

Strengthening deaf diversity



Deaf
Australia Inc.

2013-2014 Annual Report



Deaf Australia Incorporated
271a Stafford Road
Stafford, Queensland 4053

ABN: 65 174 780 885

For the year ended 30 June 2014

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deafaustralia.org.au/information/reports.

Who we are

Our Organisation:

Deaf Australia is the deaf-led peak organisation representing deaf people in Australia. We promote the advancement of human rights and equality for deaf people by collaborating with our members and stakeholders to influence governments in implementing the United Nations Conventions.

Our Mission:

Making an inclusive Australia for deaf people.

Our Guiding Principles:

Language

Deaf Australia believes it is a human right for every deaf and hard of hearing person to acquire and express themselves in Auslan and English.

Perception

Deaf Australia must work to change the perception of deaf and hard of hearing people who use Auslan to recognise ourselves as a unique community with our own language and culture, and that a 'one size fit all' approach is not an effective solution.

Self-Determination

Deaf Australia believes that our society must accept our organisation as an integral part in any decision-making process that affects deaf and hard of hearing people. Deaf Australia believes and adheres to the philosophy; "nothing about us without us".

Management

Deaf Australia is committed to achieving our objectives through effective management of our people and resources, and through collaborative work with 'like-minded' organisations.



Achievements & Milestones

- | | |
|--|--|
| <p>1986 Deaf Australia founded (formerly Australian Association of the Deaf).</p> | <p>Hosted 2nd International Deaf Youth Camp.</p> |
| <p>1988 Deaf Australia hosted the WFD Regional Secretariat Asia Pacific Congress in Melbourne.</p> | <p>Hosted XI WFD Regional Secretariat for Asia and the Pacific representatives meeting.</p> |
| <p>1989 Founding President, Dorothy Shaw, awarded the Order of Australia Medal.</p> | <p>2000 Cross carrier access for SMS on mobile phone is enabled.</p> <p>Three months trial on open caption cinemas in Sydney and Melbourne.</p> |
| <p>1990 Sign Language Advisory Body established.</p> <p>National Deaf Youth Camp in Canberra.</p> <p>AIDS Education Campaign.</p> | <p>2001 Commencement of Deaf Telecommunication Access and Networking (DTAN) Project.</p> <p>Represent to Human Right and Equal Opportunity Commission on provisioning of captioning on Pay TV.</p> <p>Regular screening of open captioned movies commences in capital cities.</p> <p>All news, current affairs and prime time television program are captioned on free to air channels are agreed through Australian Human Rights Commission.</p> |
| <p>1992 National TTY Campaign Launch of National Advocacy Service</p> | <p>2002 Advised Australian Bankers Association on telephone banking.</p> <p>Collaborated with Australian Federation of Deaf Societies, Australian Sign Language Interpreting Association, Human Rights Equal Opportunity Commission for interpreting in medical research.</p> <p>\$48,000 grant from Telstra for Deaf Youth project.</p> <p>Supported two families with discrimination in education in Queensland.</p> <p>Deaf Australia's president visited every state and meets with deaf community members and state governments during NWDP.</p> <p>Received ongoing grant for DTAN.</p> |
| <p>1993 TTY Relay Research Project</p> | <p>2003 Proposal from Free-to air to caption 70% of programs accepted.</p> <p>Deaf TV/ Film nights in each capital cities.</p> |
| <p>1994 \$26.1m fund from Commonwealth Government is earmarked to establish National Relay Service.</p> <p>National Deaf Youth Camp in Sydney.</p> | |
| <p>1995 National Relay Service established.</p> <p>Won the bid to host XIII World Congress in Brisbane 1999.</p> <p>Complaint to Australian Human Rights Commission that resulted in establishment of TTY Distribution Program.</p> | |
| <p>1996 Successful live captioning on News.</p> | |
| <p>1997 National Legal Defence Fund for Deaf People.</p> <p>Deaf Australia/ WFD Cochlear Implant Fund.</p> | |
| <p>1998 WFD President and Secretariat visited Australia for first time.</p> | |
| <p>1999 Hosted WFD XIII World Congress of the Deaf.</p> <p>Hosted 2nd International Deaf Theatre Conference.</p> | |

- Four deaf youth represents Deaf Australia at WFD Youth Camp in Canada.
- Two representatives represent Deaf Australia at WFD Congress in Canada.
- Submission into Disability Discrimination Act.
- Networking Australia's Deaf Youth commenced.
- Fund for supply and demand of Auslan interpreter is achieved.
- 2004** Government announced 18.4M over 4 years for national Auslan Interpreting Services for private health appointments.
- PAY TV offered 25% across 40 channels to be captioned by 2009.
- Second 'Networking Australia Deaf Youth' project completed.
- 'Fair Go' Award established.
- National tour by WFD Secretariat Carolee Aquiline.
- Establishment of Australian Federation of Disability Organisation (Deaf Australia is a founding member).
- 2005** National Auslan Interpreting Payment and Booking Services (NABS) commenced.
- Hosted International Deaf Film and TV Festival during 2005 Deaflympic Games in Melbourne.
- Submission into employment and disability.
- Disability Discrimination Act Standards become law.
- 2007** Name change from AAD to Deaf Australia.
- Three deaf youth represent Deaf Australia at WFD Youth Camp in Spain.
- Two representatives represent Deaf Australia at WFD Congress in Spain.
- Signed Memorandum of Understanding with ASLIA.
- 2008** Auslan Shop opens.
- Australian Government ratified the UN. Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities.
- 2009** Heavily involved in government inquiries and submissions, such as submitting community feedback on the National Disability Strategy, Captioning regulations (to be inserted in Broadcasting Service Act), Video Relay Service/Emergency Text.
- 2010** Australian Government launches the National Disability Strategy (Deaf Australia was involved in this process by writing proposals and advising Government about Deaf requirements).
- 2011** Three deaf youth represent Deaf Australia at WFD youth Camp in Durban, South Africa.
- Two representatives represent Deaf Australia at WFD Congress in Durban, South Africa.
- 2012** National Deaf Education Summit.
- Attended WFD - Regional Conference in Hong Kong to receive support from delegate to support establishment of WFD - Oceania.
- 2013** WFD – Oceania formally established.
- Hosted WFD Members meeting in Sydney.
- Hosted inaugural WFD – Oceania meeting in Sydney.
- Video Relay Service and Text Relay Service as part of the National Relay Service.

Chairperson's Report

I had a tough time deciding how to start my first report as Deaf Australia President. I know many reports start something like "What a year it has been!" but I didn't want to start this with a cliché, especially for my first report.

But there is no escaping that. What a year it indeed has been!

This year has seen a lot of change for Deaf Australia; positive, strong change to move us forward to the future. This would not have been possible without the strong foundations built by the previous President, Ann Darwin, by our past Presidents, and especially, by the previous Executive Officer, Karen Lloyd. At our last AGM Karen announced her retirement from her position, leaving very big shoes to fill in. The Board was sad to see Karen leave as we sincerely appreciated her many years of service to the organisation both as a voluntary Board member and as Executive Officer, building up the organisation profile especially in the Government sector and establishing strong policy framework for Deaf Australia. Karen has been part of Deaf Australia for far longer than any other person.

The Board had great pleasure in organising a lovely retirement "send-off" for Karen, with one of the highlights being able to hear some humorous and "juicy" stories from some of our past Presidents about their experiences working with Karen, including some shown on the night on video.

Following this, it was straight to work. The Board established a selection committee to set up an interview panel to select a suitable successor,

and shortly after the Board was delighted to endorse the appointment of Kyle Miers to the Chief Executive position. Kyle brings in a wealth of experience, leadership and skills, especially from his previous Deaf Australia Board positions as President and Treasurer, and from the international level as the Australian delegate to previous World Federation of the Deaf General Assemblies.

Sometimes gains come with losses though, and with reluctance the Board had to accept the resignation of Rachel Miers. In her time at the Board, Rachel brought in a lot of insight into the governance of the Board, and even in the end she ensured that she followed good governance by resigning from her role once Kyle's appointment was confirmed by the selection committee. As President, I would like to thank Rachel for her contribution to Deaf Australia.

I also would like to acknowledge that, as President or Chairman of Deaf Australia, I am only as strong as the Board itself, and I am grateful that I have had the privilege to be supported by our fantastic voluntary Board Directors Ann Darwin, Ida Rogers, John Wade and Danni Wright.

I am also proud to present the Board's new strategic plan for Deaf Australia, which was developed over the year and will clearly define our direction and priorities over the next 5 years. This is particularly important as we explore partnerships with other like-minded organisations and chart our way through a brave new future including the implementation of the UN Convention of the Rights of People with Disabilities, particularly with the roll out of the

National Disability Insurance Scheme and the implementation of the National Disability Strategy by the Australian Federal Government.

It is no exaggeration to say that this is a pivotal point in Australian history, especially for deaf and hard of hearing people and other people with disabilities. We cannot afford to waste this significant opportunity, and will need to work hard to ensure continued financial support for your organisation, Deaf Australia, to continue representing the deaf and hard of hearing community and to work towards Strengthening Deaf Diversity, and achieving better outcomes for our future generations.

On a final note, speaking about future generations, I am particularly proud of the establishment of Deaf Youth Australia as this adds a vital pillar of strength under Deaf Australia, by providing stronger succession planning for our Board and inspire stronger leaders for our community. I look forward to working closely with our Deaf Youth, because they are the reason why I am in this role - I want to forge a better world for our future deaf generations.

This is only possible with the help of all our volunteers, staff and members - Thank you for your continuing support.



Todd Wright



We cannot afford to waste this significant opportunity, and will need to work hard to ensure continued financial support for your organisation ...

Chief Executive's Report



Since 1986, Deaf Australia has been a tower of strength for deaf people in Australia voicing deaf people's rights and access. We have seen the establishment of the National Relay Service (1995), the National Auslan Booking and Payments Services (NABS) - 2006, and captioning legislation enshrined in the Broadcasting Act (2011) that requires captioning across broadcasting channels.

In July 2013, the Video Relay Service and Text Messaging Service were implemented for the first time as part of the National Relay Service; this was one of key campaigns of Deaf Australia in the past few years.

Our Deaf community over the years has seen improvement in the services they receive, however, there is still significant work to be done for deaf people as we still experience challenges in education, employment, and communication, and this requires working with both sides of the government and the community on going forward.

We have undertaken community consultations on Disability Employment Services and the National Disability Strategy and provided reports to government detailing our findings and experience in anticipation that they will lead to policy improvements.

The National Disability Insurance Scheme may offer hope for many deaf people to access the mainstream community and become active members of the community where they live.

There are still many challenges and Deaf Australia continues to work with the National Disability Insurance Agency to ensure deaf people are accessing and receiving the services they need.

In the coming year, Deaf Australia is facing further challenges in addition to the traditional issues we continue to work with. For the first time since 1992, our challenge now includes a key focus on sustainability and viability of the organisation to maintain its capacity to serve the deaf community. Deaf Australia is working with other organisations to strengthen our capacities in the interest of deaf people and ensure organisational growth.

I wish to acknowledge my previous colleague, Karen Lloyd, who left behind a strong foundation for Deaf Australia. Karen brought an intellectual rigour to the work of Deaf Australia and was a passionate advocate of the human rights of deaf people. I know I have big shoes to fill as I take on this role of working to strengthen deaf diversity.

I'd like to thank our staff, volunteers and members for their hard work and contributions in the last 12 months, particularly in these uncertain times, in anticipation of renewed hope and a better future for Deaf Australians.



Kyle Miers, Chief Executive

... there is still significant work to be done for deaf people as we still experience challenges in education, employment, and communication ...

Awards & Achievements

Deaf Australian of the Year:

David Peters

Deaf Youth Australian of the Year:

Drisana Levitzke- Gray

Fair Go Award:

Auslan Services

Other awards:

Honorary Life Members —

Mr Colin Allen
Dr Robert Adam
Dr Breda Carty
Dr Phil Harper
Mrs. Ann Darwin
Ms. Janelle Ravlich
Mr. Kyle Miers
Ms. Karen Lloyd, AM

Australian Awards

Bruce Muller, OAM



Key Activities

Early Intervention and Education

- Established Early Intervention and Education working group comprising organisations and individuals - lead by Leonie Jackson.
- Undertook the survey of National Assessment Program: Literacy and Numeracy (NAPLAN).

Access to Communications

- Round table discussion with Karen Peltz Strauss on captioning.
- Letters to ministers of state and territories on using interpreters for Emergency Announcement.
- Wrote submission to the Australian Legal Reform Commission on Disability and Australian Laws.
- Attended Launch of Telstra's 6th Disability Action Plan.
- Involved in reference group for University of NSW research project into Deaf people serving as jurors.
- Continued to be involved with Telstra and Optus Advisory groups.
- Implementation of Video Relay Service and SMS services in the National Relay Service.
- Partnership with Deaf Children Australia, Deafness Forum and ASLIA in the development of Accessible Communication Guidelines for Public Events and Meetings.

Access to Information and Media

- Endorsed ACCAN's campaign on removing CAPTCHA.
- Discuss with NABS on removing 'signed English' from Apps.
- Endorsed a report on 'Report of Australia's Human Rights Record: an Update on Australia's progress toward implementing Universal Periodic Review recommendations for the United Nations Human Rights Council'.
- Translated National Disability Strategy into Auslan.
- Responded to NSW Department of Family and Community Services's draft document on 'how to communicate with people who are deaf or blind'.
- Partnership with deafConnectED on Auslan Translation Project.

Organisational Growth and Stability

- Reaffirmed Memorandum of Understanding with ASLIA.
- New logo for National Week of Deaf People.
- 19 Auslan Community Courses provided with 153 participants.
- Launch of new website.

Other

- Establishment of WFD – Oceania.
- Hosted WFD Members Meeting in Sydney.

External Committees

Advisory Groups:

- Australian Electoral Commission (AEC) Disability Advisory Committee
- Telecommunication Industry Ombudsman (TIO) Disability Plan Review
- Disability Employment Services (DES) Reference Group
- National Disability Strategy (NDS) Reference Group
- National Auslan Booking and Payment Services (NABS)
- National Advisory Council (NAC) for National Relay Service (NRS)
- Telstra Disability Advisory
- Optus Disability Advisory

Working Groups:

- National Early Intervention and Education Working Group
- National Captioning Working Group
- Queensland Early Intervention Working Group
- Queensland Forum for Young Children with Hearing Loss

Public Hearing:

- Inquiry into the TAFE System

Submissions/communications

List of submissions we put forward for 2013-14

Submissions:

- Australian legal Reform Commission on Disability and Australian Laws.
- National Disability Strategy (Consumer consultations report)
- Disability Employment Services (Consumer consultations report)
- Western Australia's Government inquiry into Disability Service Amendment Bill (2014).
- Supplementary perspective to ADDC submission to Department of Foreign Affairs and Training on 'The way forward for Disability – Inclusive development' for Australian Aid Programs.
- Deaf Telecommunication Report

Joint Submissions:

- Productivity Commission Inquiry into Child Care and Early Childhood Learning (AFDS and Parents of Deaf Children).

Media Releases:

- Queensland Courts Refusing deaf people the right to sit on jury.
- Privatising of Australian Hearing
- Abbott's 2014 Budget Worst for Deaf people

Articles:

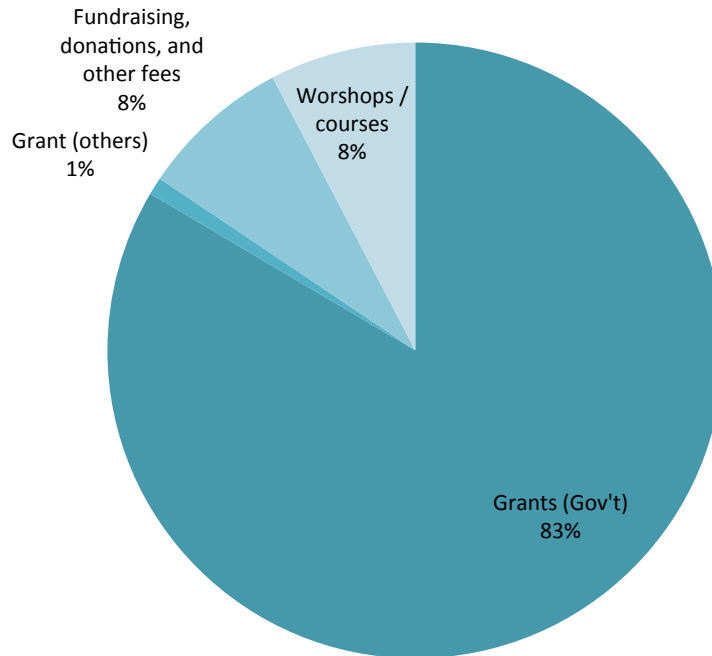
- The Importance of Australian Sign Language on broadcast television during emergencies.

Website:

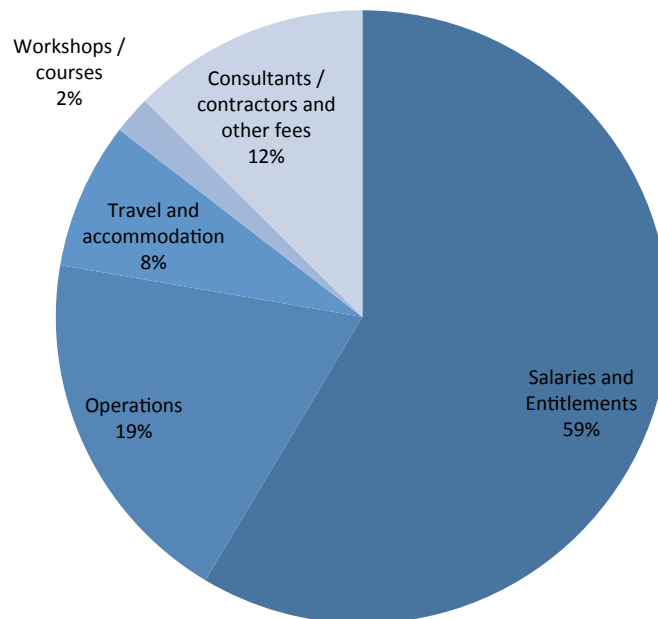
- Migrating from www.deafau.org.au to www.deafaustalia.org.au.

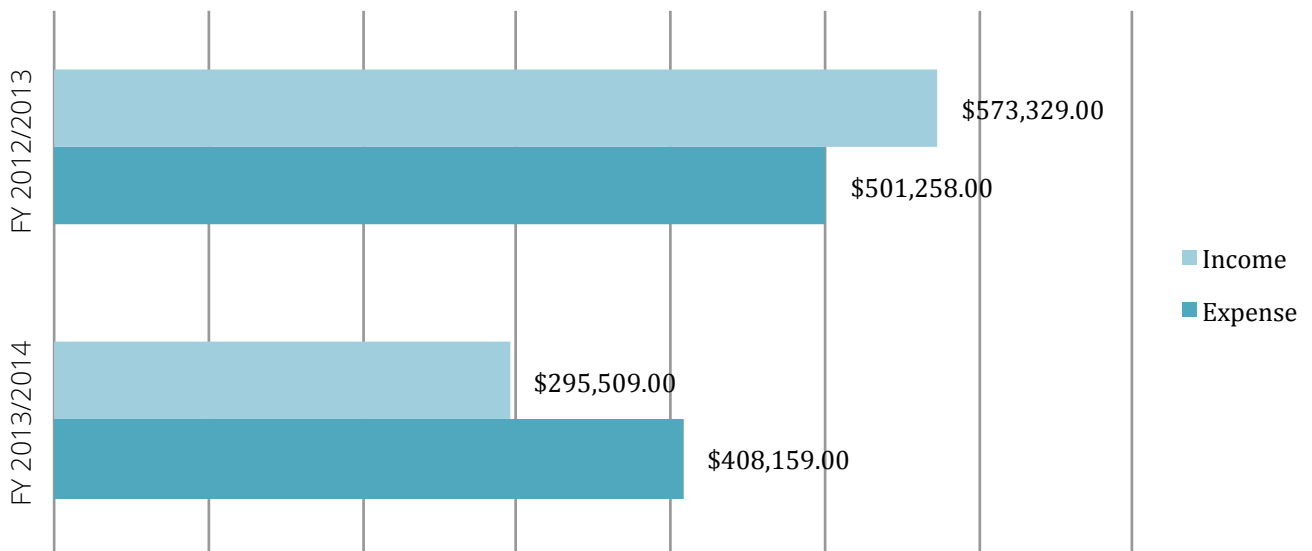
Financial Report

Income 2013-14 (\$295,509)

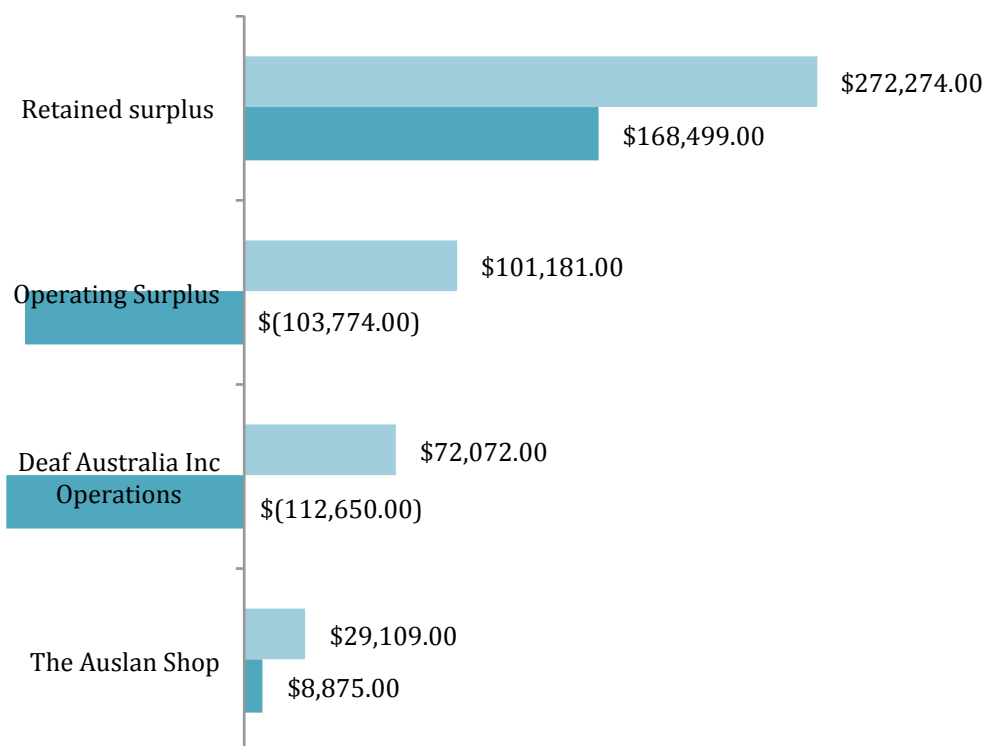


Expenses 2013-14 (\$408,159)





Budget Overview



Financial performance



The full financial report is supplied with this printed document. It can also be downloaded from the website: deafaustralia.org.au/information/reports

Board Members



Todd Wright
(Chairperson)



John Wade
(Treasurer)



Danielle Wright
(Secretary)



Ida Roger



Ann Darwin



Rachel Miers
(Resigned)

Acknowledgement of volunteers

| | | | | |
|-----------------|-------------------|------------------|-----------------|---------------|
| Yetta Abrahams | Sandra Hale | Stephanie Linder | Janelle Ravlich | Amber Venner |
| Colin Allen | Sarah Hamilton | Karen Lloyd | Ida Rogers | John Wade |
| Lynne Callaghan | Wayne Hawkin | John Louitt | Heidi Saga | Philip Waters |
| Helen Campbell | Paul Heuston | Melissa Lowry | Anton Sammons | Danni Wright |
| Colin Campbell | Leonie Jackson | Kevin Lyons | Daniel Shanahan | Susan Wright |
| Cathy Clark | Adam Knight | Alistair McEwin | Angela Simmons | Todd Wright |
| Ann Darwin | Damian Lacey | Rachel Miers | Trudy Smith | |
| Barry Darwin | Katrina Lancaster | Peter Miller | Melissa Spate | |
| Peter Davies | Amanda Li | Anna Nardi | Merie Spring | |
| Adrian Doyle | Julie Lim | Ann Porter | Alex Varley | |

Appreciation of support from Organisations

| | |
|---|--|
| Auslan Services | Deafness Forum of Australia |
| Australian Communication Consumers Action Network | Ephephta Centre |
| Australian Federation of Deaf Societies | John Pierce Centre |
| Australian Sign Language Interpreting Association | Media Access Australia |
| Deaf Australia (NSW) | Parents of Deaf Children |
| Deaf Australia (SA) | Queensland Association of the Deaf |
| Deaf Children Australia | Royal Institute of Deaf and Blind Children |
| Deaf Services Queensland | Sheppard Centre |
| Deaf Society of NSW | Vicdeaf |
| Deaf Victoria | WA Association of the Deaf |

