

Outlook



Volume 20, Issue 10, December 2011

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Deaf Australia's Vision:

Deaf people are respected and fully included in the Australian community and the right to use Auslan is legally recognised.

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About Deaf Australia Inc

Deaf Australia (then called the Australian Association of the Deaf) was established in 1986 to work at the national level in collaboration with its state branches. Deaf Australia is the Australian national member of the World Federation of the Deaf, is a founding member of Australian Federation of Disability Organisations (AFDO), and works cooperatively with many organisations to achieve a better quality of life for deaf people.

Deaf Australia's Mission:

Deaf Australia is the only Australian peak body, managed by deaf people, representing deaf people and their communities. We work with Australian governments and collaborate with key stakeholders to ensure that Australia complies with the United Nations Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities.

Deaf Australia's Vision:

Deaf people are respected and fully included in the Australian community and the right to use Auslan is legally recognised.

Did you know?

Deaf Australia has been lobbying for your rights for 25 years, with a great deal of success. In this time, captioning on free to air TV, pay TV and in cinemas has improved and continues to improve. Twenty-three years ago there was a bit of captioning on free to air TV and that was about it.

In this time the NRS (including Internet NRS) and NABS and Auslan for Employment were established. Access to education, especially at TAFE and university has improved. You can now get an interpreter and/or notetaker for most courses. Bilingual education programs are now available for children.

And lots more.

The Australian Government has now directly allocated millions of dollars to establish new services for Deaf people. Millions more dollars each year have been paid by telcos to fund the NRS. All these millions of dollars are a direct result of Deaf Australia's lobbying by ourselves and in co-operation with other organisations.

But none of this money comes directly to Deaf Australia.

Deaf Australia still operates on small grants from the Australian Government, and some fee for service activities.

Your support

Deaf Australia needs more support to do the things we do for Deaf people. If you are able to make a donation or bequest, however large or small, it will make a difference. Even a \$2.00 per pay day regular donation to Deaf Australia will make a difference to what we can do. It will go a very long way to improving Deaf people's lives, including your own life and your children's lives.

All donations to Deaf Australia are tax deductible.

Deaf Australia Outlook contains opinions from many contributors. This does not mean these opinions are supported by Deaf Australia Inc. Deaf Australia is funded by the Australian Government through the Department of Families, Housing, Community Services and Indigenous Affairs.

What's new?

Karen Lloyd

Deaf Australia activities November – December 2011

As reported in the previous *Outlook*, November was a big month, with:

- our 25th Annual General Meeting on Friday 4th November
- a board meeting the same day
- a Deaf Australia/states representatives meeting on 5th November
- a breakfast meeting with Deafness Forum on 6th November.

All were very productive and positive meetings and we enjoyed our visit to Adelaide.

It was also fabulous to join our South Australian colleagues at the 120th anniversary celebration of the Royal South Australian Deaf Society, in the great hall at 262 South Terrace on 5th November. This was a very special occasion and I would like to congratulate the organisers and all who talked about the Society's history that night. As I moved around catching up with old friends and making new ones I found myself telling people stories of previous occasions in the hall – conferences and Annual General Meetings and the like, and the first time I saw a particular young interpreter at work and who is now one of our most accomplished interpreters nationally.



I was especially happy to recall one memorable conference in particular, held in the days before the National Relay Service, when we were lobbying for telecommunications access for Deaf people. Peter Cipollone made an impassioned comment from the floor to a government presenter on the stage and we all became caught up in the moment, giving him a resounding ovation including frenetic foot stomping on that wonderful wooden floor.

In November I also attended:

- A meeting of the Queensland Forum for Young Children with Hearing Loss. This is a forum that brings together representatives from various organisations that are involved in newborn hearing screening, early intervention and other services for Deaf children.
- A forum on the National Disability Insurance Scheme, jointly organised by Australian Federation of Disability Organisations, People With Disabilities Australia and Disability Advocacy Network Australia. Many issues were discussed but one issue of major concern is that people with disabilities and our representative organisations are not being sufficiently included in the process of developing the NDIS or the



implementation plans for the National Disability Strategy. The Forum agreed to send a joint letter to the Minister and Parliamentary Secretary requesting a meeting to develop a written strategy setting out how people with disability and our organisations will be properly included.

- A meeting with Deaf Children Australia to discuss our new strategic plan and how we might work with DCA on achieving our goals.
- An Australian Federation of Disability Organisations members workshop to discuss the proposed amalgamation of Commonwealth Anti-Discrimination laws into one law, and the AFDO Annual General Meeting.

I also met informally with Queensland Health Support Services for Children with Hearing Loss, and NABS to discuss various issues.

Kyle Miers represented Deaf Australia at an Optus Consumer Liaison Forum meeting on 25th November for the first time, replacing David Parker as our rep. He also represented Deaf Australia at a teleconference meeting of the Accessible Cinema Advisory Group on 28 November.

On 22 November Ann Darwin and I were privileged to attend the ▶

National Disability Awards dinner in the Great Hall at Parliament House, Canberra and see Katrina Lancaster win the Young Disability Challenge Award. We also took the opportunity to thank Peter Garrett, Minister for School Education for including Auslan in the national curriculum.

Gaye Lyons and I also attended an end of year gathering with Wayne and Kim Swan here in Brisbane on 9 December. The Deaf Australia office is in Mr Swan's local electorate and he invited local community leaders to a function to say thank you for everyone's work throughout the year. We were delighted to meet Mr and Mrs Swan informally and enjoyed a short chat with each of them.

Outlook readers may remember the recent furore over comments made by Dimity Dornan when she accepted her Telstra Business Woman of the Year award in October, as reported in previous editions of Outlook. I know Dimity as I see her often at various meetings and during the controversy I invited her to meet with me to discuss the issues. Dimity accepted my invitation and we met at the Hear and Say Centre on 7th December. We were joined by Mr Chris McCarthy, the Centre's General Manager.

The meeting was friendly and all of us were respectful and courteous to each other. However, there is clearly a fundamental disagreement between Deaf Australia and the Hear and Say Centre in that the Centre discourages the use of Auslan and participation in the Deaf community, and this was discussed during the meeting. I talked a great deal with Dimity and Chris about why Auslan and the Deaf community are so important and so valuable to Deaf people and how cutting deaf children off from these things damages them and closes off a communication and wellbeing avenue that benefits them whether or not they also develop good speech.

Board members and state representatives at the anniversary ball.



Karen(left) Minister Peter Garrett, and Ann Darwin (President of DA)

Dimity talked about research that shows how important early access to sound is for connections to be made in the brain and she and Chris insisted that parents have the right to choose and that the Hear and Say Centre offers them a choice. I explained that Deaf Australia has no issues with deaf children having early access to sound and learning to speak and we applaud the work Hear and Say does in this area. Our issue is with the exclusion of Auslan and in our view parents should not have to choose between speech or sign, they should be informed and supported to enable their deaf children to have both speech and Auslan. Dimity and Chris listened attentively and said they would think about the information I had shared with them, and we all agreed we would like to continue our conversations.

Since our meeting, Dimity has accepted an invitation to join our board and staff for an informal

breakfast get-together in February, and we are all looking forward to building a stronger bridge of understanding.

I am very sad to have to advise that we have had to make some staff cuts and close our Sydney office, due to lack of funds. Following David Parker's resignation to take up a position at the Ephpheta Centre, we are not able to fill his old position, and Gaye Lyons and I are now both working four days per week instead of five. We have had a small office on the campus of the Royal Institute for Deaf and Blind Children at North Rocks, Sydney since 2003 and we thank the Institute for hosting us for so long, it has been a privilege to have an office there, and I will miss my visits there.

It's been a fantastic year here at Deaf Australia. We always have too much to do and too little money and staff time to do it, but we have managed to get through a huge amount of work and the year has seen some truly momentous events. Our board, staff, volunteers, members, supporters and friends have all contributed to making it a spectacular year. Thank you everyone!

And finally, the Brisbane office will be closed from 23rd December to 2nd January.

All the very best to you all for a safe and happy festive / holiday season.



From the President

Ann Darwin

Hi all,

This will be our last newsletter for 2011. Here comes 2012!

Deaf Australia had a very busy year as usual, working with governments, industry, stakeholders, members, supporters and friends. Highlights of the year :

The conference and 25th anniversary celebration of Deaf Australia and visit by President of the World Federation of the Deaf, Markku Jokinen, who was keynote presenter at our conference and joined us in meeting with a number of different organisations including government. Over 200 people attended Deaf Australia's 25th anniversary dinner and it was a fantastic night with great memories.

Sending representatives to the WFD Congress and Youth Camp in Durban, South Africa.

Colin Allen became President of the World Federation of the Deaf, and the Australia Deaf community are very proud of him. He is the first Deaf Australian to be elected to

this position. Congratulations again Colin for achieving your dream.

Beginning of the Better Start for Children program — funding for families to access early intervention for deaf children (and other types of disability), including learning Auslan.

Launch of the National Disability Strategy and government commitment to establishing a National Disability Insurance Scheme.

Auslan included in the National Curriculum. This is a big success for the Australian Deaf community. We can now see a future where Auslan will be more accepted through children having access to it in schools.

There are many more highlights and I am sure you can think of more yourselves from previous newsletters as well as find more in this newsletter.

For the Year of 2012, I wonder what is in store for us. Some things I can think of: Auslan on TV; technology, especially the SMS emergency service, we must push the



government for that so deaf people have mobile access to emergency services. Deaf Australia will keep lobbying and we do hope it will happen in 2012.

We will be starting off the new year with a new treasurer. After calling for expressions of interest, the board has selected Mr John Wade from Sydney to take on this role. A big welcome to the board for John, we look forward to working with him.

On behalf of the Board and staff I wish Deaf Sports Australia a very successful Australian Deaf Games in Geelong, Victoria in January 2012.

I wish you all a very happy Christmas and New Year celebrations with your friends and family. If you and family are away for your holidays, please be safe.

Didn't get what you wanted for Christmas?

Never mind! Go to the Auslan Shop to stock up on Auslan goodies.

We have lots of great products about Auslan and the Deaf Community, including 'Deaf Australian Story', 'The Survival Guide to Auslan', and Deaf Australia branded merchandise – a must-have for the Deaf Games.

What do we sell?

Dictionaries · Non Fiction books · Children's books · Documentary books · Teaching books
CDs · DVDs · Games

The Auslan Shop will close for two weeks for the Christmas and New Year break from Wednesday 21 December 2011 and reopen on Wednesday 4 January 2012. You can still place your order during this time using our online facility however your items will not be delivered until after Wednesday 4 January 2012.



Shop: 271A Stafford Road, Stafford Qld 4053
Postal: PO Box 1083, Stafford Qld 4053
Phone: 07 3357 8277 (TTY)/ 07 3357 8266 (voice)
Fax: 07 3357 8377 www.auslanshop.com.au

Miss out on information? No way! Organisations spread the word – in Auslan!

Organisations and businesses are getting more accessible for Deaf people, with many now producing material in Auslan to cater for Deaf clients and stakeholders.

“We want to congratulate those organisations that are really making an effort to be inclusive,” said Executive Officer Karen Lloyd. “Deaf people need to be able to access information, both corporate and recreational, in their own language.”

The ‘Know your rights at work’ campaign was launched by the Fair Work Ombudsman earlier this year, and includes a series of Auslan videos. The short videos — available at: www.youtube.com/fairworkgovau - are presented in Auslan and are also captioned and narrated in English.

Fair Work Ombudsman Nicholas Wilson says the videos present information about the National Employment Standards, Modern Awards and general tips about what workers should know when starting a new job.

“We are very serious about our job of building knowledge and creating fairer workplaces and are focused on making information on workplace rights easily accessible to all Australians,” he said.

“These new videos are a great way for those with a hearing impairment to get an overview of their workplace rights and the tools and resources available from the Fair Work Ombudsman to assist them.”

Mr Wilson also encouraged workers to talk to their employers if they have a question about their job or if an issue arises in the workplace. “Often issues come up because of a breakdown in communication or a simple mistake that’s easy to fix,” he said.



Kate Gould, Chief Executive & Associate Artistic Director of The Adelaide Festival of Arts, checks the Auslan videos on their site.

The series of nine videos add to a growing suite of resources on the Fair Work Ombudsman’s YouTube Channel, FairWorkGovAu, which includes videos explaining Australian workplace rights in 13 foreign languages.

The Adelaide Festival of Arts has also committed to making their 2012 program accessible to Deaf people. They have produced a series of seven videos in Auslan, using a Deaf artist as the presenter, which are available on their website: www.adelaidefestival.com.au/access#Deaf-or-hard-of-hearing

“We are working hard to expand our audience in the Deaf community. So many of our shows would appeal to Deaf people but some people still don’t think that the Adelaide Festival is for them,” said Kate Gould, Chief Executive & Associate Artistic Director. “We want to get the message out that Deaf people and people with hearing impairments are very welcome at the Adelaide Festival.

“It makes business sense for us to be attracting this vital audience.”

Rather than the Adelaide Festival deciding which events will be interpreted in advance, they have decided to leave the choice up to Deaf people.

“If there is something you really want to see at Writers’ Week or as part of the Visual Arts Program, please let us know and we’ll arrange Auslan interpreting for you,” said Ms Gould.

Auslan Interpreting will also be provided at selected festival events for Theatre, Visual Arts and Adelaide Writers’ Week. When booking tickets, Deaf people need to make sure they tell the BASS ticketing officer they are seeing an interpreted performance so they can provide the best seating to see the interpreter.

The Festival is also making Auslan part of the experience.

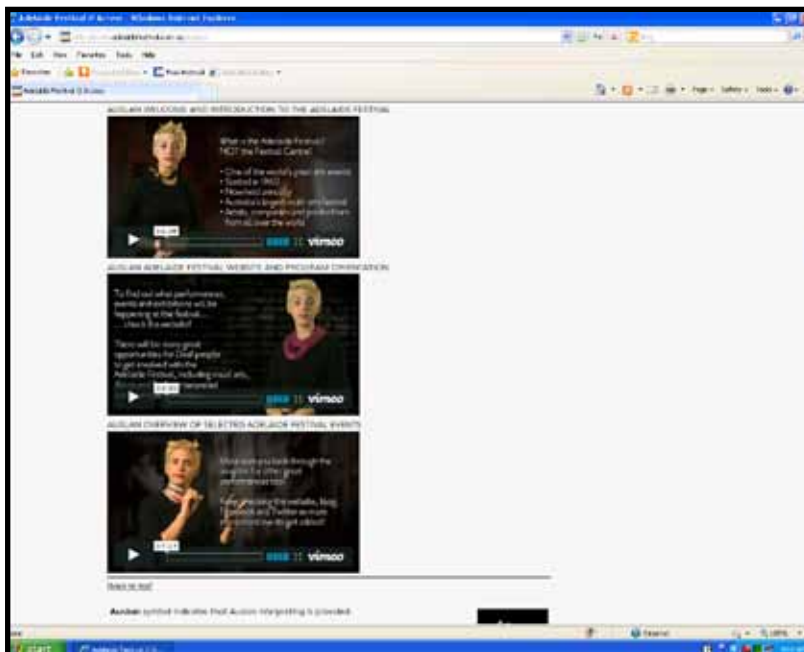
“Don’t forget our festival club — ‘Barrio’ on the plaza behind Parliament House. If you can sign “Adelaide Festival” in Auslan, you get free express entry through the VIP entry,” said Ms Gould, “Spread the word!”

There are a number of organisations providing Auslan/English translation services and video production of Auslan videos around Australia, including independent contractors and some Deaf Societies. It is important that the videos are sensitive to Deaf culture and Auslan so that they will be understood and accepted by the Deaf community. Contact Deaf Australia to get the details for organisations that use the Deaf Australia Auslan Endorsement System.

Auslan Video Links

Here are just a few examples of the variety of Auslan materials available.

- **The Fair Work Ombudsman** provides a single point of contact for people working or running a business in Australia to get accurate and timely information about their workplace rights and obligations. Workers or employers seeking support should get in touch with the Fair Work Ombudsman via the website www.fairwork.gov.au or call the Fair Work Infoline on 13 13 94 (via NRS).
- **The Adelaide Festival of Arts** is Australia's largest multi-arts festival. Launched in 1960, the Adelaide Festival program features the best in opera, theatre, dance, music, cabaret, new media events, literature, outdoor entertainment, the visual arts, master classes, forums and a purpose-built late night club. The next Adelaide Festival will be 2 – 18 March 2012. www.adelaidefestival.com.au/access or 08 8216 4444 (NRS).
- **beyondblue** is a national, independent, not-for-profit organisation working to address issues associated with depression, anxiety and related disorders in Australia. See their "Depression in people who are deaf or hard of hearing video" at www.beyondblue.org.au/index.aspx?link_id=7.1320



The Adelaide Festival of Arts site



The beyondblue auslan site

- **The Telecommunications Industry Ombudsman (TIO)** is a fast, free and fair dispute resolution service for small business and residential customers who have a complaint about their telephone or internet service in Australia. They are independent and do not take sides. Their goal is to settle disputes quickly in an objective and non-bureaucratic way. See information about this service in Auslan at www.tio.com.au/about-us/ombudsmans-message/ombudsmans-message-auslan
- **The Appropriate Dispute Resolution Directorate** helps people understand conflicts between neighbours and how to resolve them. See their Auslan videos here www.youtube.com/user/ADRDirectorate
- The National Relay Service has produced a wide range of videos in Auslan. See the videos on their website or YouTube channel www.youtube.com/user/NationalRelayService



Professional
Confidential
NAATI Accredited
Highly experienced
Investing funds back into the Deaf Community



Book an interpreter online at
www.slcommunications.com.au

High Deafinition Films

High Deafinition Films (HDF) is a volunteer group of people, led by Phillip Debs, that wants to make videos about Auslan, Auslan users, Deaf culture etc. They are also working on a video about Deaf Australia to help us explain better to Deaf people what Deaf Australia does.

Deaf Australia has agreed to support HDF by providing access to our filming and editing equipment and office space. HDF will be based in the Sydney office in what used to be The Auslan Shop – remember The Auslan Shop has moved to Deaf Australia's Brisbane office.

Deaf Australia is not able to provide funds to HDF because we have none available. Over time it is hoped that HDF will produce Auslan products that we can sell and in that way we will be able to develop some funds to help pay people involved with HDF. But for now, everyone involved in HDF is a volunteer.

Although HDF is based in our Sydney office, you can still get involved if you live in other states. HDF will tell you how.

If you are interested in making videos in Auslan, contact Phillip Debs at HDF on info@hdf.org.au

Mobile Emergency Service Trial Approved!

The Department of Broadband, Communications and the Digital Economy (DBCDE) will trial an extension of the emergency national relay service for deaf and hard of hearing people to mobile phones in the first half of next year.

The trial comes almost two years after the Minister, Senator Stephen Conroy said his department would explore the service “as a matter of priority”, three years after a feasibility study conducted by the Australian Communications and Media Authority, and nine years after the Federal Government first explored its potential.

“Deaf Australia has been lobbying for this for some time,” said Executive Officer Karen Lloyd AM, “and we have recently had some quite extensive discussions with the department and urged them to make it a priority.”

In a delayed answer to questions on notice from the last round of Senate budget estimates hearings, a department spokesperson said approximately three staff from the DBCDE had begun exploring a “mobile text-based emergency service” for deaf and hard of hearing users.

It would explore use of SMS messaging and a smartphone app developed by Australian Communication Exchange for emergency services.

The service would follow the same performance indicators currently used to track success of the 106

emergency service, currently available only for TTY or similarly capable devices.

This information from Senate questions on notice comes after a position statement agreed by six consumer representative organisations led by ACCAN and including Deaf Australia, and later supported by four other organisations, was sent to Senator Conroy last month.

The position statement calls for SMS and the smartphone app to be trialled simultaneously, but if only one can be trialled, then SMS be trialled first.

“I’ve seen the app and I think it is excellent,” said Ms Lloyd, “We are very excited about it but, by itself, it won’t meet the community’s needs. SMS is widely used by Deaf people and an SMS emergency service will give mobile access to emergency services to the majority of people.”

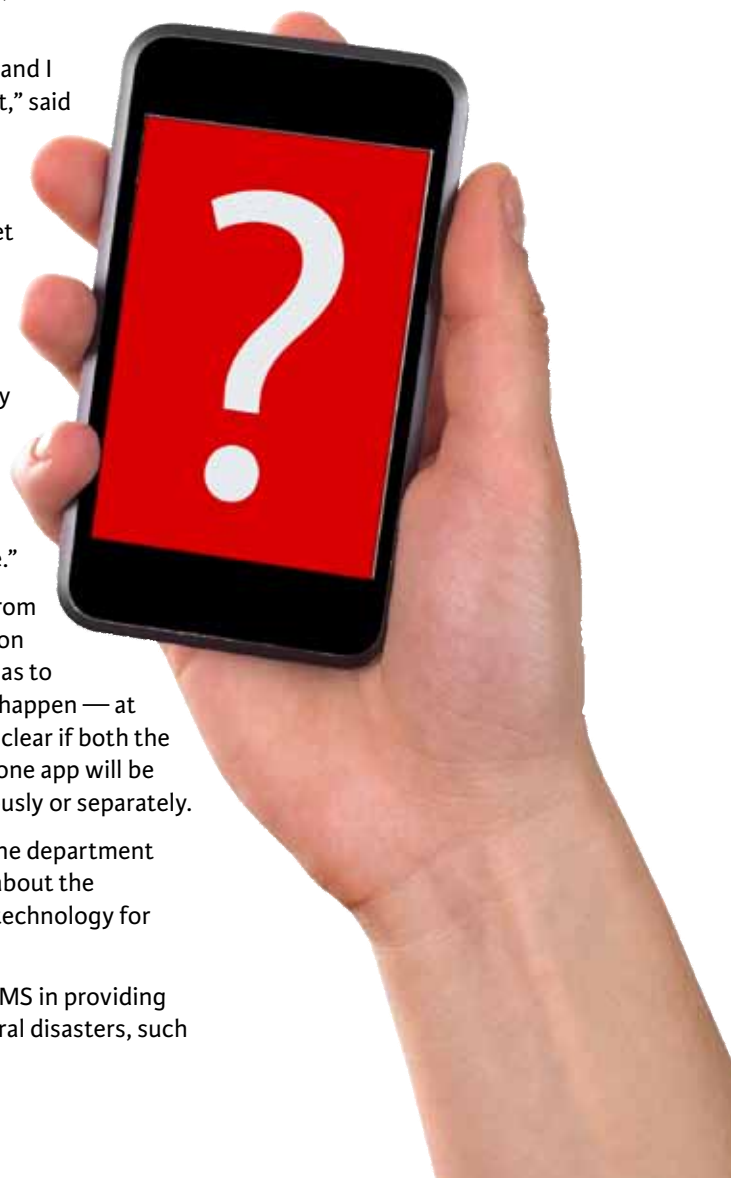
The information from Senate questions on notice is not clear as to what will actually happen — at this stage it is not clear if both the SMS and smartphone app will be trialled simultaneously or separately.

Karen Lloyd said the department remained unsure about the reliability of SMS technology for emergency use.

The reliability of SMS in providing alerts during natural disasters, such

as the Victorian bushfires, has been an issue.

“As I understand it, the department has been concerned about a number of things, chiefly the unreliability of SMS,” said Ms Lloyd, “we understand their concerns, but from our point of view, as we have said again and again, currently deaf and hard of hearing people - and people with communication impairments — have NO mobile access to emergency services, and something is better than nothing.”



Be safe these holidays ...

... especially en route to Geelong!

The December/January holiday time is very busy on the roads, with many people driving interstate for a holiday or to visit family and friends. Make sure you are careful at this time of year and follow all the government safety instructions.

For those of you driving to Geelong for the Deaf Games, please keep in mind that the Victoria Police will have its highest ever level of enforcement on the state's roads this year to keep you safe. Motorists should expect to see an increased police presence when they travel throughout Victoria, including booze buses, random drug testing, radar speed enforcement and highway patrols.

The Victorian Police website warns drivers to "Drive safely and avoid becoming another statistic this Christmas and New Year".

Make sure you:

- Slow down
- Don't drive while impaired by drugs or alcohol
- Plan your trip and take a break every two hours to avoid fatigue
- Wear a seatbelt
- Don't use your mobile phone/SMS while driving
- Obey all traffic signals
- Drive to the conditions – be extra careful if the weather is wet, windy or very hot

Road safety campaigns are happening all over Australia. In Tasmania, "The best Christmas present you can give is for you and your family to arrive safely at your destination," said the Minister for Police and Emergency Management, David O'Byrne.

"If you are celebrating, plan to share a taxi home, stay the night or choose a Designated Driver (Des)," said Road Safety Advisory Council chair John Gledhill.

The WA Road Safety Minister, Rob Johnson, said the message of their campaign is for people to organise alternative transport if they have been drinking.

"We know people are going to enjoy Christmas parties, office parties, family parties, all sorts of things," Mr Johnson said.

"But, if you're going to have that extra drink, and you may well deserve the extra drink, please don't drive."

WA Acting Assistant Commissioner Michelle Fyfe said the message is simple.

"If you're drinking don't drive," said Ms Fyfe.

"If you think you're close to the limit, don't drive. If one of your friends has had too much to drink,

continued on page 11 ▶



White Ribbons™ for Road Safety 2011

20 November 2011 - 2 January 2012

The campaign aims for a long term vision of zero deaths and serious injuries from road crashes in WA.

Achieving this vision requires shared responsibility where we all have a role to play in working towards a safe system.

The safe system approach aims for a road network that protects road users and prevents crashes that result in death and serious injury.

Road users are responsible for behaving safely, obeying the road rules and purchasing safe vehicles with key safety features.

Responsibility for road safety rests with each of us.



TOWARDS ZERO
getting there together

WALGA's RoadWise Program | www.roadwise.asn.au



Putting disability reform at the centre of Government

Minister for Disability Reform Announced

The Minister for Families, Community Services and Indigenous Affairs, Jenny Macklin, has welcomed the Prime Minister's mid-December decision to firmly place disability reform at the centre of the Gillard Government.

Ms Macklin has been appointed to the new position of Minister for Disability Reform, in addition to her responsibilities as Minister for Families, Community Services and Indigenous Affairs. Senator Jan McLucas will continue her work as the Parliamentary Secretary for Disabilities and Carers.

"This appointment ensures that people with disability and their carers are at the centre of our work to build a National Disability Insurance Scheme," Ms Macklin said.

"I am honoured to take on this position, which recognises the importance of reform of disability care and support.

"We know that the current system is letting people down. It's a maze that people like you - people with disability, carers and advocates - have to navigate on a daily basis.

"Four years ago, we started work. We are doubling Commonwealth funding for disability services through the National Disability Agreement.

"We have started work on a long term plan, the National Disability Strategy and we are uncapping access to Disability Employment Services, so people with disability know they can get help to give work a go.

"And we asked the Productivity Commission to inquire into the long

term care and support of people with disability.

"There is a lot of work ahead of us to make sure we're delivering the kind of care and support we all expect for people with disability through a National Disability Insurance Scheme.

"Next year, we will focus our work on the design of the launch of an NDIS, and we will establish a Commonwealth agency to lead our work on this.

"The Government is committed to getting this important work done. The Prime Minister's announcement today is a reflection of how serious we are about achieving this reform," Ms Macklin said.

Visit www.ndis.gov.au and keep up to date and in touch with the progress of transforming disability services in Australia.

Be safe these holidays ... especially en route to Geelong! (from page 10)

do whatever you can to prevent them from driving because you may never get that second chance."

In Western Australia, the White Ribbons for Road Safety campaign is in full swing. It is a community-based initiative, which allows individuals to directly contribute to raising awareness about the importance of road safety, including

over the Christmas holiday period.

The 2011 campaign was launched on Sunday 20 November 2011 to align with the World Health Organisation's World Day of Remembrance for Road Traffic Victims and will run through until Monday 2 January 2012. The campaign celebrates its 15th anniversary in 2011.

The campaign urges people to take care on the roads and remind friends, family and colleagues about road safety to help reduce road trauma.

People are encouraged to wear a white ribbon, tie it to the antenna of their car, download an e-white ribbon to send to friends and family or tell people about the campaign.

Be safe this Christmas!

New Deaf Australia Strategic Plan

Deaf Australia announced their new Strategic Plan at the Annual General Meeting in Adelaide in November 2011. The Plan will last until 2014 and is designed to give the organisation an overarching focus and vision for their activities over the next few years.

“Recently, Deaf Australia decided to have a look at our core vision and our goals and present them as a strategic plan to help our members and other organisations and stakeholders understand what Deaf Australia is working towards and trying to achieve for the Deaf community,” said Board Member Todd Wright.

“This will help our members become more passionate and involved with helping Deaf Australia achieve our goals. The strategic plan will also

help us communicate our goals to other organisations and provide opportunities to work together on common goals.”

The Strategic Plan uses the Deaf Australia vision as a starting point for key priorities and outcomes, which are designed to stabilise and grow the organisation so that it can continue to work and advocate for Deaf people in several key areas.

The Key Priority Areas are:

Key Priority 1:

Early Intervention and Education

Key Priority 2:

Access to Information and Media

Key Priority 3:

Access to Communications

Key Priority 4:

Organisational Growth and Stability

The Deaf Australia Board has developed two videos in Auslan so the Deaf community can access in-depth information about the Plan

in their own language.

The videos are available now on the Deaf Australia website and YouTube page.

Deaf Australia is the national peak organisation for Deaf people in Australia. It represents the views of deaf people who use Auslan and is a true Disabled People's Organisation as only deaf people have the right to vote on Deaf Australia business and to be elected to the Board. Deaf Australia's vision is that deaf people are respected and fully included in the Australian community and the right to use Auslan is legally recognised.



Australian Deaf Games - Geelong 2012



The 2012 Australian Deaf Games will be held in Geelong Vic from Saturday 14th to Saturday 21st January 2012 with the opening ceremony on the evening of the 14th.

2012 will mark 29 years since the Games were last held in Victoria and it will be the first time the Games have been held in Geelong.

The schedule has been reduced from the original version following feedback from the deaf sports community. Participants now only need to take one week leave from work.

The program will feature 20 sports and is designed to maximise participation and ensure those wishing to play multiple sports are given the opportunity to do so where possible.

The 2012 Australian Deaf Games website is now live and full of the latest information
www.austdeafgames.org.au

More about ...

... new Life Member Janelle Ravlich

Two new Life Members were announced at the recent Deaf Australia AGM: Janelle Ravlich from Queensland and Kyle Miers from Victoria.

Janelle, who has volunteered for Deaf Australia for over six years and also won the Deaf Australian of the Year Award that night, wasn't expecting this second honour.

"I volunteered to help out at the AGM but I was so busy working and doing things that night that I didn't really notice when Ann started talking about the Life Members," said Janelle, "I won the other award and I felt like there had been a mistake – that Ann read my name by accident – what a happy surprise!

"After that, I didn't expect anything more, so I kept doing my volunteer duties. I kept working and then someone tapped me on the shoulder and said I had been awarded the Life Membership. It was such a shock, and I didn't expect it!"

Janelle's first job was in the Public Service, working at Medibank Private for 10 years doing data and typing. Then she moved to Canberra, and worked in various odd jobs.

"It was the first time I worked with Deaf community services," said Janelle, "Really Canberra was so backwards at that time in terms of access. So we had a big impact there and really now it is growing and improving and we had so much success."

Then she moved to Queensland and got a job with ACE as an Administration Officer, working there for five to six years before ACE lost funding for her position.



Photo from Katrina Parker

Janelle had limited work opportunities for few months, and so when she saw a volunteer job advertised at Deaf Australia, she thought it would be something to do to fill the time, and ended up really enjoying the work.

"I got a job later with Decipha-Business Information at Australia Post as a mail sorter in scanning," she explained, "I love it and I'm still there. I still volunteer for Deaf Australia though because I love it. Wouldn't miss it!! It's been six years now."

Janelle believes Deaf Australia is very important to all people in the Deaf community, whether they identify as Deaf, Hearing Impaired, or Hard of Hearing.

"Deaf Australia does great work; lobbying, helping with captioning and subtitles, and working on

anti-discrimination campaigns," said Janelle, "A lot of things. People have so many limitations put on them, and Deaf Australia helps make things fairer for Deaf people.

"They support the whole Deaf community out there and we should all be ready to support them."

Coming from an all-Deaf family, Janelle's Dad (her Mum passed away last July) lives in Perth and her brother is also Deaf, and has two Deaf daughters. Janelle has twin hearing boys, Jake and Duke and a hearing granddaughter Cloie who signs. Janelle now lives in Brisbane and her partner Marky lives in Melbourne for work.

Make sure you look out for the profile of the other new Life Member, Kyle Miers, in the February edition of Outlook!

Christmas Crackers

In the spirit of the festive season we thought we would share some well loved Deaf jokes with our members who will no doubt recognise them and hopefully still find them funny, and with our hearing friends in the hope that they will enjoy this insight into Deaf humour.

.....

A man was driving down the road. On either side there were phone lines, each with a bird perched on top. On one phone line, there was a bird was sitting peacefully. On the other, the man could see the bird doing a funny dance. Puzzled, he stopped at a nearby shop. The man asked the shopkeeper about the bird doing the strange dance. "Oh!" The man replied. "That's the TTY line."

.....

A Deaf couple are on a road trip. As evening approaches, they pull over to spend the night in a motel. They check in and the wife goes to sleep straight away. The husband wants a drink, so he leaves the room to find a vending machine. Upon returning, he finds that he has forgotten which is his motel room. Unsure of what to do, he has an idea. He goes to the car, opens the door and honks the horn very loudly. The lights in every hotel room turn on except for one. "Aha!" He thinks. "I have found my wife!"

.....

After observing a Deaf person in a public place, a hearing man decided to approach him and find out if Deaf people are literate. He wrote "Can you read?" and handed the note to the Deaf person. The Deaf person wrote back, "No. Can you write?"

.....

A mobster was having problems with his money carrier, so he decided to hire a Deaf man. One day the Deaf man didn't show up with the money like he was supposed to, so the mobster tracked him down. With an interpreter, he started to question the Deaf man.

The questioning went on for hours, but the Deaf man refused to tell where the money was hidden. Finally, the gangster pulled out a gun and put it to the Deaf man's head, saying, "If you don't tell me where the money is, I am going to shoot you".

The Interpreter signs what the man says. The Deaf man signs, "I give up! I hid the money under the stairs at the back of the house."

It is obvious the Deaf man has answered, so the mobster asks the interpreter, "What did he say?"

The interpreter quickly says, "He says he is not afraid to die!"



Membership Form



PART A (Individual Members or first person of a couple)	
First Name:	
Surname:	
Deaf <input type="checkbox"/>	Hearing <input type="checkbox"/>
Phone:	
TTY/SMS/Voice/Fax	
Organisation: (if applicable)	
Address:	
State:	Postcode:
Occupation:	
Email:	(required to receive newsletter)

PART B (Second person of couple)	
First Name:	
Surname:	
Deaf <input type="checkbox"/>	Hearing <input type="checkbox"/>
Phone:	
TTY/SMS/Voice/Fax	
Occupation:	
Email:	(required to receive newsletter)

If you are living overseas newsletters can only be received by email. If you wish to be affiliated with a State branch, please tick which state below:

- NSW QLD SA VIC WA

Please tick your membership category:

- | | |
|---|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Ordinary Individual Member (Deaf)\$30.00 | <input type="checkbox"/> Ordinary Corporate Member \$TBA
An organisation operating in Australia, its States or Territories, promoting the interests of Deaf people with a majority of Deaf people on Board of Management. Email to info@auslanshop.com.au for membership fees. |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Associate Individual Member (Hearing)\$30.00 | |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Couples Members (Can be Deaf or hearing)\$50.00 | |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Ordinary Individual Junior (0 – 17 years)/ Full-time student/Pensioner\$25.00
All persons must be Deaf. Need to supply copy of student/pension ID | <input type="checkbox"/> Associate Corporate Member..... \$TBA
An organisation operating in Australia, its States or Territories, promoting the interest of Deaf people, and does not have a majority of Deaf people on Board of Management. Email to info@auslanshop.com.au for membership fees. |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Deaf Australia Honorary Life Member..... \$NIL
(for records updating purposes only) | |

Payment Method:

- Cheque/Money Order to “The Auslan Shop” Cash Visa/Mastercard

Card No:

Name on Card: Expiry Date: /

Amount: \$ Signed: Date:/...../.....

Office Use Only:

Date banked:

Invoice #:

State Branch:

Amount: \$

Date Remitted:



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