

VCOD Flash eNews

A Voice for Deaf People

Deaf Deaf World Workshop!!



**DDW is now covered
under EAF programme!
(Employment Assistant fund)**

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It's a Deaf Deaf World

This Workshop provided
an insight to the world
of Silence

Deaf Deaf World workshop is an interactive workshop providing people to experience in everyday life. There are two parts of the workshop – first part focusing on the daily experiences and challenges that a deaf person experiences in a hearing world. The second part allows the participants to discuss of the experiences and learn Auslan (Australian Sign Language) supported by an Auslan Interpreter.

All presenters holds Certificate IV in Training and Assessment and are actively involved in the Deaf Deaf World presentations. Come along and experience Deaf Deaf World through a deaf person's eyes...

Key Areas

- Awareness of communication needs;
- Understanding of deaf culture;
- Access to information to services appropriate for deaf people.

Duration

The workshop runs for two hours and are provided by deaf people.

Testimonials

- "Activities highlighted issues in a fun way"
- "I realised the barriers with announcements"
- "It really gave men an insight into the deaf world and the frustrations experienced"
- "Made me realise how much deaf staff do miss out"
- "Whilst it was very challenging understanding Auslan, I loved it"

Tell your employees / teachers / and friends about this FUN & CHALLENGING workshop.

You got questions? Or want to make a booking? Or need advices how to apply for EAF?
Email me now - admin@vcod.com.au



Victorian Council
of Deaf People

19 July 2010

CINEMAS OPEN DOORS TO EVERYONE!

Action on Cinema Access and Arts Access Victoria are delighted with the announcement on the weekend by [Parliamentary Secretary Bill Shorten](#) regarding the cinemas' proposal to deliver a dramatic increase to the level of accessible cinema in Australia.

In cinemas across the country we will see a significant rise in the level of access created through a commitment to technical innovation. This will result in more than 240 cinema screens throughout Australia becoming accessible to people who are deaf, or have hearing impairments, and people who are blind or who have visual impairments.

In partnership with government, the four major cinema groups - Hoyts Corporation, Greater Union Organisation, Village Cinemas and Reading Cinemas - will be investing in technical upgrades in cinemas across Australia to improve cinema access for many more Australians.

With the support of the newly-formed Accessible Cinema Advisory Group (ACAG), the four major cinema chains have combined to propose a rollout of accessible cinema technology according to a 4 year plan. By the end of 2014 captions and audio description will be available in at least one screen in every one of the 132 cinema complex run by these operators.

In addition, captions and audio description will be available in:

- one screen for every complex with 6 or less screens
- two screens for every complex with 7 to 12 screens
- three screens for every complex with 13 or more screens

This initiative will deliver a total of 242 accessible screens across Australia.

This outcome marks a decisive victory for the Action on Cinema Access campaign which formed in December 2009 to fight for equal access in cinemas. With a current situation of less than 0.3% of all screenings nationally (that's 100 out of 41,000 weekly screenings) providing captioning and audio-description, Action on Cinema Access campaigners were determined to send the message that this level of access was simply not good enough.

Action on Cinema Access, supported by Arts Access Victoria and its flagship disability film festival The Other Film Festival, mounted a robust grass roots national campaign and protest against the cinemas' application for exemption resulting in a staggering 450 responses to the Australian Human Rights Commission. This is the highest number of responses ever generated by a campaign. This landmark decision demonstrates the power of a dedicated group of citizens to bring about change in support of their rights.

We extend our congratulations to the peak representative bodies Blind Citizens Australia, Deaf Australia and Deafness Forum of Australia for their tireless lobbying on behalf of consumers and our thanks to Bill Shorten for his unfailing commitment to advancing the rights of people with a disability in Australia.

Dean Barton-Smith, national spokesperson for Action on Cinema Access said:

"Everyone who took part in our national campaign over the past eight months, should be commended for actively engaging with this issue and sending a strong message to the cinema industry that access is not a privilege but a right. Their voice was heard.

"Whilst the level of access in the roll out plan is significantly improved from the initial cinema proposal, critical work begins for the Advisory Group to consult with the community regarding accessible technologies to ensure Australians with a disability, their family and friends can have a positive and rewarding movie experience. Exciting times ahead."

As the rollout commences, we will be an ongoing forum consumers about accessible cinema. The next phase of the Action on Cinema Access campaign will be to gather community feedback about the new access technology that will be trialled. We urge consumers to test the new technology by attending screenings and providing feedback via our online portal.

Media Release - Deaf Australia**17 July 2010****Big step forward for cinema access**

Deaf Australia is delighted with today's announcement of a new plan to make the major cinema chains accessible for Deaf and hard of hearing people and blind and vision impaired people.

The plan to introduce captioning and audio description into every one of the 132 cinema complexes run by the four major cinema chains (Village, Hoyts, Event Cinemas and Reading) was announced by the Hon. Bill Shorten, Parliamentary Secretary for Disabilities and Children's Services, at a launch function in Sydney today.

The launch of this plan comes after ten long years of lobbying on the issue by Deaf Australia and other organisations; a public protest by the community; the Human Rights and Equal Opportunity

Commission's rejection of the cinemas' application for an exemption from their obligations under the Disability Discrimination Act; and finally negotiations with the cinemas led by the Hon Bill Shorten, Parliamentary Secretary for Disabilities and Children's Services and Senator the Hon. Stephen Conroy, Minister for Broadband, Communications and the Digital Economy.

"This is a fabulous outcome for us all, after a great deal of hard work by many people over many years, and we deeply appreciate the support we have received from Mr Shorten and Senator

Conroy on this issue," said Deaf Australia President Kyle Miers.

"Finally Deaf and hard of hearing people will be able to watch captioned films at their local "big 4" cinema at any session they choose.

"The cinemas have clearly realised there is a benefit to them in making their cinemas accessible for everyone including Deaf and hard of hearing people and blind and vision impaired people and we congratulate them on the accessibility roll out plan they have committed to," Mr Miers said

The goals of the plan are:

1. By the end of 2014 captions and audio description will be available in at least one screen in every one of the 132 cinema complex run by Hoyts, Village Cinemas, Event Cinemas, and Reading International.

2. In addition captions and audio description will be available in:

- one screen for every complex with 6 or less screens
- two screens for every complex with 7 to 12 screens
- three screens for every complex with 13 or more screens

This will equate to captions and audio description being provided at 242 screens in 132 complexes compared to the current situation where only 12 screens in 12 complexes provide captioning.

3. The timetable for achieving this goal is:

- a. By the end of 2010, access will be provided in 24 screens (10% of target)
- b. By the end of 2011, access will be provided in 73 screens (30% of target)
- c. By the end of 2012 access, will be provided in 145 screens (60% of target)
- d. By the end of 2013 access, will be provided in 194 screens (80% of target)
- e. By the end of 2014 access, will be provided in 242 screens (100% of target)

4. Captions and audio description will be available at every session of a movie where the screen is caption and audio description equipped. For example, the initial rollout of 10% of screens will result in 840 shows per week of closed captioning and audio description content

(ie. 24 screens at 35 sessions per week). The plan will introduce new technology called CaptiView into the cinemas and the captions will be closed captions, viewed on a special device that plugs into the drink holder at the patron's seat. Not everyone likes the technology but the cinemas stress that it will improve over time.

The cinemas have also recognised the need to ensure deaf/hard of hearing and blind/vision impaired people are consulted, and they have proposed that an Advisory Group including community representatives be convened to provide advice and assist the cinema industry in meeting its goals. Deaf Australia will have a representative on this Advisory Group.

For further information about this plan go to www.fahcsia.gov.au

For information about the plan in Auslan go to www.youtube.com/user/kmiers13#p/a/u/0/im5-WF4qiOQ

About Deaf Australia:

Deaf Australia is the only national peak body for deaf people managed by deaf people. We represent, promote and preserve the Australian Deaf community and its language and culture. We provide an advocacy and information service for and about deaf people. We work with the deaf community and stakeholders in the best interest of deaf people.

Deaf Australia (established in 1986) is the Australian national member of the World Federation of the Deaf, is a founding member of Australian Federation of Disability Organisations (AFDO), and works cooperatively with many organisations to achieve a better quality of life for deaf people.

Deaf Australia is funded by the Australian Government through the Department of Families, Housing, Community Services and Indigenous Affairs.

Further information:

Deaf Australia Inc.: www.deafau.org.au

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Executive Officer

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Ph: 07 3357 8266

theage.com.au

Cinema comes alive for deaf, blind fans

DEBORAH GOUGH

July 18, 2010

IT is as big as a woman's purse, sits in a seat drink-holder and has the potential to bring cinema alive to hundreds of thousands of deaf or hearing-impaired movie buffs.

The four main cinema chains, representing about 70 per cent of the screens in Australia, yesterday unveiled the portable wireless closed-caption technology, Captiview. The technology, still in the prototype stage, along with audio description devices for the visually impaired, will be rolled out to 24 screens this year, with up to 242 screens expected to have the devices within four years. The chains had previously resisted calls for widespread captioning in cinemas and had failed in their attempt to get an exemption from anti-discrimination laws.

The Parliamentary Secretary for Disabilities and Children's Services, Bill Shorten, who launched the plan, said the move would make captions and audio description possible in every cinema operated by Hoyts, Village, Greater Union, Birch Carroll and Coyle and Reading International by 2014. The Captiview device sits in a drink holder attached to the cinema seat. Viewers can position it so that captions appear either just below their screen view or to the side.

From Deaf Australia - Karen Lloyd

On 29th July Deaf Australia is attending a National Employment Forum with other disability peak organisations, government and employers.

The forum will talk about barriers to employment for people with disability and how to remove them.

Deaf Australia already knows quite a lot about the barriers to employment for Deaf and hard of hearing people, but if there is anything you'd like to tell us, we'd love to hear from you.

We also have quite a lot of information about how to solve barriers, but again, if there is anything you'd like to tell us, we'd love to hear from you. We would especially like to hear your stories about how problems have been solved at your work.

We also especially would like to hear from people who have used an employment service in the past 12 months. Employment services have recently changed. Are they better now? In what way? Are they worse? In what way? Are they the same? We really need information about this and would appreciate our members telling us what they can about this.

I hope many members will send me information. We will appreciate it very much, and it will help us to represent your interests better to government and employers.

Please send your information to me at karen.lloyd@deafau.org.au by Monday 26th July 2010.

Karen Lloyd AM

Executive Officer

Deaf Australia Inc.

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TTY: 07 3357 8277; Fax: 07 3357 8377; Voice ph: 07 3357 8266

Email: karen.lloyd@deafau.org.au Website: www.deafau.org.au

National Conference & 25th Anniversary Celebration

The Call for Papers for Deaf Australia's 2nd National Conference

13-15 May 2011 in Hobart is closing soon!

This will be a unique Conference. Mr Markku Jokinen, President of World Federation of the Deaf (WFD) will be the Keynote Presenter. Additionally, Sunday 15 May 2011 will be a "Professional Development Day", with strands for various interest groups – e.g. Deaf Professionals, Auslan Teachers, interpreters, educators, and service providers.

For your perusal are the Call for Papers and Abstract Submission Form please email to gaye.lyons@deafau.org.au or call TTY: 073357 8277 Fax: 07 3357 8377 or mail before 31st July Postal: PO Box 1083, Stafford Qld 4053

Gaye & Peter

Gaye Lyons / Peter Davies

Conference Co-ordinators

Deaf Australia Inc.

More information can be found in Web: www.deafau.org.au



From Little Things

Big Things Grow

Deaf History - Milan 1880

Event with Powerful Repercussions

Milan 1880. No other event in the history of deaf education had a greater impact on the lives and education of deaf people. This single event almost destroyed sign language.

What Happened in 1880?

In 1880, there was an international conference of deaf educators, the Second International Congress on Education of the Deaf. At this conference, held September 6-11, 1880, a declaration was made that oral education was better than manual (sign) education. A resolution was passed banning sign language. The only countries opposed to the ban were the United States (represented by Edward Miner Gallaudet, Rev. Thomas Gallaudet, Issac Peet, James Denison, and Charles Stoddard) and Britain. The sign supporters tried, but failed, to get their voices heard. Here are the first of 8 resolutions passed by the convention:

1. The Convention, considering the incontestable superiority of articulation over signs in restoring the deaf-mute to society and giving him a fuller knowledge of language, declares that the oral method should be preferred to that of signs in the education and instruction of deaf-mutes.
2. The Convention, considering that the simultaneous use of articulation and signs has the disadvantage of injuring articulation and lip-reading and the precision of ideas, declares that the pure oral method should be preferred

The other resolutions dealt with instruction of impoverished deaf students, how to instruct deaf students orally, the need for instructional books for deaf oral teachers, the long-term benefits of oral instruction, the optimal ages for oral instruction and length of instruction, and phasing out of manually instructed students. A photocopy of the Milan resolutions is in the book Deaf Heritage.

How Could This Happen?

It was a foregone conclusion. The outcome was basically "fixed" because the conference was planned and organized by a committee that was against sign language. This committee selected the attending representatives — more than half were known oralists from France and Italy. Although other topics were supposed to be discussed, the conference focused on the methods of instruction, and representatives talked about the method of instruction used in their schools - either speech or combined speech and sign. Immediately after these presentations, the resolutions were made.

What Was the Immediate Effect?

The repercussions to Milan were immediate:

Deaf teachers lost their jobs

The fledgling National Association of the Deaf attracted more supporters as deaf people fought to save their language and culture

The president of Gallaudet College (now University) decided to retain sign language on the Gallaudet campus. This monumental decision may have been largely responsible for sign language's survival.

What Was the Long-Term Impact?

Milan 1880 is of such significance in deaf history that it has been commemorated in artworks, such as the artwork of artist Mary Thornley, who has done a painting showing hearing "hunters" seeking to shoot down ASL.

In October 1993, Gallaudet University held a conference, "Post Milan ASL and English literacy." The conference proceedings included an essay, "Reflections upon Milan with an eye to the future," by Katherine Jankowski.

In retrospect, one could say that in the years since, sign language and oralism have learned to co-exist peacefully. There will never be another Milan 1880.

Disability Employment Consultant

Would you like to be part of a strong national and professional team with offices in Perth and Melbourne? Interested in a challenge?

The DEAFinite Employment Team is looking for a Disability Employment Consultant with suitable qualifications and background experience to work with job seekers with a disability.

Applications close on 29th July 2010 and copies of the position description are attached. Salary \$45,000 – \$50,000

As a not for profit organisation DEAFinite is able to provide attractive salary sacrificing options.

Applications must be addressed to:

The State Manager

WA Deaf Society,

PO Box 8558, Perth BC 6849

All applications must address the key selection criteria contained within the position description.

DEAFinite Employment Who are we?

DEAFinite Employment is a program of the WA Deaf Society.

Through a national partnership with Deaf Children Australia we also have employment offices in Melbourne.

The WA Deaf Society has provided services to Deaf, hard of hearing people and their families in the community since 1921.

WA Deaf Society is a dynamic organisation undergoing change and offering opportunities within teams of committed professionals.

These roles are conveniently located right next to Perth CBD.



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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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