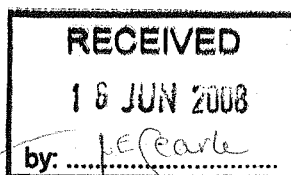


Submission 9  
TT 4 June 2008



**UN Convention on  
Rights of Persons  
with Disabilities**



deafness forum  
of australia

The logo for the deafness forum of australia features a stylized, circular graphic composed of many small dots or a fine grid, forming a shape that resembles a lowercase 'e' or a similar symbol. The text "deafness forum" is positioned above the graphic, and "of australia" is positioned below it.

**UN Convention on Rights of Persons with Disabilities –  
comments on NIA**

**16 June 2008**

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## **Introduction**

Currently, **one in six** Australians has some form of hearing impairment, and this is projected to increase to one in four by 2050<sup>1</sup>.

## **About the Deafness Forum**

Deafness Forum is the peak body for deafness in Australia. Established in early 1993 at the instigation of the Federal government, the Deafness Forum now represents all interests and viewpoints of the Deaf and hearing impaired communities of Australia (including those people who have a chronic disorder of the ear and those who are Deafblind).

The Deafness Forum exists to improve the quality of life for Australians who are Deaf, have a hearing impairment or have a chronic disorder of the ear by:

- advocating for government policy change and development
- making input into policy and legislation
- generating public awareness
- providing a forum for information sharing and
- creating better understanding between all areas of deafness.

## **Comments and Responses**

1. The Deafness Forum of Australia supports the recommendation of the NIA that Australia consent to be bound by the Convention through ratification under Article 43.
2. Deafness Forum of Australia supports early ratification.
3. Deafness Forum of Australia supports the UN Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities.
4. As mentioned in the NIA, Deafness Forum of Australia recommends that the Australian Government lodge statements of interpretation or declarations, stating that:
  - (a) references to 'deaf', 'blind' and 'deafblind' in the Convention are interpreted to include vision and hearing impairments (where appropriate)

## **Contact**

If you have any questions about the information contained in this submission, please contact  
Nicole Lawder,  
CEO,  
Deafness Forum of Australia  
218 Northbourne Avenue  
Braddon ACT 2612  
Phone 02 6262 7808

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<sup>1</sup> Access Economics: *Listen Hear! The economic impact and cost of hearing loss in Australia*, February 2006, pp.41