

# VCOD Enews

*A Voice for Deaf People*

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## VCOD Website

VCOD recently released the website - check out the website

[www.vcod.com.au](http://www.vcod.com.au)

VCOD has developed and released a website [www.vcod.com.au](http://www.vcod.com.au) recently. It is aimed to provide our members and community information and tools for advocating.

We hope you will like our new look, new content and photos of our deaf community on the website.

The website is one of our development put forward to connect with the community. We encourage you to use VCOD Website, making use of it as a resource and information tool.

In our VCOD website, there is information on advocacy and events where you can click on the Event Enews, Enews and Newsletters. Also in addition to this, there is a webpage where your employer or business can download a booking form for Deaf Deaf World workshop.

In our advocacy website page, there is information and the useful website links for our members to use, like for example

Dennis Colbeck is our website person and will update the news on VCOD website when news becomes available.



**We wish you a festive Christmas and wishing you the very best for 2010.**

**VCOD office will be closed from 23rd December 2009 and will reopen 4th January 2010**



**Victorian Council  
of Deaf People**

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The VCOD Strategic plans for 2010 - 2013 are listed below.

**Advocacy** - To provide advocacy to Deaf Individuals and groups to produce systemic improvements in social justice and human rights

**Aim** - increase accessibility to VCOD's advocacy services

**Outcomes**

- increase staffing for advocacy services,
- advocate VCOD to government and stakeholders,
- empowerment and advocacy skills for Deaf people.

**VCOD**

**Strategic Plans**

**Information** - To provide members with information on a regular basis that assists them to make informed choices and decisions. To provide service organisations of Deaf people and other generic services, information pertaining to Deaf community

**2010 - 2013**

**Aim** - to provide information efficiently and accessible to the Deaf and broader community

**Outcomes**

- Develop communication strategies,
- Deaf community aware of happenings both in Deaf and hearing communities
- Website is up to date useable and accessible and Deaf people use for  
` information
- Promotion of VCOD services

**Leadership** - To lead Deaf people to become independent and valued members of society. To provide leadership to the State Government and disability groups in matters pertaining to the Deaf Community.

**Aim** - increase VCOD's profile in the Deaf and the Broader Community

**Outcomes**

- Understanding of the Board and Staff role and responsibilities
- clarification of VCOD role in the community
- positive partnerships with other stakeholders and organisations
- provide representatives in stakeholders and other organisations
- positive PR in Media
- acknowledgement and recognition of leaders in the deaf community

**Membership** - To value members of VCOD. To keep partnership of VCOD at a viable level

**Aim** - increase membership

**Outcomes**

- increase of memberships with organisations
- development of a business plan
- improved pathway of financial and information distribution with Deaf Australia

**Cinema****Captions****Royal****Children's****Hospital****Cinema Captions:**

Hoyts, Village, Greater Union and Reading Cinema has lodged an exemption from complaints for the next two and half years, with Australian Human Rights Commission under section 55 of the Disability Discrimination Act 1992 (DDA).

In the AHRC website, it mentioned of a proposal covering

- Increase the number of screens in cinemas operated by the applicants capable of delivering captions to 35 over the next 2½ years following the granting of any Temporary Exemption
- Provide audio description capability in all those 35 screens, including a retro-fit of the current 12 cinemas offering captioning to include audio-description
- Commit the applicants to a review of the current program in consultation with representatives from key stakeholders starting 9 months before the end of the Temporary Exemption period
- Commit the applicants to working with representatives of disability organisations to ensure the availability of accessible information on film schedules within 6 months of the granting of any Temporary Exemption

More than 465 submissions from individuals to organisations has been lodged with Australian Human Rights Commission. It is not known when they plan to release their decision.

**Royal Children's Hospital**

VCOD was approached by a Deaf person and explained of her experiences with Royal Children's Hospital Interpreting Services.

VCOD is looking for more stories from the Deaf Community and if you would like to share your experience with Royal Children's Hospital , please contact Rachel Miers, Manager.

Email [info@vcod.com.au](mailto:info@vcod.com.au) & [admin@vcod.com.au](mailto:admin@vcod.com.au)

## The Access to Electronic Media for the Hearing and Vision Impaired:

### Approaches for Consideration Report

"This report outlines a number of proposed actions that Government is considering for improvement of media access for people with a disability and for aging Australians," said Commissioner Innes.

#### **Electronic**

The report builds on an earlier discussion paper issued in 2007 which sought views on how to improve access to electronic media, particularly for people with a vision or hearing impairment.

#### **Media -**

#### **TV,**

The Australian Human Rights Commission has worked with the disability community, and the TV, internet, cinema and DVD industries for a number of years to improve the accessibility of electronic media.

#### **Internet,**

This has included improving the availability of captions, which assist Deaf people and people with a hearing impairment, and more recently, audio description. Audio description provides audible background information about what is happening visually on a screen or TV in order to assist blind people to better understand the action.

#### **Cinema,**

#### **DVD**

"Though there have been many important improvements over the past few years, there are many areas where we clearly do not yet do as well as we should," said Commissioner Innes. "I look forward to the finalisation of this investigation and moving on to the next stage, which is mapping out a timetable for real progress."

The report was released by the Minister for Broadband, Communications and the Digital Economy, Senator Conroy and Parliamentary Secretary for Disabilities, Bill Shorten.

Commissioner Innes said he wanted to congratulate the Minister and Parliamentary Secretary on the release of this report.

For more information on the Commission's work in the area of media access see [www.humanrights.gov.au/disability\\_rights/captioning.htm](http://www.humanrights.gov.au/disability_rights/captioning.htm)

Link: <http://www.dbcde.gov.au/mediaaccessdiscussionreport>

Source: [http://www.daru.org.au/news/detail.html?filename\\_num=301480](http://www.daru.org.au/news/detail.html?filename_num=301480)

## Heatwave Update

Early this year in January and February, there was a heatwave with three days straight with temperatures above 43 degrees. There may be another heatwave so it is best to be prepared with information and how you can help your family cope with the heatwave.

### **Heatwave**

It is possible that the heatwave can affect your health, or someone's health, electricity disruption, public transport disruption or business closed.

#### Tips:

- Spray Bottle filled with cold water and spray burst on your face and neck
- Drink regularly—water is the best option.
- Avoid alcohol, tea, coffee and fizzy drinks. They make dehydration worse.
- Eat cold food, especially salads and fruit.
- Stay indoors or in the shade during the hottest part of the day.
- If you must go out, stay in the shade, wear hat and light coloured, loose fitting clothes.
- Make sure your pets have fresh bowls of water and have plenty of shade outside
- Stay in the coolest room inside the house
- Close curtains
- Use an air conditioner, evaporative cooler or fan to keep cool.
- Take cool showers
- Go to an air-conditioned shopping centre, library or swimming pool to cool off

#### More Information:

Environmental Health Unit has a website with up to date information about heatwaves

[www.health.vic.gov.au/environment/climate/heatwave.htm](http://www.health.vic.gov.au/environment/climate/heatwave.htm)

Frail Older People and Younger People with Disabilities in Community

[http://www.health.vic.gov.au/hacc/downloads/pdf/heatwave\\_hacc\\_clients.pdf](http://www.health.vic.gov.au/hacc/downloads/pdf/heatwave_hacc_clients.pdf)

## Ready for Summer ?

Are you ready for summer? I am and really looking forward to the lazy days of my holidays, with the catching up with family and friends, bbq, swimming. But are we prepared for the bushfire season? Now it would be a good idea to discuss of being prepared for the bushfire with your family, friends and neighbours.

## Summer

The Victorian Government recently released an information kit - "Summer Preparedness" for organisations in health and community services in preparing for the bushfire season

## Preparedness

Discuss with your family and friends on these questions listed below:-

Have your gutters been cleared?

Are your lawns regularly cut and all rubbish removed?

Have any branches overhanging your home been removed?

Do you know the warning for high fire dangers in your area?

Have you organised with your family, friends, neighbours to stay in contact on high fire danger days?

Do you have transport to leave?

Do you know what you need to take with you?

Have you organised where you will go?

### More Information:

Victorian Government Health Information has a website with the news on Bushfire Season <http://www.health.vic.gov.au/bushfire/>

Vicroads also has placed a bushfire alert on their website and "Road Alert" is placed on the website showing which roads will be closed during the bushfire season <http://www.vicroads.vic.gov.au/Home/>

CFA (Country Fire Authority) has a website that will have up to date information like any warnings will be placed on this website link [http://www.cfa.vic.gov.au/incidents/warnings\\_advice.htm](http://www.cfa.vic.gov.au/incidents/warnings_advice.htm)

CFA has a booklet showing how to make a bushfire survival plan and how to prepare your home. It is on the internet at [www.cfa.vic.gov.au](http://www.cfa.vic.gov.au) under publications.

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## Auslan VRI Update

Try the new Video Relay Interpreter Service (VRI) using video technology and broadband services. It is now available in regional and rural areas in Victoria. Six VRI locations have been set up in Ballarat, Bendigo, Geelong, Morwell, Vicdeaf (Melbourne) and ONCALL (Melbourne)

### **Auslan**

The Auslan interpreter assists communication between the Deaf and hearing person via remote video link.

### **VRI**

The free trial period is now extended to 31st January 2010. Why not take advantage of this opportunity to learn about it and try it out. More information. Please check out their website [www.vrIService.com.au](http://www.vrIService.com.au)

For all **VRI bookings** for both sign (Auslan) and spoken languages, contact

**SLC VIC** – [www.vicdeaf.com.au/interpreter-booking-interpreting](http://www.vicdeaf.com.au/interpreter-booking-interpreting) or by phone on **1300 123 752** or TTY **9473 1143 (Auslan only)**

**ONCALL** - [www.oncallinterpreters.com](http://www.oncallinterpreters.com) or by phone on **9867 3788**

**Note: DHS Credit line bookings must be organised via OnCall.**

### Christmas – New year VRI operating hours:

#### **ONCALL**

Closed Dec. 25th, 28th, Jan 1st.

#### **VICDEAF**

Closed from 12pm Dec. 24th. Back Jan. 4th

#### **Bendigo - Commonwealth Carelink Centre**

Closed Dec. 25th, 28th, Jan 1st.

#### **Ballarat Business Centre**

Closed from 12pm Dec. 24th. Back Jan. 4th

#### **Morwell - Latrobe Community Health Services**

Closed from 3pm Dec. 24th. Back Jan. 4th

#### **Geelong DHS - Barwon Regional Office**

Closed Dec. 25th, 28th, Jan 1st.

## Certificate IV in Training and Assessment for Deaf People

Course Code TAA40104

The Centre of Excellence for Students who are Deaf and Hard of Hearing is offering a unique opportunity to study in a Deaf friendly environment with Deaf teachers and students.

Who needs Cert IV in Training and Assessment ?

- \* Auslan Teachers to teach in TAFE
- \* Workplace Trainers who teach deafness awareness training, Auslan in the workplace

How long? February to November 2010

Find out full details about this course, please attend the information session on Wednesday 13 January 2010, at

Vicdeaf, Level 3, 340 Albert Street, East Melbourne

Time 5.30pm - 8.00pm

For an application form or more information, contact Cathy Clark or Teresa Cumpston Bird on

SMS 0427 777 729 (Business hours only) TTY 03 9269 8354 Voice 03 9269 8306

Email [coe@nmit.vic.edu.au](mailto:coe@nmit.vic.edu.au) Applications for this course close on Wednesday 20 January 2010.

( \* Note classes will run only if there are enough students)

## What to do if you have a complaint about your phone or internet services?

The Telecommunications Industry Ombudsman (TIO) is a free and independent alternative dispute resolution scheme for residential consumers in Australia with unresolved complaints about their telephone or internet services.

Before taking your complaint to the TIO you need to:-

Have already contacted your telephone or internet service provider and told them about your complaint OR you have tried to contact the company without success and

You think the provider did not resolve your complaint in a fair or reasonable way.

For more information, contact 1 800 062 058 (free from a fixed line: standard mobile call rates from a mobile) Alternatively contact them via TTY or National Relay Service

## Employment

### Volunteers

VCOD is currently seeking volunteers to assist with administration.

If you are interested in volunteering a couple of hours a week or a month , please do contact Medina Sumovic. Her contact details are listed below :-

Medina Sumovic

Administration Assistant

Victorian Council of Deaf People

Email: [admin@vcod.com.au](mailto:admin@vcod.com.au)

## Sunshine Secondary College

Sunshine Secondary College have 2 Education Interpreter positions available for 2010. *Full time 1.0 and Part time .6*

This equates to an Interpreter for 5 days per week and another for 3 days per week. However, four days and four days will be considered.

Please contact the Deaf Facility to inquire or express interest on 3961 9022.



Victorian Council of Deaf People  
597 St Kilda Road  
Melbourne VIC 3004

TTY 03 9521 2466  
FAX 03 9525 2595  
E-mail admin@vcod.com.au

*Victorian Council of the Deaf (VCOD) is a non –profit organisation led and managed by deaf people through provision of advocacy and information services to strengthen community participation and quality of life for deaf Victorians.*

*It was established in 1982 as a result of a need for Deaf People to represent the Deaf Community*

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Disclaimer: Information, views or opinions expressed in the VCOD newsletter originated from many sources and contributors. Please note that the content may not necessarily represent or reflect the views and opinions of VCOD.

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#### VCOD Board

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Simon Glass  
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