

8TH NATIONAL DEAFBLIND CONFERENCE
28-30 April 2010, Jasper Hotel, Melbourne, Australia.

CONFERENCE PROGRAM (**large print, word format**)

WELCOME

Message by Celestine Hare - Chairperson of Conference Committee & CEO of Able Australia

Able Australia is proud to be hosting the 2010 National Deafblind Conference on behalf of the Australian DeafBlind Council, and we extend a very warm welcome to all guests.

Able Australia has been providing specialised deafblind support and expertise for over 40 years. Able Australia provides a range of disability services across both Victoria and Tasmania, and is actively seeking to expand into new states and territories. Our vision at Able Australia is to create a community where the people we support are seen, heard, respected, valued and connected.

We are committed to breaking down social exclusion barriers for the people we support so that they may live a quality of life that anyone in the community may expect. Events like the National Deafblind Conference are a wonderful resource for our organisation and others, where we can come together, share ideas and learn from some of the most experienced and qualified experts in the field of deafblindness.

Message by Sven Topp - President of the ADBC

On behalf of the Australian DeafBlind Council (ADBC) we wish to welcome you to the 2010 Biennial Conference here in Melbourne. ADBC was initiated following the National Deafblind Conference in Melbourne in 1993. It was established to meet the need for a national deafblindness network and representative council working with and for people who are deafblind and their support networks, including professional organisations.

ADBC seeks to improve conditions and to be an advocate for people who are deafblind across Australia, their families and encourages their self organisation and self determination by:

- Disseminating and being a source of information on deafblindness
- Providing a forum for collaboration and debate
- Co-operating with government bodies and organisations, and

- Taking up issues of concern to people with deafblindness, their families and support networks and organisations

ADBC would like to acknowledge the generous support of Able Australia in organising the 2010 National Deafblind Conference.

SPONSORS & EXHIBITORS

We would like to acknowledge the support of all of the sponsors who have made this event possible.

Major Sponsor:

Department of Families, Housing, Community Services and Indigenous Affairs – Australian Government

Industry Partners:

Freehills Foundation and Royce Communications

Bronze “Volunteers” Sponsor:

Cochlear

Exhibitors:

Senses Foundation; HumanWare; National Relay Service; Able Australia; ADBC

Venue

Jasper Hotel, 489 Elizabeth Street, Melbourne

Who should Attend?

We are anticipating that between 250-300 people from around Australia and abroad will attend the 8th National Deafblind Conference. The conference is a must for people with deafblindness, their families and carers, Australian governments and policy makers, medical and allied health care professionals working in the field of disability support services (including medical practitioners, O & M specialists, speech pathologists, audiologists and Social Workers), educators and professional researchers and providers of services/products to the disability sector.

**Communication, mobility and orientation support will be provided to meet individual needs to enable full participation by people with deafblindness/disabilities.*

Aim of the Conference

- To update deafblind people, carers, and professionals with the latest news, research and developments on deafblindness and issues relating to multi-sensory loss, from both local and overseas sources.
- To showcase the latest in industry products, technology and services via a Trade Exhibition.
- To provide opportunities to network, share thoughts and ideas, and to attend fun social and recreational activities.

Keynote Speakers

Our keynote speakers are internationally recognised experts in their field, promising delegates an exciting and challenging program. We are delighted to have the following confirmed speakers:

Ges Roulstone – Director of International Relations, Sense

Ges Roulstone has worked in the disability field for 31 years and in the deafblind field since 1992. He has been a Director of Sense since 1996 and Executive Director for Children and Adult Services since 2003. Ges was recently appointed the position of Director of International Relations for Sense, managing all Sense International operations in East Africa, Europe and South America.

Ges has extensive experience working internationally and has undertaken various assignments for Sense International and spoken at numerous international events on deafblindness. He is currently Vice Chair of the Scientific Committee for the European Conference of DbI, to take place in Italy in September 2009.

Since 2002 Ges has been Chair of the Acquired Deafblindness Network (ADBN), an international network of practitioners working in this field. In addition to this he sits on the World Council of DbI and also acts as Chair of Trustees of Deafblind Ireland. Ges has a first degree (B.A.) in Social Policy and a Masters degree (M.Sc) in Management in care and health settings. He also has a professional social work qualification.

Dr Tony Best – Chief Executive of the Percy Hedley Foundation, UK

Dr Tony Best is currently Chief Executive of The Percy Hedley Foundation, a charity that provides services for people with physical and with sensory disabilities in the North of England.

After some time teaching in special schools, he joined the staff of the Department of Special Education, University of Birmingham, where he undertook research and training in visual impairment and in deafblindness.

He has worked extensively abroad advising on staff development and service organisation in Africa, Asia and Latin America. Prior to his current appointment, he was Chief Executive of Sense, the UK organisation that supports people with deafblindness through campaigns, research and services.

William Green - President of DBI (Deafblind International)

William Green is currently World President of Deafblind International (DbI), and works in Italy as a consultant in Psycho-Pedagogy at the Lega del Filo d'Oro, the National deafblind association in Italy.

His current work in Italy includes consultancy on issues concerning deafblind children and adults, and he has recently contributed to research studies on the organisation of services, the need of family respite and the use of tactile sign language.

William has travelled extensively, lecturing and training in many countries of Europe, and speaking at conferences throughout the world. His work in DbI has included responsibility for developing the international networks, developing long-term strategic plans and, as President, representing the organisation at national, governmental and international events.

CONFERENCE PROGRAM

Tuesday 27th April 2010

6.00pm – 8.00pm: Pre-conference Registration & Cocktail Party

Wednesday 28th April 2010 – DAY 1

8.00am-8.45am : REGISTRATION & TRADE EXHIBITION

8.45am-9.30am : Official Opening

- Celestine Hare, CEO, Able Australia
- Peter Hitchener, Patron, Able Australia
- William Green, President DBI (Deafblind International)
- Sven Topp – ADBC President
- Honourable Minister Lisa Neville MP, Minister for Mental Health, Community Services & Senior Victorians

9.30am-10.20am: Keynote Presentation

Why Should Deafblind People Be Supported? From Philanthropy To Citizenship.

Dr Tony Best, Chief Executive, Percy Hedley Foundation UK

10.20-10.50am: MORNING TEA & TRADE EXHIBITION

10.50am-11.30am

Retinal Prosthesis For People Who Are Vision Impaired

Professor Anthony N. Burkitt, Chair Of Bio Signals and Bio-Systems, Department of Electrical & Electronic Engineering, University of Melbourne

11.35am-12.15pm

Impact Of New Technology On Options For Hearing Remediation

Professor Robert Cowan, Chief Executive Officer / Principal Research Fellow, The HEARing CRC, University of Melbourne

12.20pm-1.00pm

Making Sense: The Findings From The Report About the Economic Impact Of Deafblindness in Australia

Penny Taylor, Associate Director, Access Economics

1.00pm – 2.00pm: LUNCH & TRADE EXHIBITION

2.00pm-2.40pm: CONCURRENT SESSIONS

Session 1: Unseen And Unheard - A Study Into The Number Of People Who Are Deafblind In WA

Debbie Karasinski, CEO, Senses Foundation

Session 2: HumanWare - Providing Greater Freedom And Independence For People who are Deafblind

Ramona Mandy, Senior Blindness Products Consultant, HumanWare

Session 3: Introducing Communication Guides to Deafblind Services in WA

Angela Wills, Deafblind Consultant, Senses Foundation WA

2.45pm- 3.25pm: CONCURRENT SESSIONS

Session 1: Has Life Improved For Deafblind People Over The Past 20 Years? Where To From Here, Or Is It Still The 'Too Hard Basket'?

Janne Bidenko, Public Officer/Volunteer Coordinator, Deafblind Association NSW

Session 2:

eCommunication - New Ideas And Solutions For Low Vision And Braille Accessibility At Ablelink

Claire Tellefson, Project Coordinator ablelink, Able Australia

Session 3:

The H.O.P (Hanging Out Program): Interaction for Adults at Risk of Isolation

Sheridan Forster, PhD Candidate, Centre for Developmental Disability Health Victoria

3.25pm-3.55pm: AFTERNOON TEA & TRADE EXHIBITION

3.55pm-4.35pm: CONCURRENT SESSIONS

Session 1:

People with Ushers: Different Journeys and Perspectives

Carla Anderson, Deafblind Services Manager, Able Australia

Session 2:

Tech Heads: Introducing Technology To Young Children Who Are Deafblind

Fiona Kemp, Occupational Therapist, and Melanie Robotson, Speech Pathologist, Senses Foundation, WA

Session 3:

Vision Impairment and Sign Language

Annette Clarke, Senior Speech Pathologist, Royal Institute for Deafblind Children, VisionEd, NSW

4.40pm-5.00pm: POSTER SESSIONS

Session 1:

Teaching Sign Language To A Child Who Has Recently Become Deafblind

Tricia d'Apice, Royal Institute for Deafblind Children , Teleschool, NSW

Session 2:

Supporting & Enhancing The Life Of A Person Who is Deafblind.

Garry Parker, Manager Accommodation Services, Senses Foundation

Session 3:

What Kind of Interpreter?

Dennis Witcombe, Interpreter, Able Australia

Session 4:

Communication Guides Are Finally In Australia – Interim Results Of a Pilot Running in WA

Matthew Wittoff, Manager Therapy & Specialist Services, Senses Foundation, WA

Session 5:

Using Electronic Braille For Work, Recreation and Communication

Daniel Keogh, Blindness Sales/Technical Support, Quantum Technology, Vic

5.00pm - CLOSE OF CONFERENCE DAY 1

5.00pm-7.15pm

General Meeting for ADBC (Australian Deafblind Council). ADBC Committee and Members

THURSDAY 29TH April 2010 – DAY 2

8.00am-8.45am : REGISTRATION & TRADE EXHIBITION

8.45am-8.50am: Welcome

8.50am-9.40am : Keynote Presentation

Aypically Atypical: Issues In The Development Of Services For People With Deafblindness

Ges Roulstone, Director of International Relations, Sense UK

9.40am 10.20am: Keynote Presentation

Around The World In 40 Minutes: An Overview Of Current Service Development, Attitudes And Philosophies Across Borders

William Green, President DBI

10.20am-10.50am

Signs Of Change: National Policy Development

Dr Ken Baker, Chief Executive, National Disability Services

Chair: Arthur Rogers, Executive Director, Disability Services Division, DHS Victoria

10.50am-11.15am: MORNING TEA & TRADE EXHIBITION

11.15am-11.55am

Creating a Web-Based Deafblind Manual for Parents, Teachers & Health Professionals

Dr George Williams, Paediatrician

12.00pm-12.40pm: CONCURRENT SESSIONS

Session 1:

One Size Does Not Fit All! Building Flexibility Into The WA Service System

Dr Ron Chalmers, Director General, Disability Services Commission WA

Session 2:

Twelve Important Lessons From An Australian Accommodation Support System For Deafblind Adults

Trish Wetton, CEO, The Forsight Foundation for the Deafblind, NSW & Dr Mike Steer AM, Senior Lecturer, Royal Institute for Deafblind Children

Session 3:

BAC to the Basics - Behaviour As Communication

Sharon Barrey Grassick, Deafblind Education Team Leader, WAIDE, WA

12.40pm-1.35pm: LUNCH & TRADE EXHIBITION

1.35pm-2.15am: CONCURRENT SESSIONS

Session 1:

Congenital Deafblindness In Europe / Interacting With Adults With Congenital Deafblindness

Meredith Prain, Speech Pathologist, Able Australia

Session 2:

A "Visible" Woman: Learning With A University Student Who Is Deafblind

Dr Kate Chanock, Director, Humanities Academic Skills Unit, La Trobe University, Vic

Session 3:

Dual Sensory Impairment: A Practice And Policy Challenge For Aged Care

Dr Julie Schneider, Postdoctoral Researcher, Menzies Centre for Health Policy, NSW

2.15pm-2.50pm: CONCURRENT SESSIONS

Session 1:

Rubella Susceptibility in Women of Childbearing Age – Changing Demographics

Monica Haverkamp, Rubella Education Nurse, Deafness Foundation, Vic & Dr. Barbara Francis, Medical Virologist, National Serology Reference Laboratory

Session 2:

The Hidden Barriers of Deafblind Advocacy

Heather Lawson, Trudy Ryall and Michelle Stevens (Deafblind Consumers)

Session 3:

Mental Health Issues in Deafblindness: Depression & Anxiety

Mary Tass, Psychologist, Deafblind Services, Able Australia

2.50pm-3.20pm: AFTERNOON TEA & TRADE EXHIBITION

3.20pm-4.00pm

Building A Social Movement Of And For Aboriginal People With Disabilities

Damien Griffis, Executive Officer, Aboriginal Disability Network, NSW

4.05pm-4.45pm: CONCURRENT SESSIONS

Session 1:

Sharing Knowledge: Building Capacity In Partnerships Between Indigenous Communities, Deaf Indigenous Consultancy & Deafblind Services

Jody Saxton-Barney, Consultant, Deaf Indigenous Community Consultancy, Vic & Merle Mille, Teacher, Mandega Koori Unit

Session 2:

'Super Sibs' Sibling Support: A Program For Brothers & Sisters Of Children Who Are Deafblind

Karen Wickham (Social Worker), Senses Foundation, WA & Leisa Thompson, Clinical Psychologist

Session 3:

Do Working Relationships Between Deafblind People & Professionals/Volunteers Have Clear Boundaries and Behaviour Rules?

Karli Dettman, Yoga Instructor & Deaf Counsellor, Karli Yoga Counselling Service, Vic, & Heather Lawson (Deafblind Consumer)

4.45pm-5.05pm: POSTER SESSIONS

Session 1:

Art From The Heart: New Ideas, Directions & Solutions

Paul Wawryluk, Manager Respite/Able Art, Able Australia

Session 2:

Developing Awareness About Deafblindness In A TAFE Setting

Christopher Dunn, Teacher, and Julian Herten, Coordinator Auslan & Deaf Studies Centre, Kangan Batman TAFE

Session 3:

Person Centred Approaches: Wishful Thinking Or Realistic Opportunity?

Mike House, Project Officer, Senses Foundation, WA

Session 4:

Open Access To Leisure And Learning For People Living With Deafblindness

Emely McCord, Recreation Manager, Able Australia

Session 5:

You and Me: Keeping in Touch

Richard Long, Manager Community Services, Senses Foundation, WA

5.05pm: CLOSE OF CONFERENCE DAY 2

7.00pm-11.30pm: GALA DINNER. Masquerade Ball. Main Function Hall, Jasper Hotel

FRIDAY 30th April 2010 – DAY 3

8.00am-8.45am : Registration & Trade Exhibition

8.45am-8.50am: Welcome, Celestine Hare, CEO Able Australia

8.50am-9.30am

Title TBC.

Arthur Rodgers, Executive Director, Disability Services Division, DHS, Victoria

9.30am-10.00am

Public Policy & Deafblindness: State of National Service Provision

Dr Mike Steer AM, Senior Lecturer, Royal Institute of Deafblind Children, Renwick Centre, NSW

10.05am-11.00am

PANEL DISCUSSION – Consumers, Family & Carers

Panel & Facilitator TBC

11.00am-11.25am: MORNING TEA & TRADE EXHIBITION

11.25am-12.05pm: CONCURRENT SESSIONS

Session 1:

CHARGE Syndrome - Setting The Scene: Communicating With Babies & Toddlers

Rob Last, Early Childhood Educator, Vision Australia, Vic

Session 2:

Challenges Concerning Considerably Reduced Hearing & Mobility

Ray Joyce, Senior Guide Dog Instructor & Tutor, Guide Dogs NSW / ACT

Session 3:

The Not So Lucky Country: Deafblindness, Advocacy & Strategies To Enact Meaningful Change

Jessica Zammit, Victorian Advocacy & Information Officer, Blind Citizens Australia

12.10pm-1.00pm:

CLOSING PANEL DISCUSSION

Deafblindness in Australia – New Ideas, Directions & Solutions

Panel TBC

1.00pm-1.30pm: LUNCH

1.30pm: CONFERENCE CLOSE

1.30pm-5.30pm: RECREATIONAL ACTIVITIES

Optional Social Activities

A number of social events are being offered to provide opportunities to have fun, socialise and network.

Pre-conference Registration & Cocktail Party

Date: Tuesday 27th April 2010

Time: 6.00pm-8.00pm

Location: Jasper Hotel

This event will enable participants to register before the conference commences. You can then enjoy some drinks and nibbles in a relaxed social setting where you can meet other participants and catch up with friends and acquaintances.

Gala Dinner – “Masquerade Ball”

Date: Thursday 29th April 2010

Time: 7.00pm-11.30pm

Location: Jasper Hotel

The Gala Dinner is the main social event of the Conference! This will entail a 3 course sit down dinner with a live band and entertainment. Prizes will be awarded for the best costume so make sure you get creative!

Recreational Activities for Deafblind participants

We are offering three activities from which the two most popular will be chosen. These will be targeted towards the deafblind delegates with the aim of providing a fun and interactive experience to help wind down the conference.

Yarra River Boat Cruise

Date: Friday 30th April 2010

Time: 2.30pm-5.30pm

Cruise along the Yarra River and discover some of Melbourne's highlights including the World Congress & Trade Centre, 19th century sailing Ship “Polly Woodside”, Royal Botanic Gardens, Herring Island and other stunning views and landmarks of Melbourne CBD. Cruise location subject to change based on tides & weather. *Afternoon Tea will be provided. Includes travel to and from the activity. No wheelchair access on boat*

Panton Hill Vineyard & Winery

Date: Friday 30th April 2010

Time: 2.30pm-5.30pm

Enjoy the hospitality of this family owned boutique winery nestled in the picturesque Yarra Valley. Discover magnificent stone buildings reminiscent of Tuscany. A tour of the winery will be followed by wine tastings at the cellar door. *Afternoon Tea will be provided. Includes travel to and from the activity*

Royal Botanic Gardens Melbourne

Date: Friday 30th April 2010

Time: 2.30pm-5.30pm

Explore the Royal Botanic Gardens with this guided tour! Starting at the visitors centre, groups will meander through the gardens towards the Herb Garden where they can enjoy a sensory delight of smells and touch! The tour will conclude at the Ornamental Lake where a well earned rest and afternoon tea will be enjoyed at the Terrace Tearoom. *Afternoon Tea will be provided. Includes travel to and from the activity*

Conference Venue & Accommodation

The Jasper Hotel is a boutique hotel in the heart of Melbourne's Market Precinct and offers extensive conference and event facilities, plus contemporary 4 Star Accommodation. The following special rates are offered to attendees of the Deafblind Conference.

\$150.00 Single or Twin share Deluxe Rooms
\$20.00 extra per person for full breakfast

Please contact the Jasper Hotel directly to book your accommodation. Please refer to our website for other recommended hotels close to the Jasper

Jasper Hotel

489 Elizabeth Street, Melbourne

T: + 61 3 8327 2777 F: + 61 3 9329 1469

E: stay@jasperhotel.com.au www.jasperhotel.com.au

Reservations 1800 468 359

Conference Registration Fees

The 8th National Deafblind Conference is classed as a complex, high-needs and high cost event due to its extensive communications, technical and support requirements for the attendees who are either deafblind, or have varying degrees of dual sensory loss. Every effort has been made to keep the conference fees at a reasonable rate,

particularly for the deafblind participants. An Early Bird concession is available which provides further savings.

A 10% Group discount also applies if 10 or more deafblind delegates register through the one deafblind services provider. You must write Group Discount on top of the registration form including the name of the deafblind services provider you receive support from. Please refer to the enclosed Registration Form for the fees.

ENQUIRIES:

Able Australia Services

P.O. Box 1213, Camberwell Vic 3124, AUSTRALIA

T: 1300 225 369 **Dir:** (03) 9861 6255 **F:** (03) 9882 9210 **TTY:** (03) 9882 6786

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