



33rd Annual Report

2014/15

Deaf Victoria Inc

2014-15

32nd Annual Report

For the financial year ended 30th June 2015

What We Do:

Deaf Victoria is a statewide government funded organization providing advocacy and information service to community
Advocacy

Deaf Victoria advocate on behalf of Deaf people to increase access to service, to represent and providing leadership to the State government and disability groups pertaining to Deaf people.

Information Services

We provide information to the wider community regarding Deaf people and their language. Deaf Deaf World is one example of our information service.

Education

We provide community and organisations education programs. These programs aim to give a better understanding of Deaf and hard of hearing.

Community Events

Deaf Victoria organises several community events to enable Deaf people to have access to workshops/ training. National Week of Deaf People is a major community event.

Partnerships

We have established working partnerships with organisations to enable Deaf Victoria to successfully deliver range of activities.

Deaf Victoria & Deaf Australia

Deaf Australia is a national peak body representing Deaf Australians. Deaf Victoria is one of six state branches of Deaf Australia.

Your Support

Deaf Victoria Inc wishes to acknowledge the Department of Health and Human Services for continuing funding of this organisation.

We would also like to acknowledge the support of Vicdeaf for providing us with office space and immeasurable assistance in our work.

Deaf Victoria also relies on the support of the community to enable it to continue its programs and services. If you can help or would like more information, our contact details are listed on the side.

Office:

Level 3, 340 Albert Street East
Melbourne 3002

Phone:

0431 476 721 (SMS)

Email:

info@deafvictoria.org.au

Website:

www.deafvictoria.org.au



Deaf Victoria

Vision Statement

To empower Deaf and hard of hearing Victorians to achieve equal access in the whole of society.

Mission Statement

Deaf Victoria is a non-profit, consumer driven organisations, lead and controlled by Deaf and hard of hearing Victorians to provide a voice for Deaf and hard of hearing people. We aim to empower Deaf Victorians by advocating and sharing information to ensure access is achieved.

Key Result Areas	Deliverables
Empowerment, Access and Advocacy	<p>To provide advocacy support to 38 individuals per year</p> <p>To undertake or support projects based on Empowerment of Deaf and hard of hearing people, enabling access and advocacy and address up to three systemic advocacy projects</p>
Government Relationships and Stakeholder Partnerships	<p>Provide at minimum two workshops per year</p> <p>To join at least four Victorian government advisory groups on topics important to Deaf and hard of hearing Victorians</p>
Youth	<p>Increase partnerships with organisations within the Deaf and hard of hearing sector on projects pertaining to Deaf and hard of hearing people as necessary</p> <p>Support Deaf Youth Victoria to continue to provide events for Deaf youth aged 13-30yo.</p> <p>Deaf Youth Victoria to act in an advisory capacity to the board of Deaf Victoria.</p>
Organisational Sustainability	<p>Maintain sound Financial, Risk, Resource and Human Resource Management</p> <p>Create a plan to grow and renew the Deaf Deaf World Workshop.</p>

Presidents Report- Marnie Kerridge

“Advocating for what you believe in is crucial. If you don’t ask for it, people assume you don’t need it.”

This quote aligns itself with Deaf Victoria’s motto “Nothing about us, without us”. Without the deaf community and individuals, Deaf Victoria cannot work to improve the things that affect your access, your equality, your wellbeing. Systematic advocacy is a big part of our work.



Hospital Interpreting Inquiry:

The work to improve access continues and Deaf Victoria is included in an advisory capacity in this area. Deaf Victoria continues to work closely with Victorian Equal Opportunity and Human Rights Commission and other organisations to follow through with implementing the recommendations in the report.

Mental Health Conference:

Following our Mental Health panel at Deaf Victoria’s AGM last year, it was noted that there was a need for further support and advocacy in this area. In conjunction with Karli Health Centre, Deaf Victoria was part of a steering group to deliver a Mental Health Conference in November 16th and 17th of this year. The conference aims to do a “from the ground up” approach, aiming to educate the system and professionals about the needs, barriers and issues faced by the grassroots community. Following a successful application for funding from Mental Health Australia where the maximum amount was granted, the steering group comprises of Melissa Lowrie, Gary Kerridge, Karli Dettman, Sandra Spadea, Sherrie Beaver and Dean Barton-Smith. Deaf Victoria thanks the steering group for their work and involvement and is sure the conference will be a success. We also thank all the sponsors for their support leading up to and during the conference.

Deaf Market

In March, Deaf Victoria once again hosted their annual Deaf Market day. This was well attended with many stall-holders peddling their wares. DSRV and DSA participated by running sporting events and raffles were held to support various causes by different deaf organisations. Thanks to Melbourne Deaf Cricket Club for the use of their facilities on this day.

WFD

Melissa Lowrie’s application to present on “An Inquiry Into Access Into Interpreting at Victorian Hospitals” was accepted by the World Federation of the Deaf Congress, held in Turkey, and in June she presented on behalf of Deaf Victoria. The worldwide exposure was invaluable and Melissa brought back much knowledge and awareness, as well as giving some back herself to the worldwide Deaf community. Deaf Victoria are very proud of her efforts.

DA Forum

Deaf Australia announced some significant changes to their membership structure and a new scheme called the Deaf Friendly Scheme. Deaf Victoria decided to host a community forum so that this scheme and membership structure could be more clearly explained to the community. This event was live streamed all over Australia and captioned with thanks to VicDeaf and Bradley Reporting. With the live streaming and actual attendance, it was a very robust and sometimes fiery forum. Thank you to Deaf Australia’s Kyle Miers and Todd Wright for their willingness to communicate to the community of Deaf Australia’s future direction.

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DV Membership / Constitution meeting

In July, Deaf Victoria held a constitution meeting and to discuss membership pathways. With the changes to Deaf Australia's constitution and membership, there was a follow on effect to Deaf Victoria's constitution. A group of about 20 community and Deaf Victoria members participated and agreed consensus occurred over several points, which will shape our new constitution, if approved at the next AGM. Some significant changes include allowing hearing members onto the Board and two separate membership structures.

Deaf Youth Victoria:

Deaf Youth Victoria continues to work hard and making their name known to the community. They held a successful camp in Torquay in February and have been seen in the community doing various fundraising events. Deaf Victoria has supported them in developing their vision and goals for the future.

Facebook and Website:

Deaf Victoria's new website, launched last year, continues to impress with its new look and better design. Facebook is used extensively also to communicate news and events with the community. At the end of May we received 1000 likes. Currently we now reach 1,170 people via Facebook, not including any shared posts.

Staff

Deaf Victoria staff are Melissa Lowrie and Melanie Merhi. Congratulations to Melanie Merhi on acquiring her TAE thus making her able to conduct Deaf Deaf World Workshops. Responses from her work in DDW has been very positive and it is pleasing to see an increase in requests as a result. Melissa continues to positively enhance Deaf Victoria's name with her systematic and individual advocacy work. Both are the 'face' of Deaf Victoria and do an exemplary job, often going above and beyond the call of duty. They are a credit and a valuable asset to Deaf Victoria. Thank you both.

Board

Our Board consists of myself, Ramas Rentelis (Vice President), Simon Glass (Treasurer), Mija Gwyn (Secretary), Stephen Nicholson, Vanessa Ravlich, Peter Adam. To the Board of Deaf Victoria, thank you for your support and contribution this year. There are some board members leaving us and we will miss them, but value their work and involvement. All the people who work for Deaf Victoria, either in a voluntary or paid capacity, have a big love, passion and belief in the rights of deaf and hard of hearing people. We look forward to continuing this in 2015/2016.

Managers Report - Melissa Lowrie



Dear Members and Friends,

Its been a jam packed 2015, with lots of fantastic results for the Deaf community and hard of hearing people. We knew it would be a fantastic year for Auslan, on Australia Day when Western Australias Drisana Levitzke-Gray was awarded Young Australian Of the Year. Never before has Deaf people and Auslan been up in lights in this way before, and for that, I congratulate Drisana for the hard work she did this year!

In Victoria, we kept up the momentum and did our bit for the Victorian community too. Here are some of the highlights of 2015:

Website

At the 32nd Annual General Meeting, our outgoing President, Simon Glass, launched our new Deaf Victoria Website which is up and running now at www.deafvictoria.org.au

Mental Health and Deaf people

At the 32nd Annual General meeting, Deaf Victoria hosted a panel on mental health and deaf people. This was fantastic, and from this we started the ball rolling to actively start Deaf Victoria's next systemic project for 2015. Deaf Victoria, with the support of Gary Kerridge, Dean Barton Smith, Karli Dettman and Sandra Spadea, applied to Mental Health Australia for a grant of \$20,000 to host a national mental health conference to be held in Melbourne on 16-17th November 2015 at Deakin University in Burwood. Alongside this, Deaf Victoria and Gary Kerridge commenced a short research project, based on a survey collating the experience of deaf and hard of hearing consumers and carers of people with a mental illness accessing the mental health system. With the outcomes of the survey and the outcomes of the conference, Deaf Victoria will create advocacy goals to do systemic advocacy work around developing a community-based response to mental health for deaf and hard of hearing people. The conference details can be found at www.deafmentalhealth.com.au

Deaf Victoria also submitted a paper contributing to Victoria's 10 year strategy for Mental Health.

Membership

For the last 12 months, Deaf Victoria has been consulting with the Victorian community regarding what they want from their membership with Deaf Victoria, in light of the membership changes passed by Deaf Australia in November 2014.

Victorian Auslan Training Consortium (VATC)

Deaf Victoria is involved in the biannual VATC Meetings , updating on the progress of the Auslan Training program delivered by Melbourne Polytechnic. We are pleased to report that the number of Auslan learners has grown and continues to meet set targets.

State Government Elections

In November 2014, Victoria went to the polls to vote for our State Government, and Colleen Hartland MP partnered with Deaf Victoria and ASLIA Victoria to create a groundbreaking Auslan version of a Q & A for voters. Deaf Victorians were able to ask questions via social

In November 2014, Victoria went to the polls to vote for our State Government, and Colleen Hartland MP partnered with Deaf Victoria and ASLIA Victoria to create a groundbreaking Auslan version of a Q & A for voters. Deaf Victorians were able to ask questions via social media and have them answered by MP Hartland on video with the assistance of an Auslan Interpreter. This was a fantastic initiative by The Greens party and was received very well by the community.

Victoria Police Disability Reference Group Meeting

Deaf Victoria attends and contributes to quarterly meetings with Victoria Police Disability Reference Group .

Hospitals Project

Deaf Victoria works regularly with the Victorian Equal Opportunity and Human Rights Commission, Department of Health and Human Services and Vicdeaf around the recommendations of its Inquiry into Access to Auslan Interpreters in Victorian Public Hospitals report. Some of the key themes being discussed this year include:

- Lack of staff awareness and training in knowing what the laws/ obligations are
- The ability of the Deaf person to make a complaint via the correct channels and factors affecting this
- Inconsistent knowledge around costs and how to book interpreters on all levels of hospital staffing
- Providing interpreters in emergency
- Technology and its role in Video Relay interpreting and health services
- Ethics and boundaries, as well as appropriate qualification of interpreters used in health services
- Concerns from all groups about hospital staff not understanding the needs and motivations of Deaf patients- i.e.: Why deaf people have/ need preferred interpreters

There are many things still happening in these spaces that are positive and productive.

World Federation of the Deaf- Istanbul, Turkey

Melissa Lowrie presented on behalf of Deaf Victoria on the "Inquiry into Access to Auslan Interpreters in Victorian Public Hospitals" to the attendees of the World Federation of the Deaf in Istanbul Turkey, on 31st July 2015. The presentation was very positively received.

Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander training

On Saturday 29th November 2014, a number of Deaf Victoria staff, board and Deaf Youth Victoria board undertook cultural training by Deaf Aboriginal, Jody Barney. This was very positively received.

Deaf Market

Deaf Market came and went for another year and it was a very successful and enjoyable community event. Deaf Victoria partnered with Deaf Sports and Recreation Victoria, and Melbourne Deaf Cricket Club- it was fantastic to see people from all over Victoria attend and enjoy the day playing cricket, having a try at different sporting activities and enjoying the crafts on sale by the Deaf community.

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Gaslight Festival

Deaf Victoria attended the Gaslight Festival in Wodonga, Victoria, on 7-8th March 2015 to provide an “On-the Spot” Advocacy service. It was an enjoyable weekend and proved to be very effective, as clients were pleasantly surprised to realize that they could quickly sort out their issue or leave their information with me to follow up. Clients enjoyed the convenience and we look forward to doing more of this.

Assistive Technology for Deaf and hard of hearing people Workshop

Deakin University invited Deaf Victoria, along with Auslan Services, Word of Mouth Technology, Bradley Reporting and Senswide services to assist in a workshop aimed at people who are deaf and hard of hearing about to leave school and enter the workplace about what technology is available to them. Deaf Victoria’s role was to explain their rights in the workplace, how to be assertive and advocate for themselves and the job access scheme. This workshop was very beneficial and we look forward to delivering this again.

National Transport Commission

Deaf Victoria continued work with the National Transport Commission on changing the guidelines for hearing assessment of Deaf truck drivers. The amendment was successful and set to be released for comment at the end of 2015.

Deaf Deaf World

Deaf Victoria delivered a number of Deaf Deaf World Workshops this year, and have changed the format of the workshop to be easily customized to different groups. This has proved successful and we look forward to doing more of this.

Victoria Hearing Marketing Campaign

Deaf Victoria wrote to Victoria Hearing in regards to their inappropriate marketing campaign depicting a prawn as a hearing aid stating, “hearing aids can be ugly”. The letter, along with a TV News interview and strong campaigning of the community, resulted in a removal of the advertisement and public apology.

I would like to thank the Deaf Victoria Board- Marnie Kerridge, Mija Gwyn, Ramas Rentelis, Simon Glass, Stephen Nicholson, Vanessa Ravlich and Peter Adams for their fantastic support over the last twelve months, for what has been the busiest time at Deaf Victoria yet. Also I would like to thank my trusty admin assistant Melanie Merhi for producing some fantastic work in the face of some enormous pressure this year!

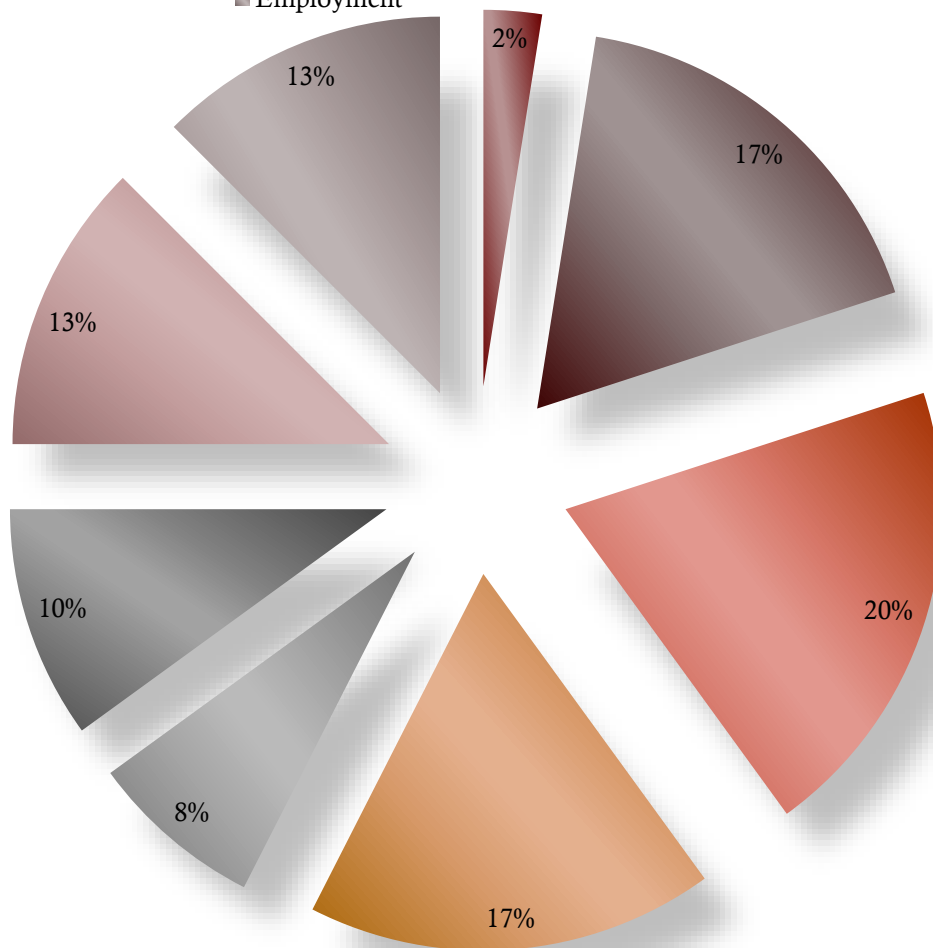
Looking forward to the next twelve months!

Deaf Victoria Activities

Individual Clients by Issue

40 clients in 12 months

- Royal Commission into Child Sexual Abuse
- Legal Issues
- Health Care
- Education
- Welfare
- Access to Services
- Discrimination
- Employment



DEAF VICTORIA INC
ABN 62 495 643 645
BALANCE SHEET
AS AT 30 JUNE 2015

<u>Accumulated Funds</u>	<u>2015</u>	<u>2014</u>
Opening Balance 1 July	119,431	101,718
Add: Surplus (Deficit) for the year	- 1,212	17,713
Closing Balance 30 June	<u>\$ 118,219</u>	<u>\$ 119,431</u>

Represented By:

Assets

Cash at Bank	47,130	38,278
Term Deposit & Investment Account	83,723	82,132
Petty Cash	200	321
Debtors	250	-
Sundry Debtors	3,894	-
Office Equipment	11,757	11,757
Less: Provision for Depreciation	- 9,559	- 8,357
	2,198	3,400
Total Assets	<u>\$ 137,395</u>	<u>\$ 124,131</u>

Less: Liabilities

PAYG Withholding Payable	1,598	1,936
GST Payable	4,916	2,491
Superannuation Contributions Payable	284	273
Salary Sacrifice	- 246	-
Sundry Creditor	624	-
Grant Received in Advance	12,000	-
Total Liabilities	<u>\$ 19,176</u>	<u>\$ 4,700</u>
Net Assets	<u>\$ 118,219</u>	<u>\$ 119,431</u>

DEAF VICTORIA INC
ABN 62 495 643 645
STATEMENT OF INCOME AND EXPENDITURE
FOR THE YEAR END 30 JUNE 2015

<u>INCOME</u>	2015	2014
Grants		
Department of Human Services - Information & Advocacy	126,196	120,575
Sundry Grants - Office Equipment, Volunteers, etc.	4,535	-
Other Income		
ASLIA & Deaf Victoria Awards - Gross Receipts	-	11,031
Deaf Deaf World (DDW) Workshops	1,173	900
Donations	2,361	89
Interest Received	1,895	4,240
Memebership Fees	508	1,617
NWDP & Fundraising Events	1,864	1,196
Proceeds of Equipment, Books, Card & T-Shirts	-	30
Reimbursement Received	2,824	-
Deaf Youth Victoria - Fundraising	2,231	-
Deaf Mental Health - Fundraising	4,398	-
Total Income	<u>\$ 147,985</u>	<u>\$ 139,678</u>
 <u>LESS: EXPENDITURE</u>		
Salaries	80,640	75,374
Casual Wages - Deaf Deaf World & Other	80	1,043
Superannuation	7,570	6,776
Workcover	1,832	1,812
Staff Training & Welfare	2,804	614
Conferences	550	1,672
Uniforms	397	-
Rent	5,200	5,200
Telephone	743	27
Postage, Couriers & Freight	74	98
Stationery & Office Supplies	1,462	1,550
Photocopy & Printing	614	575
Publications & Subscriptions	163	370
Affiliation/Registration/Filing Fees	445	347
Computer Expenses	2,608	1,295
Website Expenses	13,009	-
Graphic Design	36	500
Legal Fees	48	-
Marketing & Promotion	-	132
Interpreter Services & Captioning Fees	2,766	523
Bank & Merchant Fees	153	199
Bookkeeping Fees	-	100
Insurance	972	1,082
Travel & Accommodation	5,289	4,888
World Deaf Federation - Turkey 2015	4,643	-
Parking	318	168
Taxi Expenses	1,116	-
Meetings/Board Retreat Expenses	2,916	2,624
ASLIA & Deaf Victoria Awards	1,172	9,524
NWDP & Fundraising Events	409	236
Sponsorship/Donations	573	546
Repairs & Maintenance	130	518
Depreciation Office Equipment	1,202	1,714
Loss on Assets Scapped	1,211	1,363
Minor Office Asset Purchases	-	954
Gifts	39	141
Deaf Youth Victoria - Expense	3,614	-
Deaf Mental Health	4,398	-
Total Expenditure	<u>\$ 149,196</u>	<u>\$ 121,965</u>
 Surplus (Loss) for the Year	<u><u>-\$ 1,212</u></u>	<u><u>\$ 17,713</u></u>