



Media release

5 November, 2014

Specialist support services arrive for deafblind South Australians

People living with deafblindness in South Australia can now be supported by one of Australia's leading service providers in the field.

Able Australia has a long and proud history of supporting people with multiple disabilities, including deafblindness, which dates back nearly 50 years. Through years of listening and learning, the not-for-profit organisation has acquired genuine expertise in supporting the needs of people who have a combination of hearing and vision loss.

"The number of Australians experiencing Deafblindness is expected to reach 1.2 million by 2050 so it's vital we start reaching out and supporting as many Deafblind people as we can by providing experiences to achieve their life goals," said Able Australia CEO, Kaye Collard.

"We are delighted we now have an opportunity to support South Australians with deafblindness."

Able Australia has appointed Emma Gordon as its first South Australian Community Development Worker. Well known in the SA Deafblind community, Emma will initially make formal contact with South Australians living with deafblindness to identify service gaps and provide information. Additionally, she will be working closely with key stakeholders throughout the state to improve outcomes for people with Deafblindness.

Emma has spent the past 15 years developing expertise in the deafblind field. A longtime advocate, Emma is a past member of the Australia Deafblind Council, Chairperson of the Deafblind Association of SA and a current member of the nationwide 'Lets Connect' Advocacy group.

"I have a husband, two step daughters and one son who are deafblind among my tribe of seven children so I have a very deep understanding of the daily challenges that people with dual sensory loss experience," said Emma.

"We want to reach and support as many people as we can, but we also want to hear from carers, family members and existing sensory disability service providers so we can continue our learning and growth."

About Able Australia: Able Australia is one of Australia's leading not-for-profit organisations, delivering high quality, person-centred services to people living with multiple disabilities, including deafblindness and in community support services. From its humble beginnings in 1967 as an association supporting people with deafblindness and Rubella, Able Australia has grown into a diverse and dynamic organisation that supports more than 4000 people throughout the Australian Capital Territory, Tasmania, Queensland and Victoria.

For information, interviews and images, please contact Scott Darkin, National Manager, Communications & Branding on 0408 273 828 or scott.darkin@ableaustralia.org.au. For any information or questions about deafblindness in South Australia, contact Emma Gordon on emma.gordon@ableaustralia.org.au or 0427414037.

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