



News Sheet

News from the Australian DeafBlind Council

No. 12

October 2012

National Disability Insurance Scheme

ADBC has written a response to the focus questions by government on Eligibility and Reasonable & Necessary Support. A full version of this submission can be viewed at <http://www.deafblind.org.au/reports.asp>

National DeafBlind Conference – 2013

I'm pleased to confirm that the National DeafBlind Conference 2013 will be held in Sydney on 4th-7th October 2013. The conference will run from 4th-6th October with a social day to be held on 7th October. A venue will be confirmed. For any queries, please contact Trish Wetton at Foresight Foundation on email forsight@bigpond.com or (02) 9872 9000

Able Australia

Deafblind services have been actively applying for various short and long term funding to increase the level of support to the deafblind community. While many of the people with deafblindness are on waiting list for funding, Able Australia has organised a number of activities to reduce the isolation and boredom.

One of the activity will be "Able Day in the Sky" scheduled for December. This is a life time experience for many of the people who have hearing and vision losses. This will be held on 8th of December at the Moorabbin airport along with a lunch and a visit from North Pole. The day has been organised with the support of Concept Coordinators by Jan Flude and Antoinette Puzzolo. Without doubt this will be a popular activity.

Another popular activity is the annual National Deafblind Camp 9 to 11 March at the Phillip Island Adventure Resort. The theme is Mexican with all of the trimmings!! The Recreation program continues to attract a large number of people with various deafblindness on 3rd Saturday of each month as well as a fortnightly on Wednesday. For more information about recreation program, please contact Fiona Goldab at fiona.goldab@ableaustralia.org.au

Three resource guide kits (DVDs) are being made with focus on Deafblind communication techniques, Interpreting for people who are deafblind and Deafblindness and the elderly.

These kits are aimed at staff, educations, allied health professionals, TAFES, universities, interpreters, Auslan students, case managers and many more. For more information, please contact Carla Anderson, Manager of Deafblind Services, carla.anderson@ableaustralia.org.au These resource guide kits will be made available by the end of this year.

Let's Connect Update

The second Let's Connect National Deafblind Meeting was held on Wednesday 17th October at Able Australia in Camberwell. The meeting was moved to Camberwell from Traralgon at short notice due to unavailability of interpreters. Delegates who attended were:

Eddie Szczepanik - WA

Emma Gordon - SA

Elaine Dillon - Tas

Irene McMinn - NSW

Alan McAlister - Qld

Heather Lawson - Vic

Trudy Ryall - Vic

Michelle Stevens - Vic

The first half of the meeting was spend giving feedback on the needs of people with deafblindness to Leah Hobson from the Australian Federation of Disability Organisations. Leah spoke about the National Disability Insurance Scheme and will take the feedback to the committees working on implementing the National Disability Insurance Scheme.

The next half of the meeting was spend discussing the role of the Deafblind Action Information Officer and how to support more people with deafblindness to join committees. Trudy Ryall, the Deafblind Action Information Officer will once a week send out calls for people with deafblindness to attend advisory committees, other meetings or give feedback on the needs of people with deafblindness. It is important that people wit deafblindness get involved in raising awareness of their needs. Trudy will post to the DBAust list, the facebook group and also to Alisa Wills to include information in the ADBC news sheet. If any person who is deafblind does attend meetings or do local advocacy it is important to tell Trudy so she can share information about what is happening with everyone. More information about this meeting will be printed in Beacon. For more information contact Meredith Prain Meredith.prain@ableaustralia.org.au

Senses Foundation

Senses Foundation is supporting two staff members to attend the ADBN conference in November being held in Lund, Sweden. Kelly Gurr, Manager Life Skills and Family Services and Angela Wills, Coordinator, Deafblind Services will both be presenting papers at the conference.

Deafblind Information is a national web-based resource managed by Senses Foundation for anyone interested in finding out information about deafblindness. Visit Deafblind Information www.deafblindinformation.org.au

Senses Foundation continues to visit Rural and Remote areas of Western Australia. A recent week long trip working in Albany through collaboration with local agencies provided support, advice and training to support staff of an organisation supporting a deafblind client. Senses Foundation visited Westonia in the Wheatbelt for a day in September & participated in an event for "Staying on your Feet" week.

Saturday the 25th of August, 2012 was a special day at Senses Foundation with Deafblind priest Father Cyril visiting us to share his life story. Father Axelrod is a Redemptorist priest who was born Deaf and was diagnosed with progressive blindness in his forties due to Ushers Syndrome. He was one of the first Deaf persons in the world to train to become a Catholic priest. He currently lives in London and helps the Deaf and Visually Impaired population in the Camden Town area.

West Australian Ushers & Deafblind Camp, 2012

Thanks to everyone for the amazing response to the upcoming West Australian Deafblind Camp. We have 34 participants and over 70 volunteers joining us from all over Australia. At the camp we will offer a variety of activities for participants to enjoy including: canoeing, archery, caving, beach games, swimming, tandem bike riding, flying fox, abseiling and excursions to the beautiful Swan Valley. Due to the high number of campers using tactile communication Dennis Witcombe from Able Australia will now be joining us in a consultant role to ensure that the communication needs of all campers are accommodated. If you require any further information please contact Karen Wickham at Senses Foundation, Email: karen.wickham@senses.asn.au, Phone: 08 9473 5462, Mobile: 0424 900 788, TTY: 08 9473 5488, Fax: 08 9473 5499. We look forward to meeting you all in November!!!!!!!

National Disability & Carer Alliance

Please find a link to the website of the National Disability and Carer Alliance who will be running forums regarding the National Disability Insurance Scheme Engagement Project. These will run until the end of this year and into next year all around Australia.

<http://disabilitycareralliance.org.au/category/events/> Some of these forums are open to attendance by the general public so if you are interested in attending please make contact directly and I do know from personal experience they fill up very quickly.

Australian Childhood Vision Impairment Register

The Australian Childhood Vision Impairment Register is hosted by the Royal Institute for Deaf and Blind Children and is the first national register of children in Australia with vision impairment. The Register has been collecting data since 2009, and this data is providing important information about the types of eye disease and vision disorders children have and the support they need. The data is also used by service providers and researchers. VI Family Network, the website which hosts the Register can be viewed at www.vifamilynetwork.org.au. The latest findings from this register can be viewed at [http://www.deafblind.org.au/content-files/ACVIR%20newsletter%20august%202012%20\(2\).pdf](http://www.deafblind.org.au/content-files/ACVIR%20newsletter%20august%202012%20(2).pdf) or if receiving this news sheet in hard copy please go to the reports section of ADBC's website.

DeafBlind Action Information Officer for Australia -wide Lets Connect Project.

Hello I am Trudy Ryall I am deaf blind with Ushers type 2. I am the Deaf Blind Action Information Officer for Australia -wide Lets Connect Project. Lets Connect is encouraging people with deaf blindness to go on committees in their local areas to improve awareness of needs of people who are deafblind and improve services for the deaf blind community. Please invite other people with deaf blindness, carers, family, disability networks and friends to stand united to push for better services for the deaf blind community. Please also forward me any information to my email address trudy.ryall@bigpond.com to forward on to others.

New I-phone Application - Wheel Map

A new iphone application has been developed which allows people with limited mobility to check their cell phones or computers to see which restaurants, cafes, and other stores provide easy access for wheelchair, walker, crutches or cane users. Anyone can contribute and tag a location as well as leave comments for others to read. The application is already in use in Germany and aims to expand worldwide. Further information: <http://www.wheelmap.org/>

Office Hours

Contact Alisa Wills, Administrative Officer Monday, Tuesday and Friday 9.30am-2.30pm (03) 9882 8596 or email info@deafblind.org.au. Website www.deafblind.org.au