



PO Box 1083
Stafford Qld 4053

P: 07 3357 8277 (TTY)
07 3357 8266 (voice)
F: 07 3357 8377

info@deafau.org.au
www.deafau.org.au

22 July 2010

Ms. Claire Anderson
Conference Chair
21st International Congress on Education of the Deaf
(via iced2010@advance-group.com)

Open Letter

Dear Ms Anderson

Deaf Australia has received a copy of ICED's Vancouver 2010 Statement, **A New Era: Deaf Participation and Collaboration** which rejects all resolutions passed at the ICED Milan Congress 1880 that denied the inclusion of sign languages in educational programs for deaf students, and calls for a new era of acceptance and inclusion of sign languages and deaf people.

Deaf Australia endorses the ICED Vancouver 2010 Statement which is signed by ICED, British Columbia Deaf Community, Canadian Association of the Deaf and World Federation of the Deaf.

Deaf Australia believes it is time to move forward and enhance deaf people's access to and participation in education, the economy, politics, arts and literature and society in general on a level playing field where they can be equal citizens in their community.

On behalf of Deaf Australia, I congratulate ICED Vancouver 2010 for acknowledging past mistakes at and following the 2nd International Congress on Education of the Deaf in Milan 1880 and for finding a way forward for deaf people.

Yours sincerely

Kyle Miers
President

CC: Mr Doug Momotiuk, President – Canadian Association of the Deaf
The Hon. Julia Gillard – Minister for Education
The Hon. Bill Shorten – Parliamentary Secretary for Disabilities & Children's Services
The Hon. Christopher Pyne – Shadow Minister for Education
The Hon. Kevin Andrews – Shadow Minister for Families, Housing and Human Services
Mr Markku Jokkinen, President – World Federation of the Deaf
Ms Trudy Smith, President – Australian Association of Teachers of the Deaf
Mr Noel Henderson, President – Deaf Children Australia
Mr Mac Adam, President – Australian Federation of Deaf Societies
Deaf Australia (NSW)
Deaf Australia (SA)

Queensland Association of the Deaf
Victorian Council of Deaf People
Western Australian Association of the Deaf