



**The UN CRPD:
Roles and responsibilities of deaf people's representative organisations
and specialist deaf service providers in meeting its requirements**

Discussion paper – easy English summary

What is this questionnaire for?

In the past, Deaf Societies did everything for deaf people. Now there are many different organisations that provide services for deaf people, and there are organisations that represent deaf people (tell government and other people about deaf people's needs and views) and advocate (lobby) for deaf people's rights.

Now we have the United Nations Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities (UN CRPD). It says that deaf people should have the right to represent themselves – they should have their own organisations that tell governments and service providers what deaf people want.

It also says that governments should make sure that deaf people receive the services and supports they need. One way governments can do that is by providing funding to organisations to provide services for deaf people.

Deaf Australia is concerned that some people and organisations say they represent deaf people, but they should not do that because their organisation is not led and managed by deaf people, or it is not their role.

Deaf Australia wants to find out what the community thinks about the roles and responsibilities of organisations like Deaf Australia, Deaf Societies, NABS, ACE, Deafness Forum etc now that we have the UN CRPD.

We will use this information to write a policy advice paper for the Department of Families, Housing, Community Services and Indigenous Affairs (FaHCSIA).

Mainstream service providers means organisations that provide services to both deaf and hearing people. They are not usually led and managed by deaf people.

Specialist deaf service providers means organisations that provide services for deaf people (interpreting, community / welfare services, national relay service, employment services, mental health services, early intervention, education etc). Service providers do not have to have a majority of deaf people in their voting membership or on their board.

Disabled People's Organisations – or Deaf People's Organisations (DPO) means organisations that advocate (lobby) for deaf people's rights and represent their views (tell government, service providers and the wider community what deaf people want). DPOs must have a majority (51%) of deaf people in their voting membership AND on their board.

Representative organisation (but not a DPO) means this organisation represents / lobbies for people, but not for deaf people because its members are not deaf people.

The information below gives you facts about well-known organisations to help you work out if an organisation is a Deaf People's Organisation (DPO) or a service provider or something else.

Name	51% of voting members are deaf?	51% of board are deaf?	What are they for? What is main thing they do?
Deaf Australia	Yes	Yes	Advocacy & information
Better Hearing Australia	Yes	Yes	Support services for hard of hearing; advocacy & information
NABS	No	No	Interpreting service
ASLIA	No	No	Advocate for interpreters rights
CODA Australia	No	No	Advocate for CODAs
Australian Federation of Deaf Societies	No	No	Look after Deaf Societies needs
Deaf Societies & Deaf Services Qld	Information not available but we believe no	NSW – yes Others – no	Provide community/social services for deaf people
Deaf Children Australia	No	No	Provide services for families with deaf children
Deafness Forum	No	1 Deaf, 4 hard of hearing, 1 has ear disorder, 2 parents, 2 service providers	Advocacy and information

About the questionnaire

There is a questionnaire about the roles and responsibilities of specialist deaf service providers and Deaf People's Organisations (DPOs).

Deaf Australia wants to find out what you think.

To help us tell the government what you think, please fill out the questionnaire on line at www.surveymonkey.com/s/Z9259GT

If you can't fill out the questionnaire on line, please fill it out on paper or electronically and send it to:

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