



AUSTRALIAN  
ASSOCIATION  
OF THE **DEAF** INC.

Annual Report 2004 - 2005

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# Australian Association of the Deaf Inc

## Our vision

An Australia where Deaf people have no barriers.

## Our Mission

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

## Our Values

AAD values:

- Auslan as the language of the Australian Deaf community;
- The potential of Deaf people to succeed;
- Individual difference;
- Dedication to the organisation;
- Establishing and enhancing relationships with members and partners;
- Open communication;
- Honest and positive attitudes;
- High quality information and service;
- Involvement/contribution of members;
- The views of the Deaf community;
- Continuous improvement and innovation.

## Our Work

AAD 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 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;
- 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 the Australian national organisation 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 Australian 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.

The 2005 Annual General Meeting is AAD's 19th.

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# Organisation Chart

## **Board**

### **President:**

Ann Darwin, Vic

### **Secretary:**

Vacant

### **Treasurer:**

Brett Casey, Qld

### **Board members:**

Kyle Miers, Vic

Kimberley Pickering, Qld

Alastair McEwin, NSW

Berna Hutchins (from March 2005)

## **Sub-committees**

### **Captioning**

Convenor: Kyle Miers

### **Constitution**

Convenor: Alastair McEwin

### **Deaf Culture and Arts**

Convenor: Kim Pickering

### **Employment**

Convenor: Vacant

### **Finance**

Convenor: Brett Casey

### **Genetics & Ethics**

Convenor: Breda Carty

### **National Deaf TV**

Convenor: Caroline Conlon

### **Telecommunications Access**

Convenor: Brett Casey

## **Expert Groups**

Education

Health

Sign Language

Sign Language Interpreting

## **Staff**

### **Manager:**

Karen Lloyd

### **Community Liaison and Projects Officer:**

Andrew Wiltshire

### **Youth Liaison Officer:**

Phillip Brown (to March 2005)

### **Information Co-ordinator**

Rachel Byrnes (from March 2005)

### **Administration:**

Peter Davies

Anne Dernow (from May 2005)

## **State member organisations (state branches)**

NSW Association of the Deaf

Queensland Association of the Deaf

South Australian Association of the Deaf

Tasmanian Council of the Deaf

Victorian Council of Deaf People

Western Australian Association of the Deaf

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# President's Report

I feel privileged to present my President's report for the year of 2004/05. How time has flown in the last 12 months and it is nearing to the year of 2006.

The last 12 months have again been a very hectic time for AAD. January 2005 was an especially busy time with the Melbourne 2005 Deaflympics and AAD's International Deaf Film Festival. The Festival included a competition with awards for the International and Australian Best Films, and both awards were won by Josie Hodgetts of Western Australia. Our congratulations to Josie.

AAD worked with our Victorian State branch, VCOD to organise an International New Year's Eve party for all the people who were in Melbourne for the Deaflympics. The party was sponsored by Deaf Children Australia and Vicdeaf, and we thank them for their support. Over 700 people came along to celebrate the New Year, catch up with old friends and meet together with new friends for the first time. It was a fantastic night.

AAD and VCOD also organised a "Deaf pub" at Queensbridge Hotel, or "QBH" for three nights. The atmosphere was electric, the real Deaf club, especially on the last night when over 2,500 people joined the fun with loud music!

AAD has started on a complete overhaul of the strategic plan and it is progressing well. AAD has a new website and it is progressively being completed. On behalf of the AAD Board I thank Trevor Maggs and the

staff of AAD who have spent many hours on the website.

The year has been packed with activities and you can read about them in this report.

I thank the Department of Family and Community Services, and the Department of Communications, Information Technology and the Arts for their continued funding, our sponsors of various events and activities, States Branches and members for their support of AAD. Without your help, AAD would be a much poorer organisation.

Farewell to Brett Casey and Alastair McEwin who are not seeking re-election to the Board. I thank them for their support.

I thank the AAD Board, Sub-committees and Expert Groups, Karen Lloyd, Manager of AAD and the staff for their continuing support to me and the members of AAD.

Finally, from the bottom of my heart, I thank my husband Barry and our family for their patience and understanding when I am not able to be with them because of AAD business. Also special thanks to Karen Lloyd and John Louttit for billeting me at their home when I attend AAD board meetings.

Remember AAD is your organisation, tell us what you want!

Ann Darwin  
President

## 2006 is AAD's 20th Anniversary

AAD held its first meeting on 1st June 1986 in Adelaide, SA. Next year, 2006 will be our 20th anniversary. We are organising some very special events to celebrate, and to start planning our next 20 years. We hope to see lots of old and new friends at these events:

- A national conference, "Auslan: our past, present and future" in Adelaide, 3-5 November 2006.
- A gala dinner in Sydney on Friday 2nd June 2006.
- A national family picnic day in each capital city (date to be confirmed)

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# Manager's Report

The Melbourne 2005 Deaflympics was surely the highlight of 2004-05 for the Deaf community, and like everyone else AAD was there. We hosted an International Deaf Film Festival as part of the Deaflympics cultural festival and, with VCOD, organised a wonderfully successful New Year's Eve party and International Deaf Pub over three nights.

This year, although the week itself has been held for 9 years, AAD held its first official launch of National Week of Deaf People, in Melbourne, and the inaugural Fair Go Award, which was won by IBM Australia. Julia Allen won Deaf Australian of the Year and Mevlut Cet won Deaf Australian Youth of the Year. Congratulations to all!

Politically a major focus this year has been the government's "Welfare to Work" reforms. AAD has worked with other peak disability organisations to try to persuade the government to make changes to these proposed reforms. We have all said we share the government's desire to see more people with disabilities in the workforce, but we have disagreed with their proposals for how to do this—cutting people's payments and making them poorer does not help them get a job. Instead, governments need to actively help persuade employers to give them a fair go in the workplace.

Related to this has been the Human Rights and Equal Opportunity Commission (HREOC) Inquiry into Employment and Disability. AAD sent a submission to this inquiry, took part in a roundtable meeting, and continues to be involved in working groups.

An international event of great importance to Deaf communities around the world has continued to be the development of the draft UN Convention on the rights of people with disabilities. AAD continued to provide comment on this to the Australian Federation of Disability Organisations and directly to the Australian Government. We have been particularly concerned that the rights of Deaf people to use sign language and be educated using sign language should be clearly stated in the Convention.

January 2005 saw the commencement of the new NABS (National Auslan Interpreter Booking and Payment Service) for the provision of Auslan interpreters at private health appointments. This service, funded by the Australian Government, was established as a result of several years of lobbying by AAD, the Australian Federation of Deaf Societies and Australian Sign Language Interpreters Association. AAD was contracted to provide information to the Deaf community about this service and during the year Rachel Byrnes conducted 36 information sessions in 27 locations around the country.

At these sessions, Rachel also took the opportunity to ask Deaf people what they want from AAD. We received some excellent feedback and we now have a long list of issues for AAD to work on. Many of these issues we are already actively pursuing, but we will be investigating what other issues we need to make priorities.

The "Networking Australia's Deaf Youth" project was completed this year, with 19 youths completing the leadership training weekends and now involved in the community building on their leadership skills. Our thanks to the Telstra Foundation for funding this project.

The DTAN project has had another successful year. We were especially concerned this year about the requirements for the new National Relay Service tender and we made strong representations to government that it should include video, Internet and SMS relay.

Much time has been spent collaborating with other organisations. Our partners are important to us. We have also been pleased to provide some limited support, mainly advice and information, to the Deaf Association of the Northern Territory.

The staff have been magnificent this year and I thank them for their dedication and excellent work. Sincere thanks also to the Board and all our members for their on-going support and involvement. Special thanks to volunteers Tim Earl (Sydney office), John Louttit, Annette Lund and Kathryn Shannon (Brisbane office).

Karen Lloyd, Manager

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# Highlights of 2004-2005

- Provided input to the Department of Family and Community Services (FaCS) review of the Commonwealth Disability Strategy
- Provided comments on the draft United Nations Convention on the rights of people with disabilities, particularly on the article about education.
- Involvement with the new private health interpreting service included:
  - ⇒ attending a meeting of the FaCS Reference Group prior to the release of the tender documents;
  - ⇒ attending the launch of the new National Auslan Booking and Payment Service (NABS);
  - ⇒ signing an agreement with NABS for AAD to provide information about NABS to the Deaf community.
- Made representations (submissions, emails and letters) to the Department of Communications, Information Technology and the Arts (DCITA) for the inclusion of video relay, Internet relay and SMS relay in the requirements for the new tender for the National Relay Service. Representations were also made to the Minister and to other Government Ministers and MPs.
- Sent a submission to the DCITA review of legislation about simulcasting/multichannelling on free-to-air TV, about the implications for captioning.
- Involvement with the Human Rights and Equal Opportunity Commission (HREOC) Inquiry on Employment and Disability included:
  - ⇒ sending comments to the call for comments on a possible inquiry;
  - ⇒ sending a submission to the Inquiry;
  - ⇒ attending a HREOC roundtable meeting to discuss the Inquiry.
- Involvement with the Government's "Welfare to Work" reforms included:
  - ⇒ in February attending a forum on the DSP and employment arranged by Australian Federation of Disability Organisations (AFDO), Australian Council of Social Services (ACOSS) and other organisations;
  - ⇒ joining the Alliance that was established following this meeting to campaign for fairer reforms;
  - ⇒ in March, sending three representatives to roundtable meetings with Ministers Andrews and Dutton and their advisors to discuss changes to the DSP and employment participation for people with disabilities;
  - ⇒ in June attending a meeting organised by the Alliance with the Department of Employment and Workplace Relations to discuss changes to the DSP, employment support etc.
- Worked with Deaf Children Australia (DCA) to develop a joint mentoring/support program for hearing families with a deaf child in Queensland and Victoria. A pilot project for 5 families in Brisbane is planned to begin in January/February 2006.
- Met with Parent Council for Deaf Education (NSW) and Anglicare to discuss a possible trial joint project for respite care/mentoring for hearing families with a deaf child in Sydney. This proposal has since been on hold due to lack of staff resources in AAD.
- Worked with the Royal Australian College of General Practitioners (RACGP) to make GP practices more accessible for Deaf people:
  - ⇒ sent comments on the RACGP draft *Standards for General Practitioners (3<sup>rd</sup> edition)*;
  - ⇒ provided input to a draft information sheet for the RACGP website. This is now on hold pending further discussion;
  - ⇒ attended a meeting with the RACGP and HREOC.
- Met with various organisations to discuss issues of mutual concern:
  - ⇒ Australian Communication Exchange (ACE);
  - ⇒ Australian Federation of Deaf Societies (AFDS);

- ⇒ Australian Sign Language Interpreters Association (ASLIA);
  - ⇒ NABS;
  - ⇒ AFDO;
  - ⇒ Australian Caption Centre;
  - ⇒ Australian Broadcasting Authority;
  - ⇒ Deafness Forum.
- Provided on-going ad hoc advice and support to the Deaf Association of the Northern Territory (DANT).
  - Workshop held in Hobart for members on the issues of lobbying, genetics and employment.
  - Film nights held in each State and Territory between August and November as part of AAD's ongoing campaign for a Deaf TV program on national television.
  - Attended trials of the new DTS-CSS system for screening captioned films. The system began operating in cinemas in July 2005.
  - Attended the official launch and first Annual General Meeting of the Australian Federation of Disability Organisations (AFDO). AAD's representative on the AFDO Board was MC for the launch. Also attended an AFDO planning day.
  - Hosted an International Deaf Film Festival as part of the cultural festival during the Melbourne 2005 Deaflympics.
  - Before, during and after the Deaflympics, in partnership with VCOD, hosted an International New Year's Eve party and an International Deaf Club over three nights. Sponsorship from Australian Communication Exchange, Victorian Deaf Society and Deaf Children Australia. All events were very successful.
  - Community consultation workshops and meetings with members were held throughout the year:
    - a) for the DTAN project and other issues that AAD is working on eg employment, workshops held at the Gold Coast, Qld; Newcastle and Wollongong, NSW; Hobart and Launceston, TAS;
    - b) 36 information sessions about NABS and about what people want from AAD held in 27 metropolitan and regional locations across all States and Territories.
- Attended conferences/forums:
    - ⇒ Deafview II conference in Auckland, in July. Presentation about the DTAN project;
    - ⇒ Parent Council for Deaf Education (NSW) conference, "The Whole Child". Presentation about AAD and the Deaf community;
    - ⇒ forum on newborn hearing screening and early intervention, organised by Deaf Children Australia;
    - ⇒ seminar, "Disability, Power and Justice in Australia: an Audit" organised by the Disability Studies and Research Institute, University of NSW;
    - ⇒ information session organised by Deaf Children Australia about the USA parent group "Hands and Voices";
    - ⇒ forum on bioethics organised by Qld Advocacy Inc;
    - ⇒ presentations to Auslan students at TAFE.
  - The Networking Australia's Deaf Youth project (funded by the Telstra Foundation) was completed this year:
    - ⇒ a training weekend for youths who attended the first leadership training camp in 2003, was held in July 2004;
    - ⇒ a second leadership training camp was held in September 2004; youth leaders from all states attended;
    - ⇒ the project officer visited all state capitals in February 2005 to talk with youth leaders, state branch boards, and visit some schools;
    - ⇒ the project officially ended in March 2005. However, a follow up junior youth camp was organised for September 2005, lead by youth leaders trained at the leadership camps.
  - National Week of Deaf People 2004:
    - ⇒ official launch, Melbourne; address by Senator Natasha Stott Despoja;
    - ⇒ Deaf Australian of the Year Award presented to Julia Allen, NSW;
    - ⇒ Deaf Australian Youth of the Year Award presented to Mevlut Cet, NSW;
    - ⇒ inaugural Fair Go Award presented to

- IBM Australia;
  - ⇒ attended/had stalls at VCOD Deaf Festival, TCOD Deaf Festival, QAD Deaf Festival, NSW Deaf Festival and Deafness Expo in Melbourne.
- Worked with NABS, a video producer and members of the Deaf community to produce a DVD about the NABS service, in Auslan with an accompanying English print version. The finished DVD was received in July 2005 and distribution is taking place outside this reporting period.
- Continued to successfully operate the DTAN project.
- Strategic planning weekend for Board and staff was held in April 2005, and further work on a new, totally overhauled plan was done at a meeting in June. Work is continuing.
- Continued to distribute AAD Outlook monthly.
- Funding submission to Jupiters Casino Community Benefit Fund for air conditioning and office equipment was successful.
- Sponsorship from Australian Communication Exchange in return for AAD including information about the NRS in information kits distributed at community consultation workshops.
- Donation of D-Link videophones for the Brisbane and Sydney offices, from Phil Harper, Deakin University and Telstra (Disability Services).
- Provided letters to the Australian Caption Centre in support for their tenders for ABC and SBS captioning.
- Sent representatives to meetings of the following committees and forums:
  - ⇒ Cinema Captioning Working Party;
  - ⇒ DDA Standards Project;
  - ⇒ Australian Federation of Disability Organisations Board;
  - ⇒ Australian Communications Industry Forum – Disability Advisory Body;
  - ⇒ Australian Communications Authority – National Relay Service Consultative Committee;
  - ⇒ Optus Consumer Liaison Forum;

- ⇒ Telstra Disability Forum;
- ⇒ Telstra Disability Equipment Program Consumers Advisory Group;
- ⇒ TEDICORE (Telecommunications and Disability Consumers Representatives);
- ⇒ Centrelink Disability Customer Reference Group.

***Our Mission:***

**Australian Association  
of the Deaf  
is the  
national peak body  
managed by Deaf people  
that  
represents, promotes,  
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# Sub-committee Reports

## **Telecommunications**

The Deaf Telecommunication Access and Networking (DTAN) project continues to receive funding from the Department of Communications, Information Technology and the Arts (DCITA). The funding from DCITA in the past has always been from 01 October through until 30 September in any given funding year and the new funding for 2005 – 2006 will now only go from 01 October 2005 till 30 June 2006, which will bring future funding cycles into line with the normal financial year ie 1 July – 30 June in any given year. We have also been able to secure funding until 30 June 2006.

During the twelve months between July 1, 2004 and June 30, 2005, the DTAN Reference Group met once at Sydney in October 2004 and through MSN Chat in April 2005. Members of the Reference Group are:

- Brett Casey, Convenor (Brisbane)
- Phil Harper (Melbourne)
- Anthony Young (Melbourne)
- Teresa Corbin, Consumers Telecommunications Network (Sydney)
- Karen Lloyd, AAD Manager
- Andrew Wiltshire, AAD Community Liaison and Projects Officer

Most of the meetings cover discussions on work to date, reporting to DCITA, project activities, telecommunications issues and strategic planning.

Activities of the project are agreed between DCITA and AAD at the time of receiving confirmation of funding. These include organising regular community consultations, which this year were held at;

- Gold Coast, August 2004
- Newcastle, September 2004
- Wollongong, October 2004
- Launceston, March 2005
- Hobart, March 2005
- Adelaide, June 2005

Attendance numbers at community consultations vary greatly from one location to another and Deaf members who come along

on the night have found them to be useful and comfortable as information is provided in Auslan only. It gives an opportunity for Deaf people to come together and talk about telecommunications issues that they may have in their area for example video telephony and access issues.

Discussion papers generated by DTAN have reduced in numbers due to less funding received from DCITA for the funding period 1 October 2004 to 30 September 2005, from three discussion papers to one discussion paper a year. The discussion paper generated in this financial year was on 'Broadband and Deaf People' We look forward to releasing final reports when they are complete.

We continued to attend a number of meetings to represent Deaf people's views over the year with the telecommunications industry, regulators and government agencies. They include Australian Communications Industry Forum Disability Advisory Body (Andrew Wiltshire), Optus Consumer Liaison Forum (Brett Casey), Telstra Disability Equipment Program Consumers Advisory Group (Phil Harper) Telstra Disability Forum (Andrew Wiltshire) and ACA National Relay Service Consultative Council (Phil Harper).

DTAN has maintained good links with other disability organisations that have representatives in telecommunications access through meetings that we all attend together and also Anthony Young represents AAD DTAN at TEDICORE reference group meetings. It is through these meetings and through email that we monitor the outcomes required from the HREOC Telecommunications Forum held in Canberra (November 2003) and there remains substantial work that needs to be done.

During 2004 – 2005, DTAN's achievements included:

- Presented a paper at Deaf View II Conference, Auckland NZ in July 2005;
- Attended ACIF/ACA Summit August 2004 regarding the future of telecommunications regulations and compliance of standards,

- codes and guidelines;
- Participated in DCITA Reference Group for research about TTY Usage in Australia;
- Providing feedback to Australian Mobile Telephone Association (AMTA) Good Practice Guide;
- Sent information and documents to DCITA in November 2004 to ask the Government to consider including Internet Relay, SMS Relay and Video Relay Services in the new NRS Tender;
- Submitted response to the Statement of Requirement for the National Relay Service Tender, February 2005 urging that the government consider all relay services for the new NRS;
- Wrote to various Government Senators, Ministers and MP's in March 2005 to urge them to show support for inclusion of all relay services in the new Tender which was being drafted for final release;
- Provided input at meetings of a project on user research into text terminal equipment with University of Newcastle for SingTel Optus;
- Responded to the Senate Inquiry into the performance of the Australian telecommunications regulatory regime in May 2005;
- Worked with Telstra Payphones Working Group to produce draft Payphone Code that has now been forwarded to ACIF for consideration;
- Provided feedback on various ACIF Industry Codes and Guidelines;
- Participated in final interview for Video over IP PhD research study by Phil Harper to test the accessibility, understanding and usability of video over Internet protocol

The telecommunications industry continues to move forward and change at a frenetic pace and we continue to advocate where possible for the best solutions that would benefit Deaf consumers today. Especially so in the advent of video telephony that is starting to arrive into Australia, like what is now used in the USA and UK using broadband videophones and to ensure that the industry is aware of suitable services to meet Deaf people's access needs. AAD was fortunate to receive two sets of broadband videophones for the Brisbane and Sydney offices which were donated by Phil Harper, Deakin

University, and Telstra (Disability Services) . It makes it all more real now and we look forward to talking to Deaf people who have them in Australia! Thank you Phil Harper, Deakin University and Telstra!

We would like to thank everyone who contributes and works with the DTAN project as without them, we would not have been able to come this far.

Andrew Wiltshire  
Community Liaison and Projects Officer

## ***National Deaf TV***

The National Deaf Television (NDTV) Sub-committee continues to work towards having a Deaf TV program on free to air networks; however there have been some changes in the sub-committee. Cathy Clark moved interstate to live in Melbourne and for a few months Caroline Conlon took up a short term contract working with Melbourne 2005 Deaflympics until the end of January 2005. This meant the sub-committee was smaller and needed to look for a replacement for Cathy as well as organising a few fundraising events.

Even though the sub-committee has not met during the financial year, face to face we communicate a lot through email and it is through this we are able to continue with our fundraising and promoting awareness of Deaf TV and films through events like national roadshows held in August 2004 and the International Deaf Film Festival (IDFF) held at Melbourne in January 2005.

The national Deaf Film & TV roadshow organised by NDTV was able to visit every State and Territory in Australia during August 2004 visiting Brisbane, Perth, Adelaide, Melbourne, Hobart, Sydney, Canberra and Darwin. Films from UK, NZ and Australia and a Deaf TV program from UK were shown at the Roadshow with a short information session on NDTV activities as well as promoting the International Deaf Film Festival. Deaf people who came to visit enjoyed the films, especially the Vegemite film and the TV program on the history of BSL.

During the Melbourne 2005 Deaflympics,

NDTV was pleased to host IDFF from 7<sup>th</sup> to 9<sup>th</sup> January at the Australian Centre of Moving Image in Federation Square as part of the Deaflympic Cultural Festival. During the IDFF, there were two separate events happening at the same time, one event being the showcase of different films available from all over the world and the other event was the Short Film Competition. For the Short Film Competition, Deaf people had to make short films up to 7 minutes each that included 'Sport' in the film and films were screened before the audience had to vote for the best International and the best Australian film.

Winning entries for the IDFF were

- International Short Film Competition Winner – Bushlympics (AUS) by Josie Hodgetts;
- Australian Short Film Competition Winner – Bushlympics (Perth) by Josie Hodgetts;
- Best of Festival – Pamplona (Norway) by Dag Johan Lindberg.

It was the culmination of hard work for the few months before the event by several people, especially the Festival Directors (Andy Carmichael, Sofya Gollan and Andrew Wiltshire) and it was very exciting to see that such an event was possible. Films were submitted from countries including Japan, USA, UK, Norway, New Zealand and Australia.

Projects in the pipeline include a meeting for the sub-committee in August with a new committee member, Todd Wright joining NDTV to replace Cathy Clark. We look forward to working with him and to focus on a new strategic plan that will continue our lobbying for a national Deaf TV program. One other activity that the sub-committee has been working on is a revised terms of reference to look at broadening our objectives to include cable TV and Internet based TV.

We would like to thank everyone who has assisted NDTV and look forward to achieving our goal of having a national Deaf TV program in the not too distant future.

## **Deaf Culture and Arts**

Members of the Deaf Culture and Arts Sub-committee are Kim Pickering, Breda Carty, Patti Levitzke-Gray, Trevor Maggs and David Parker.

The Deaf Culture and Arts Sub-committee this year was mainly responsible for selecting winners of the AAD Deaf Australian of the Year Award and the Deaf Australian Youth of the Year Award. The winners were chosen from among those nominated by AAD Ordinary members, and it is never an easy task. We congratulate Julia Allen (Deaf Australian 2004) and Mevlut Cet (Deaf Australian Youth 2004) on their awards.

The Sub-committee also provides input into the themes and activities for National Week of Deaf People, and we were very pleased to see NWDP 2004 was another very successful week.

## **Captioning**

In the last annual report, we reported that we had sent a submission to the Department of Communication, Information Technology and the Arts (DCITA) on their *Issue Paper on Provision of Service other than simulcasting by Free to Air Broadcasters on digital spectrum*.

The issues paper was about multi-channelling (or simulcasting) where one broadcaster could broadcast different programs at the same time on more than one channel; this can be done only through digital spectrum.

In our submission we outlined three areas that need attention:

1. That broadcasters have the responsibility to caption all programs outlined in the Broadcasting Service Act and honour the agreement between HREOC, Free to Air Broadcasters and AAD (and other stakeholders) - ie this covers all channels, including multichannels;
2. To require new television (40 cm or larger) to have teletext capability;
3. Legislation to have Captioning Code (or Standards).

We have yet to hear anything from DCITA.

**Free to Air Broadcasting:** The current agreement between community organisations / HREOC / Free to Air Broadcasters (agreed in 2002) states that in 2006, there will be a review of captioning on Free to Air programs before the agreement ceases in 2007. In the agreement, Free to Air broadcasters are committed to caption 70% of programs between 6.00am and midnight by 2007.

We look forward to receiving your thoughts and ideas on how we can improve captioning on Free to Air programs.

**Pay TV:** Since the introduction of captioning on Foxtel, AAD would like to congratulate 'Discovery Channel' for continuously exceeding the captioning quota. We are monitoring captioning on their programs.

**Cinema Captioning:** a new era has arrived, finally, with the roll out of a new digital captioning system (DTS-CSS) in cinemas,

and these are now in place in 10 cities including Newcastle and Maroochydore. The benefit of the new system is enormous. It means more distributors will caption their movies during production stage and the captions are available closer to release date. Also more movies are captioned as compared to the older system.

AAD congratulates the cinema industry for taking a new direction with cinema captioning and we look forward to developing plans to show captioned movies more frequently and offer more movies for Deaf people to enjoy the cinema experience.

We are currently developing an effective feedback mechanism that will allow consumers to make complaints on quality of captioning through our website.

Kyle Miers, Convenor  
Captioning Sub-committee

## ***Networking Australia's Deaf Youth***

The "Networking Australia's Deaf Youth" project was a two-year youth leadership and community development program. It was made possible by funding from the Telstra Foundation, and operated from March 2003 to March 2005.

The project undertook the following activities:

- Two leadership training camps, each of 3 days, for 18-30 year olds;
- Follow-up training activities for leadership camp participants, including a follow-up training weekend of 2 days;
- Organised a junior youth camp for 12-17 year olds (held in September 2005);
- Planned and conducted local activities for youths;
- Visited schools to tell deaf students about the project and the junior camp;
- Liaised with state branches of AAD to encourage them to work closely with the youth leaders;
- Liaised with other organisations to encourage them to work co-operatively with youth leaders.

The project sought to address the problem of deaf youths being isolated from each other as

a result of educational mainstreaming practices, and to develop leadership skills among deaf youths. It has had a very positive impact. We now have a team of 19 youths who have received some leadership training and are working actively in their local communities to organise youth activities and encourage others to be involved. The project had a very low drop-out rate, with only 3 youth leaders dropping out; 19 remain active.

Many participants in the leadership camps commented on how wonderful it was to meet up with other deaf youths and work with them, expand their knowledge of other deaf youths and the deaf community.

AAD now has more potential leaders who can become involved in AAD's activities and eventually become leaders of AAD itself. In fact two people who participated in the leadership training camps are already actively involved with AAD at the state level – one has become President of SAAD and another has become the Administration Officer of VCOD.

Our thanks to the Telstra Foundation for the funding that made this important project possible.

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# State Reports

## **NSW Association of the Deaf**

It is with much pleasure that the Board of NSWAD presents its report for the AAD 2004-05 Annual Report.

Each year the NSWAD Board sets its goals and challenges by formulating a Strategic Plan. The Strategic Plan has six parts: Liaison, Information Dissemination, Events, Education and Advocacy, Finance and Youth. The following are highlights of NSWAD's strategic objectives for the period 1 July 2004 to 30 June 2005.

### **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 continued to be held with ASLIA (NSW) to discuss common issues on interpreting. As a result of discussions, ASLIA held a workshop as part of the 2004 Deaf Festival at Burwood RSL in November 2004. This was presented in the format of a series of scenarios, looking at the expected roles of both interpreters and Deaf clients. Judging from the audience feedback, this workshop was extremely well-received. NSWAD looks forward to its continuing association with ASLIA (NSW).

In the second half of 2004, NSWAD, in consultation with the Deaf Society of NSW, Deaf Sports and Recreation NSW and Better Hearing NSW, nominated Mary Profilio to be the NSW torchbearer for the opening ceremony of the 20<sup>th</sup> Deaflympic summer games in Melbourne in January 2005. NSWAD was proud to be a part of this consultation and thanks the other organisations for their participation. As a memento of the torchbearer event, a replica of the M2005 torch will be displayed

permanently at the NSWAD office. NSWAD congratulates Mary on being selected for this role.

As always, NSWAD continues to distribute copies of Silent Messenger to members of the Sydney Deaf Seniors Group. This is an excellent example of demonstrating NSWAD's commitment to ensuring that all Deaf people in NSW, no matter what age, can receive information on what has been happening in their community.

### **Information dissemination**

NSWAD published four editions of Silent Messenger. Julia Allen, with assistance from Sandra Sweeney, has worked very hard in her role as editor of Silent Messenger. NSWAD is greatly indebted to Julia for her preparation and editing of each edition of Silent Messenger. Silent Messenger continues to be very popular with the NSWAD members and other people in the Deaf community, including interstate and overseas residents.

NSWAD was pleased to work with AAD for its NSW information sessions on NABS (National Auslan Booking and Payments Service for private medical interpreting). Sessions were held in Sydney, Wollongong and Newcastle in May 2005, with more regional trips planned for the second half of 2005.

NSWAD President Alastair McEwin gave a short presentation on NSWAD at the Deaf Education Network's information night in June 2005. This was an extremely well-attended session, with over 200 people present.

Also in June 2005, NSWAD hosted, at Burwood RSL, an information night on Foxtel's captioning service. This was an excellent opportunity for Deaf community members to ask many questions about this service. Our thanks to Foxtel for working with us on this.

### **Events**

NSWAD had another busy year with events for the Deaf community. This year followed on from one of our busiest times ever when we hosted the Deaf Cultural Festival during the Australian Deaf Games in April 2003.

In November 2004, NSWAD hosted the 2004 Deaf Festival at Burwood RSL. This was a very successful event. There were 12 stalls with information from many sectors of the community. A series of workshops were presented during the afternoon. NSWAD also launched its new logo at the event. All proceeds raised on the day were donated to each NSW athlete competing in the 20<sup>th</sup> Deaflympic summer games in Melbourne in January 2005. NSWAD was also grateful to Foxtel who made a donation to NSWAD for every new subscription they received at the Festival.

To conclude the Festival, NSWAD hosted "Cluedo Part II", its highly-popular "Night of Entertainment V". Once again, the NSWAD Board and a number of other Deaf community members teamed together to put on the event. This was a mystery murder story. In Part II a court trial was held to find out who murdered Jean-Paul in "Cluedo Part I". Jean-Paul was the dashing Frenchman who was visiting his friend at the Prime Minister's residence. Many special thanks to Andrew Wiltshire, our director, and our interpreters for this event.

The 11th NSWAD Annual General Meeting was held in May 2005. We were very pleased to have as special guest Dr Adam Schembri who spoke about his work on his book on sign linguistics. This proved to be a very popular session with much discussion about the differences in signs around Australia.

### **Education and Advocacy**

NSWAD continued its role in advocating for equality across a wide spectrum of services for Deaf people of NSW. Every month the Board meets to discuss issues and how to respond to them to various organisations. In addition, the Board held a strategic planning day in December 2004 to plan for the coming twelve months of 2005.

NSWAD continued to be 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, with a conclusion in 2006.

Breda Carty represents NSWAD on the Disability Advisory Council, which is the

official advisory body to the NSW Government on disability issues. Alastair McEwin, NSWAD President, continues to be on the NSW Attorney-General's Disability Advisory Council.

NSWAD Board members attended two previews of the new digital movie captioning system that AAD has been negotiating with the cinema industry, and provided feedback. It is expected the new system will start at the movies in the second half of 2005.

Two organisations with whom NSWAD had many dealings with during the year were Bunnings, hardware and gardening supplies, and NRMA, road-side assistance. Bunnings agreed to provide interpreters for their information sessions. NRMA started work on implementing an SMS number for Deaf people to use in case of roadside assistance. Both of these are expected to have positive results in 2005-06.

NSWAD met, in May 2005, with representatives of NSW Railcorp. The meeting outlined the key issues affecting Deaf people when using public trains. This was a particularly important meeting as NSW Railcorp intends to introduce new trains to NSW in a few years. NSWAD provided advice on how to ensure the trains can be accessible for Deaf people, with a particular emphasis on public announcements and safety.

### **Finance**

It is pleasing to note that NSWAD's cash reserves continue to remain in a strong position. NSWAD also maintains excellent records of its finances and every year completes a smooth review of its accounts by its auditors.

### **Youth**

NSWAD's Youth Group continues to progress well under the leadership of Mevlut Cet and Amanda Barber. The NSWAD Youth group continues to maintain its own website, which is proving to be a popular site for the young Deaf community. NSWAD thanks Mevlut for his work on this.

Kristen Hingerty, Briana Sommer, Amanda Barber and Mina Chui were the NSWAD representatives for the AAD Youth leadership camps for 2004-05. They worked with others from across Australia to organise camps and

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other events for Deaf youth in their own states.

The Youth group continued to fundraise in order to assist camp participants attend the national camps.

#### **Other Events of Note**

- NSWAD received a grant from the FACES (Friends of the Australian Communication Exchange) program to allow Dr Adam Schembri to complete his book on sign linguistics. NSWAD was pleased to be part of such an important educational tool for those who teach Auslan.
- NSWAD was delighted to learn that Julia Allen, NSWAD Vice President, was awarded the 2004 Deaf Australian of the Year award and Mevlut Cet, NSWAD Treasurer, the 2004 Deaf Australian Youth of the Year. The awards were presented in Melbourne at the launch of the 2004 National Week of Deaf People in October 2004. NSWAD congratulates Julia and Mevlut on their awards – we are very proud of the work you have done for NSWAD and the Deaf community.
- Several NSWAD board members volunteered at the 20<sup>th</sup> Deaflympic summer games in Melbourne in January 2005. It was a highly successful event and NSWAD was pleased to be a part of it.
- Attendance in November 2004 at the AAD Annual General Meeting and AAD Board/States Meeting in Hobart. Julia Allen and Sandra Sweeney were the NSWAD representatives.
- NSWAD continues to share office space with AAD at North Rocks.

Alastair McEwin  
President

## **Queensland Association of the Deaf Inc.**

QAD had its Deaf Culture Night in early March for a fundraising and Deaf community event with prizes. The Deaf Community Hall was packed full with about 80 people. The night was filled up with fast moving hands, laughter and fun. There were many theatrical talents in the form of true stories, individual performances and jokes by many Deaf people.

We ran two raffles this year, a Easter Raffle and Major Prize Raffle. We had to register our organisation as a charity to do the Major Prize Raffle because prizes were valued over \$500. Both raffles have helped fundraise money. The lucky winners from the Major Prize raffle won Portobellos accommodation up the Sunshine Coast that is built for a Deaf person (door flashing light, flashing alarm, TTY and things to cater for a Deaf person) for the first prize, photo studio voucher for the second prize and lastly a \$100 voucher (own choice) for the third prize.

We have had two new board members join our board since our last AGM, they are Llewellyn (Llew) Jones and Diana Laing. They have boost injected QAD with some new things with their experiences and knowledge. Llew has heaps of ideas for youth activities and Diana is well known for her expertise with Auslan sign language use. Both new board members will benefit QAD in the meantime and for the future.

Phil Brown  
President

## **South Australian Association for the Deaf**

The year 2004/2005 has been a big learning curve for new SAAD board members. The Board have proven to be an invaluable network of support and values which keeps SAAD running smoothly. Over the course of the last 18 months we have undertaken projects, run courses, and organised National Week of Deaf People, and lobbied to TafeSA on behalf of the students.

The newly established SAAD board was lucky enough to take part in a rewarding workshop conducted by Andrew Wiltshire after SAAD's AGM. He presented his workshop on Video Telephony and many members of the Deaf community turned up to listen. This was proven successful and hopefully we can organise another workshop in the future.

Funding from *Adult Community Education* helped us to run Computer Literacy classes for Deaf Adults throughout the year. Classes run every Monday night from 6-9pm at the Deaf Society in 2004 and is still running now.

A National Deaf TV Roadshow was organised by Andrew Wiltshire in the Chapel (upstairs). It was fantastic event to watch film that were made and produced by International Deaf and Australian film makers/actors. A fascinating and interesting event thoroughly enjoyed by all.

For the second leadership camp, Kylie Phillips and Dominic Newsome were sent to Sydney in September 2004 to brush up their leadership skills. Kylie and Dominic join Leigh-Anne and myself to recruit and raise funds to enable the youths to attend the National Junior Youth Camp in September. The Board felt this is a wonderful opportunity to encourage and recruit young blood for SAAD for the future. Many thanks to AAD and the Telstra Foundation, for establishing a leadership program for young adults to develop leadership skills. Hopefully another program can be organised for future years.

In September 2004, SAAD had a very busy month organising with National Week of Deaf People. Finally NWDP was opened, with a BBQ Picnic at Semaphore Park and we continued our tradition of the Blue Ribbon Ceremony. Various activities were held throughout 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. All organised activities were successful and was immensely enjoyed by all.

I would like to say a big thank you for those who gave their support for the success of National Week of Deaf People; Melissa

Grivell, Kylie Phillips, TAFESA- Access Education Works, GuideDogs SA, CanDo4Kids- Townsend House, DeafSA, Disability Services Social Justice and Country Division, Department of Education and Children's Services.

In November, SAAD was able to send a delegate to the AAD AGM and AAD/States meeting in Hobart, Tasmania. Many thanks to Melissa Grivell for representing SAAD.

Finally in March 2005, SAAD conducted a 'Police Workshop' for the Deaf community. This workshop was to provide information on how to deal with aggressive people and how/when is it the right time to call the police in these events. Many issues were brought up, and hopefully we can organise another workshop again next year.

Thanks to Katrina Parker for organising this initiative and DeafSA for providing two interpreters at no cost to SAAD. The success of the workshop from the generosity of Katrina and DeafSA would not have been the case without them.

Allie Johnstone,  
President

## ***Tasmanian Council of the Deaf***

Tasmanian Council of the Deaf has had some major changes this year with several Board members leaving and a new committee. The new committee is:

President: John Miller  
Secretary: Amy Watson  
Treasurer: Ilona Roberts  
Committee: Simon Whitney.

TCOD and the Tasmanian Deaf Society hosted the annual AAD, Australian Federation of Deaf Societies and Australian Sign Language Interpreters Association meetings in November 2004 and it was good to see so many people visiting Tasmania.

John Miller,  
President

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## **Victorian Council of Deaf People**

It has been an exciting year for all Victorians due to International Deaflympics being hosted in our hometown city Melbourne. Each one of us had our own experience whether being a volunteer, staff or visitor, all of us had an enjoyable experience and the same can be said for all Australians involved.

VCOD is fortunate to have this once in a lifetime opportunity in hosting two mammoth events, International New Years Eve (31 Dec 2004) and Queensbridge Hotel (QBH) International Nights over three nights in January 2005.

In October 2004 AAD organised the launch of National Week of Deaf People was held at Hotel Chancellor, Master of Ceremony by Caroline Conlon, in witnessing awards of Deaf Australian, Deaf Australian Youth and Fair Go Awards. On a beautiful spring day a Family Festival Day with a launch of Deaf Children Australia Dictionary, rides on the space shuttle and trampolining, and Mel & Vic Deaflympics Mascots were seen enjoying themselves under a shady tree.

Business Breakfast was held again during this week, at Albert Park Hotel on an early Thursday morning. Guest Speakers were Nelly Katsnelson from St Vincents Hospital, Reece Emerson Van Beek, an athlete for Australian Deaf Team and Ann Darwin of AAD.

Women in Health organised a workshop on Pap smear and Breast Care. Bunnings also organised "Do it yourselves" workshops around a number of venues. Melbourne Museum organised tours for all families and school children.

Deaf Deaf World workshops and Auslan at Work classes was increased triple fold due to Deaflympics, schools, St Vincent's Hospital and employment areas where Deaf people work. VCOD was contracted by Deaflympics to teach Auslan to volunteers and it was a success as almost all volunteers was seen signing at the Games.

St Vincent's Hospital has taken one step further in making its hospital more Deaf and Hard of Hearing friendly service. Many of its staff have undergone Deafness Awareness Training and sign language classes and have purchased equipment such as TTY and teletext televisions for their patients. VCOD has been involved in the steering committee to ensure that accessibility for Deaf people is considered. Also St Vincent's Hospital has developed a resource guide book for their staff. We hope that other hospitals in Victoria will follow St Vincent's Hospital's initiative to improve comfort for their patients.

VCOD has seen many changes in a year with Grant Roberts resigning from VCOD in October 2004, leaving for Tasmania. Melanie Wells has also resigned from her position Administrative Assistant in March 2005. Lise Clews and Simon Glass worked as Book-keeper, both now have moved on, Lise to Sydney and Simon to Scotland. VCOD thanks them for their support during the past years they have worked for VCOD.

VCOD is excited to appoint Rachel Miers, as Manager. She started with VCOD having come from Deaflympics. It heralded as a first time in deaf history era as a first female manager has been appointed in VCOD 23 years. Also VCOD welcomes James Blyth as our Administration Officer. James joined VCOD in late March.

Board for 2004 – 2005 consists of:  
President: Ann Darwin,  
Vice President: Berna Hutchins (resigned February 2005); Trisha Dench  
Committee: Barry Darwin, Brian Bernal, Pam Dethridge, Peter Adams, Kathy Fitzmaurice, Irene Holub.

## **Western Australian Association of the Deaf**

**WAAD's 17<sup>th</sup> AGM on 15<sup>th</sup> October 2004**

Elections to the WAAD board:

Dawn Harrison – President

Alexandra Shaw – Vice President/Minutes Secretary

Patricia Levitzke-Gray – Secretary

Jenny Pupich – Treasurer

Peter Kozuh – Treasurer Assistant  
Shannon Scarvaci - Chairperson  
Melissa Bryson - Committee  
Vikki Gear - Committee  
Carole Noonan - Committee

### **Deaflympics Torchbearer Nomination**

There was a request from the Melbourne Deaflympic Games Pty Ltd to nominate a worthy person to represent the WA Deaf Community as an official State Torchbearer. Patricia Levitzke-Gray of WAAD worked closely with Josie Hodgetts of WADRA, and Carole Noonan of WADS and one neutral person who was not involved in any of the committees on this nomination.

Each committee held discussions and nominated a person they believed would be a worthy Torchbearer. Representatives from each committee met together to discuss their committee's nomination and voted on the spot as to whom to select as the Torchbearer.

The appointment went to Ms Danielle Shaw as she was deemed to be the most appropriate person to represent the WA Deaf Community as an official Torchbearer. She was selected on the merits of criteria provided by the M2005 Deaflympics.

### **WAAD/WADRA/WADS Presentation to South West Deaf Social Club**

It was requested by the South West Social Deaf Club that representatives from each organisation come down and explain the differences between associations, as there was confusion as to which organisation had what role in the Deaf Community. Josie Hodgetts of WADRA and Patricia Levitzke-Gray of WAAD went to Bunbury and gave a PowerPoint presentation to the Deaf community in the South West about the differences between the 3 WA Deaf organisations – WADRA, WAAD and WADS. Thank you to Vikki Gear for organising this.

### **Deaflympics - Quiz Night & Farewell**

Shannon Scarvaci and Patricia Levitzke-Gray of WAAD and Chris Levitzke-Gray and Josie Hodgetts of WADRA worked with the WA Deaflympics athletes themselves to organise a fundraiser Visual Quiz Night. It was a great success, with over a hundred people attending. Funds raised were divided

amongst the athletes. A Farewell evening was also organised by WAAD, WADS & WADRA – this was attended by over 200 people to bid farewell and Good Luck to the Western Australian Deaflympians.

### **National Week of Deaf People 2004**

National Week of Deaf People continued to be very successful, even though we hadn't received any financial support from grants as we had in the previous years. The sub-committee (Dawn Harrison, Jenny Pupich, Josie Hodgetts, Karen Long, Jane Shaw, Courtney Shaw, Joshua Levitzke-Gray, Peter Kozuh, and Patricia Levitzke-Gray) did not have the opportunity to apply for a grant due to structural changes within Lotterywest. This did not deter the sub-committee from working hard to ensure that the week long celebrations were still successful. Many thanks to Josie Hodgetts who ensured that the information was distributed via WAAD's web address – [www.waad.org.au/nwdp](http://www.waad.org.au/nwdp) The week's festivities included:

- Visual Quiz Night – fundraising for WA athletics attending Deaflympics
- Sunday picnic at South Perth Foreshore
- Deaf Seniors and Youth outing – interpreted tour at Kings Park
- Captioned Movie "The Bourne Supremacy" at Garden City HOTYS
- WAAD AGM with Peter Minchin Art Award and Deaf Film Night

For the 2005 National Week of Deaf People, Jenny Pupich applied for grant from Lotterywest which was successful. The funds will be used to provide interpreters at events and cover the costs of venue hire.

### **AAD AGM & Weekend Workshop in Tasmania**

Two representatives, Dawn Harrison and Patricia Levitzke-Gray from WA attended AAD AGM and weekend workshop in Tasmania, with many thank to the WA Deaf Society for providing WAAD a grant to support our representative attending the weekend workshop. It is very important that Deaf people have contact with other Deaf people from other states.

### **National Deaf Junior Youth Recreational Camp**

Phil Brown the AAD Youth Liaison Officer

came to Perth in February 2005 and gave a talk to Parents and Youth regarding the AAD Camp. WAAD helped youth with their fundraising efforts, which commenced again after last year's postponement of the camp. It was confirmed that the camp would go ahead in the Gold Coast during the September school holidays. WAAD continued to support 10 Deaf and hard of hearing youth with their fundraising to attend the Camp. Thankyou to all parents, and youth leaders, Josie Hodgetts, Dominic D'Agostino, Damon Barrett and Briana Sommers for their involvement and support.

### **Good Friday Picnic**

Keeping with tradition, WAAD again hosted the annual Good Friday picnic at the Cottesloe Civic Centre. This was enjoyed by all who came out to enjoy the sunshine before winter!

### **Project Consultant Group (PCG) – a Consultant Group to discuss about the new Deaf Community Centre in Western Australia**

Shannon Scarvaci is the representative for WAAD attending PCG meetings. Representatives from other Deaf organisation, WA Deaf Recreation Association, The Next Generation, WA Deaf Society, and Deaf Seniors have held regular meetings to ensure they all agree with the decisions regarding the purchase of the new Deaf Community Centre.

### **Congratulations – WA Youth of the Year 2005**

I would like to extend my sincerely congratulations to an exceptional young person who is on the WAAD Board of Directors. Miss

Alexandra Shaw was nominated under the Inspiration category for the WA Youth of the Year Award 2005. Not only did she win her category but much to my delight, was named WA Youth of the Year. Alexandra is a wonderful ambassador for the Deaf community.

### **WAAD Merchandise**

WAAD continues to stock their most popular item, which is the Fingerspelling mug! The mugs are now in a different design to previous stocks and contain a something special as well. On the lip imprint, there is a "thumbs up" symbol and the letters "Auslan". WAAD has other merchandise which is allied with AAD, including the Handprint Umbrellas (only a few remain and there will be no re-production).

In conclusion, I would like to extend my thanks to the wonderful Board of Directors who has ensured that WAAD has had another successful year!

I would also like to thank the members for their loyalty and patience through the change of membership system.

Many thanks also to the other Deaf organisations who have had partnerships with WAAD in the past year. It is important that in the future, those organisations in the Deaf community work together to ensure success and a common goal for the Deaf community!

Last but not least, thank you to the Deaf community of Western Australia and its supporters for their enduring support at fundraising campaigns and events.

Dawn Harrison,

## **Special thanks to our funding bodies, sponsors & donors:**

- Department of Family and Community Services
- Department of Communications, Information Technology and the Arts
- Jupiters Casino Community Benefit Fund
- Telstra Foundation
- Deaf Children Australia
- Victorian Deaf Society
- Australian Communication Exchange
- National Auslan Interpreter Booking and Payment Service
- Phil Harper, Deakin University & Telstra (Disability Services)

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