to have young people involved on the board. It was very disappointing to hear the camp in April was cancelled due to the lack of numbers. But the girls are far more confident that there will be a more successful outcome for the next camp to be held in September 2005. Again, we are hoping for twelve South Australian metropolitan and country 12-17 year olds to attend this wonderful camp.

In October 2003, SAAD had a very busy month with National Week of Deaf People. We opened the week with a BBQ Picnic at Townsend House and continued our tradition of the Blue Ribbon Ceremony. Various activities were held through out the week, 'Schools Big Day Out' with Deaf and Hearing Impaired school children from metropolitan and country areas participating, Movie and Pizza Night at Greater Union, Quiz and Theatre Night. All organised activities were fairly successful and was immensely enjoyed by all.

SAAD has been involved in the HI/DKON (Hearing Impaired and Deaf Kindred Organisation Network), which meets 3-4 times a year with Hearing Impaired organizations such as: Guide Dogs, Australian Hearing, Hearing Solutions, Better Hearing SA, Child and Youth Health Services and CanDo4Kids-Townsend House etc...

SAAD's "Insight" magazine is very interesting and always full of interesting news from around the world, we have been working really hard to make our magazine widely read as possible. SAAD has negotiated with Barry Mackie from DeafSA to include "Insight" on a semi-regular basis (four times a year) with the "Deaf Notes".

In 2003 we had a protest outside Amanda Vanstone's office in protest for the funding cuts to our interpreting service. The funding cuts has had a disastrous impact on the Deaf community with no access to free interpreting for job interviews, doctors appointments, legal services and so on. A number of SAAD members attended the first interpreter's rally, which was a great support to DeafSA. We're lucky to hear we've had \$18.4 million windfall, even though it's only for medical interpreting. Perhaps the steps can be expanded to include other services at a later date.

The SAAD board was lucky enough to take part in a rewarding training workshop conducted by Robert Adam in 2003 and Karen Lloyd and Andrew Wiltshire in 2004 after SAAD's AGM. I feel this was great way for Board members to gain more knowledge about their roles and responsibilities as representatives of Deaf people in this state. This was proven successful and subsequently we organised another working bee workshop to plan our year.

In April 2004 we had an exciting workshop with our guest speaker Carol-Lee Aquiline who gave a talk about Deaf Education Issues, Deaf Community Issues-Deaf Home Land Rights. It was unfortunate there was a big Deaf wedding on the very same night and our turnout was smaller than anticipated. Nonetheless those who attended the workshop were all thoroughly impressed with what Carol-Lee had to say. It was very motivating and inspiring and I certainly hope she can come back on a future date.

The support from our members and non-members has helped SAAD stay afloat especially during our fundraising activities and during National Week of Deaf People 2003.

Unfortunately, SAAD has lost three valuable committee members, Sandra Sandon, Bruce Muller and Colin Mitchel who all resigned from their respective positions as Board members of S.A.A.D. On the bright side we gained a few more also.

From here on, I hope that we're able to achieve goals with good outcomes we set out from our working bee workshop. Our plans include fundraising drives to collect funds to enable the youths for the Junior Camp to go without worrying about excessive costs, continue our Adult Education Program, and to lift our profile within the Deaf Community to name a few.

With great plans and big aspirations I hope to lead SAAD to more success just as the previous President has done. Melissa Grivell has made herself a notable community member to look at with admiration for her hard work and dedication to SAAD.

Allie Johnstone, President

Tasmanian Council of the Deaf

Tasmanian Council of the Deaf may seem to be keeping a low profile but we have been busy with the forthcoming 4th Deaf Festival on Sunday November 14th 2004 with Steve Ripley as our Guest Speaker/Presenter. TCOD was fortunate to get a grant from Hobart City Council in late 2003 for the 2004 Deaf Festival.

Two highlights of 2004 were the visit of Carol Lee Aquiline with her most interesting talk about her work as World Federation of the Deaf General Secretary in April and Andrew Wiltshire with his excellent presentation on the Deaf Film night in Hobart during our cold winter.

The committee for 2004 is:
President:- Robyn Whitney
Secretary:- Diana Hodgetts
Treasurer:- John Miller
Committee:- Peter Bailey, David Buchanan, Janine McQuillan.

Victorian Council of Deaf People

Now in its 22nd year, VCOD continues to deliver outcomes that aim to improve the quality of Life for Deaf People.

Members of the 2003/2004 VCOD Board are:

- Ann Darwin President
- Berna Hutchins Vice President
- Barry Darwin Treasurer
- Pam Dethridge
- Trisha Dench
- Peter Adams
- Irene Holub
- Brian Bernal
- Kathy Fitzmaurice

Staff consists of

- Grant Roberts (Manager)
- Melanie Wells (Admin)
- Lise Clews (Bookkeeper)
- Lorette Baker (Auslan Tutor)

VCOD has had a busy 18 months with a number of new and exciting programs happening.

Highlights for the 18 months were

- Setting up SMS services at RACV and Silver Top Taxi
- Lobbying Department of Human Services for smoke alarm
- Expanding Auslan at Work Deaf Deaf World
- Organising many events such as Signs of the Times, Genetic Forums
- Worked with major tourism operators/ organisations
- Worked with the Deaflympic organisers
- Working with State Disability Plans, Community Reviews which is all part of the Department of Human Service initiative to improve service
- DSRV/VCOD Awards Night
- National Week of Deaf People
 - ⇒ AAD Cocktail Party at Hotel Grand Chancellor, Melbourne
 - ⇒ Deaf Festival at Deaf Children Australia
 - ⇒ VCOD Business Breakfast
- Attended various workshops

As you can see VCOD is growing and trying to give as much as we can but unfortunately funding is so limited. VCOD is still lobbying for more funding for better services for Deaf people.

Grant Roberts will finish his job as manager of VCOD on 31st October 2004. A new manager will be appointed in February 2005. We wish Grant all the best for his future and many thanks for all he has done for VCOD.

On behalf of VCOD, we thank AAD for their generous support toward to the Australian Deaf community and all the best for 2004-2005.

On behalf of VCOD Board

Western Australian Association of the Deaf

WAAD are pleased to share the following information, which outlines events that have occurred during the last eighteen months.

WAAD Activities January 2003 - June 2004

- Successfully organised National Week of Deaf People events during October 2003 "Deaf Aqua". The reason behind our successful running of NWDP is the excellent sub-committee, who work together to organise the week's events. We are grateful to have these people on the committee. Please find further information on our website www.waad.org.au/nwdp
- 2003 NWDP activities included
 - ⇒ Interpreted Maritime Museum Tour
 - ⇒ Second Meeting with Minister for Disability Services with Robert Adam
 - ⇒ Deaf Seniors and Youth tour at Mundaring Weir Dam
 - ⇒ Sports Night with WAAD/WADRA
 - ⇒ Movie Night – "The Italian Job"
 - ⇒ Dinner and River Cruise
 - ⇒ Festival Day at the WA Deaf Society Hall with guest speakers. Natalie Sandon regarding Deaflympics, President of AAD Robert Adam and a Glory Soccer player.
- WAAD is pleased that WAAD was able to send two representatives from WAAD to attend the AAD State Branch meetings in Brisbane, 2003.
- Community/Fundraiser events
 - ⇒ Good Friday Picnics 2003 and 2004
 - ⇒ Robert Adam's visit to Perth to show us Deaf TV and Film for the National Deaf TV
 - ⇒ Carol-Lee Aquiline's Australian Tour "Standing Up for our Rights – How do we do it?"
- Worked with Andrew Wiltshire to organise trips to Broome and Bunbury where he provided workshops in each town - "Community Consultation & Film Night"
- Successful grant applications - Interpreting and National Week of Deaf People. Funding for NWDP used towards the purchase of promotional materials including bags and aprons with fingerspelling printed on the items.
- Community Representatives at/in th

- ⇒ WADS Board of Management
- ⇒ TAFE – Interpreter course
- ⇒ Project Consultant Group – relocation of Deaf Community Centre

16th Annual General Meeting

WAAD's 16th Annual General Meeting was held in the Deaf Community Centre Function Room on the 5th of September 2003. We were fortunate to have a significant number of people attending, even though it was the night for the Western Derby! The meeting went smoothly with only a few changes to the Board of WAAD. Josie Hodgetts and Robert Farmer had handed in their decisions not to renew their terms of office with WAAD. Robert Farmer is now chasing his dream in theatre overseas, and Josie Hodgetts has committed herself to another organisation. Josie however, is still very active within the Deaf community in WA, and also joined us for National Week of Deaf people as a member of the sub-committee.

We were delighted to have Dr Adam Schembri present as our special guest for the AGM. He gave a very interesting presentation outlining the nationwide research "Signs Across Australia". Many thanks to Adam for his time and dedication to this fantastic project which will enable further understanding of Auslan in specific states and the diversity of the Deaf community in Australia.

Office bearers are now current as:

President: Dawn Harrison
 Secretary: Patricia Levitzke-Gray
 Treasurer: Shannon Scarvaci
 Committee: Dawn Harrison (Minutes Secretary)
 Carole Noonan (Chairperson)
 Peter Kozuh
 Vikki Gear
 Jenny Pupich
 Melissa Bryson
 Alexandra Shaw
 Kim Stevens - Withdrawn

Kim Stevens was also a WAAD committee member for a few months and attended one meeting. Unfortunately, due to other commitments, she was unable to remain on the committee. We thank her for her time and wish her all the best for the future. With one vacancy on the committee we were fortunate to have Alexandra Shaw step up to fill the position. We welcome Alex and wish her all the best for her future with our association.

National Junior Deaf Youth Camp

WAAD in collaboration with Youth Leaders Josie Hodgetts and Dominic D'Agostino, worked through a selection process and selected 11 successful Deaf and hard of hearing youth, (including one youth from Broome), to be involved with the National Junior Deaf Youth Camp organised by AAD. We also worked hard with the youth to fundraise for the camp. Through our efforts, we raised several thousand dollars. Activities included:

- Adventure World
- Visual Quiz Night
- Cabaret Performance – "Reach for the Stars"
- Garage Sale
- Raffles; and
- Selling chocolates

We were also very fortunate to receive many donations from shops. Unfortunately the camp was postponed until next year. Three youth from WA will turn eighteen before the next camp, making them ineligible to attend the camp. While this is very disappointing, they will receive payment from the fund-raising to help them to attend the Deaflympics in Melbourne 2005.

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AAD—

Lobbying for your rights! Promoting your community and your language! Preserving your cultural heritage!

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