

deafness forum of australia

# ANNUAL REPORT 2007-2008



Improving the quality of life  
for Australians who are deaf,  
have a hearing impairment  
or have a chronic disorder  
of the ear



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Improving the quality of life  
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# HIGHLIGHTS FOR 2007-08

- 2007 Captioning Awards.
- The Libby Harricks Memorial Oration, delivered by Professor Bob Cowan.
- Election campaign.
- The 5th National Deafness Sector Summit held in Canberra in May 2008.
- 2007 Hearing Awareness Week theme was “Get the message”.
- Launch of new website.
- Delivered training for telecommunications representatives, with the assistance of a grant from the Department of Broadband, Communications and the Digital Economy.
- Developed a new position statement on Communication access in airports, with significant member input.
- Two rural hearing and health expos held in Ballarat (Vic) and Bathurst (NSW).
- Lobbied for the government investigation into media access for Australians who are Deaf or have a hearing impairment.
- Contributed a number of submissions to government inquiries including a major submission on the National Mental Health and Disability Employment Strategy.



## CHAIRPERSON'S REPORT

It is with great pleasure I present you the 2008 Annual Report to highlight our challenges and achievements. Last year, I spoke highly about the need for passion to help us over hurdles and how we must hold onto our commitment to ensure that changes do happen. Changes do not happen overnight and we need to acknowledge this and not give up. It has been an amazing year, so much has happened and I am proud and happy to say it has been a fulfilling rollercoaster. But this ride is not over yet

We are still here today to change and improve the lives of people who are Deaf, hearing impaired or have a chronic disorder in the ear. There are many other communities we also embrace such as the Deaf-blind and indigenous community and for those who are at risk of losing their hearing due to noise. So you can imagine the amount of work our wonderful team in Canberra has done in the last year. The team and the board have worked in a collaborative force to achieve those outcomes although needless to say, it is never been easy. With so many goals, we are fortunate to have welcomed Lyn Beaumont, Dr Jill Duncan and Roz Keenan onto the Board of Deafness Forum at last year's AGM.

We also acknowledged Margaret Robertson and Ruth Fotheringham's outstanding work with Deafness Forum and awarded them with a Life membership. Thank you again, Margaret and Ruth. The year also welcomed Kirsten's new daughter, Ingrid to the world and of course, my son, Tobian. From thereon, the adventure had begun as a parent, advocate and lobbyist.

It was exciting to see new possibilities that lay ahead of us when Labor took office. They have waved the 'social inclusion' flag to us, the people of Australia, and declared that they believed in this change and that we should not exclude individuals who are considered disadvantaged. Naturally, this has allowed us to ring the bells to make Parliament aware of our goals and our needs. We have grabbed every opportunity to grasp the flag of 'social inclusion' and use it while advocating and lobbying. There were a few initiatives undertaken by the Government which we were pleased to be part of, to name a few – The Electronic Media Enquiry, National Mental Health & Disability Employment Strategy Enquiry and ACOSS Conference (Australian Council of Social Service). I must say that the Media Enquiry would not have been possible without Senator Natasha Stott Despoja's

motion in Parliament last year on 12 September, 2007. It was an inspiration to watch her speak on behalf of the deaf and hearing impaired community and a date not to forget. It was also bittersweet to farewell Senator Stott Despoja from Parliament in June this year. I enjoyed watching her farewell speech with an Auslan interpreter present. We all wish her well and hope that she comes back one day to continue and be our champion in Parliament.

While the state of affairs began to evolve within the Parliament, we were also heavily involved with arranging various events. Right after New Year's, the team of the Deafness Forum focused their energy on creating two successful Rural Expos which was made possible by the support of the National Relay Service Outreach Service. On behalf of the Deafness Forum and the board, we would like to express our gratitude to the National Relay Service Outreach for making the Expos possible at Ballarat, Victoria and Bathurst, NSW. This is one of our goals to ensure people living with a hearing loss or a chronic disorder in the ear do not feel disadvantaged in where they live. It is very easy to forget and realise that we also have a big responsibility to include and educate those living in the remote areas of Australia.



Last year, I discussed about how captioning is one of the most important access tool for deaf and hearing impaired Australians. It still is! The Captioning Awards is a time where the industry comes together and acknowledges each other's work as well as realising that there are many more opportunities out there over the horizon such as iTV, phone TV, radio, the internet and YouTube. I hope the Captioning Awards is a night to encourage people to do better and better every year and to do more for us. The Awards would not be possible without the generous and ongoing support of our sponsors.

As I sit here typing this report to reflect back on our achievements, I realised that they are the stepping stones towards to the bigger picture. Along with each board member of Deafness Forum and the staff at the office of Deafness Forum, I am here today to make a difference.

Every day when I hold my son, I think of his future and say to myself, 'the future is here now and his future is in our hands'. The breadth of issues are constantly expanding but this does not stop us from addressing each issue but we cannot do this alone. It is not possible. It is a two-way street where we encourage you to help us achieve this dream, the real 'social inclusion' of Australian society. We need you. I bring us all again from the Whitlam's campaign – 'Its time' the future is now! We cannot sit back and believe things will happen on its' own. It is time for us to unite with each other no matter what or who you are.

Thank you to our members for believing in us.

Thank you to each one of you on the board and especially to the team, Nicole, Christine, Jim, Kirsten, Rogan and our new staff member Amanda Sullivan.

I can see what difference Deafness Forum has made for many individuals up to now, and over the horizon and into the future, that's what we are passionate about and what we will continue.

**Alex Jones**

# CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER/ COMPANY SECRETARY'S REPORT



Another busy, challenging and exciting year has passed.

Our many activities such as Hearing Awareness Week, the Captioning Awards, the 5th National Deafness Sector Summit, the Libby Harricks Memorial Oration, Telecommunications representatives training, and for the first time, two rural expos, added to our lobbying and systemic advocacy work, and the federal election and subsequent change of government made for a constant round of planning, meetings and submissions for the year.

During the year our Policy and Project Officer, Kirsten Preece, took maternity leave to welcome another baby to her family. During this period we engaged a temporary Policy and Project Officer, Rogan McMahon-Hogan, who brought a new perspective and different skills to the position in Kirsten's absence.

One of the major activities during Rogan's time with us was to organise two rural expos, thanks to an arrangement with the National Relay Service Outreach Program. These expos, in Ballarat (Victoria) and Bathurst (NSW) were a new experience for Deafness Forum as the coordinating body, and provided us with many insights and links into these local communities. Rogan

worked part-time with us while he was completing his studies at the Australian National University and he has now moved on to new challenges in his life and we wish him all the best.

Our national secretariat office in Canberra is always a busy place, with many requests for posters during Hearing Awareness Week, organising the Captioning Awards, responding to queries, writing submissions, arrangements for other Board meetings and events, and of course during 2007-08 our 5th National Deafness Sector Summit took up a huge amount of time and effort for the office staff. The staff are under constant pressure and I am grateful for their continued support and good-humoured approach to their work.

Much of my focus during the year has been on securing funding and sponsorships. While this has been successful it remains a constant, and time-consuming issue.

The AGM in November 2007 brought the resignation of some Board members and we recognised the long-term and significant contribution of Margaret Robertson and Ruth Fotheringham with

the presentation of Life Membership at the AGM. Our new Board members have settled in well and along with other Board members whose term continued or who were re-elected, have provided myself and the other office staff with enormous guidance, assistance and support. In a small organisation like Deafness Forum, our workload is quite heavy and without the willingness of Board members to jump in and assist, literally rolling up their shirtsleeves, we would not be able to undertake as many events and projects as we do.

Our Board members, as well as a number of other volunteer representatives, undertake a large amount of work on behalf of Deafness Forum, all with the vision of improving access for Australians who are Deaf, have a hearing impairment, or a chronic disorder of the ear. There is much to do and we are so lucky to have so many talented, dedicated and passionate people who are working towards this goal.

Our members continue to provide us with input and suggestions on our position statements and the work we undertake. Thank you for your contributions and commitment, you are the mainstay of Deafness Forum.

**Nicole Lawder**



# ABOUT OUR ORGANISATION

The Deafness Forum of Australia is the peak body for deafness in Australia. Established in early 1993, it represents all interests and viewpoints of Australians who are Deaf, have a hearing impairment or have a chronic disorder of the ear.

## OUR MISSION

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
- creating better understanding between all areas of deafness.

## OUR STRATEGIC PLAN

Deafness Forum's current Strategic Plan covers the period to 2007-10.

Our strategic plan covers the current Funding Agreement with the Department of Families, Housing, Community Services and Indigenous Affairs as well as Deafness Forum's own strategic objectives. The business plan associated with this strategic plan is normally reviewed annually.

The 2007-10 Strategic Plan required that Deafness Forum's mission be fulfilled by pursuing the following goals:

- promoting better awareness of its role
- collecting, producing and disseminating information
- increasing public awareness of deafness
- developing, maintaining and refining networks

- working with the federal government sector on policy development issues
- making representations to private and community sector organisations about identified issues
- initiating and co-ordinating national projects
- achieving the outcomes agreed in the context of its National Secretariat Program funding.

The outcomes agreed in the context of Deafness Forum's National Secretariat Program funding are reflected in many of the headings used later in this report.

## CORPORATE GOVERNANCE

There have been no reports of breach of compliance with laws governing Deafness Forum as a legal entity or other relevant legislation. There have been no complaints received regarding the behaviour of Deafness Forum representatives.

Various Advisory Panels assisted the national secretariat office and Board to deal with various issues during the year. Using these advisory panels and committed volunteers to augment the efforts of the Board and staff means that Deafness Forum has continued its determined efforts towards improving access and achieving better quality of life for people who are deaf, hearing impaired or suffer from a chronic disorder of the ear.

Major activities of the Board and staff during 2007-08 are described in other parts of this report. The day to day work we undertake reflects the Deafness Forum's strategic plan and mission statement.

Deafness Forum was directly (and indirectly) represented on numerous committees and organisations that influence (or seek to influence) government policies. Details are provided elsewhere in this Annual Report. The bodies on which Deafness Forum is directly represented include all key access, captioning, and telecommunications committees.

The Australian Federation of Disability Organisations was established in the first half of 2004. In 2007-08 Deafness Forum member Kaye Gooch, represented Deafness Forum as a Director of AFDO.

Deafness Forum's Board and staff consider that it is an effective peak body. Deafness Forum can point to significant achievements, as has been done throughout this Annual Report, and is well regarded by other bodies. It plays active roles in numerous other bodies and groups where it can represent the views of its members and others in the deafness sector.

Deafness Forum has always sought to obtain financial support from various sources. In 2007-08 Deafness Forum was again quite successful in obtaining financial support from some non-grant sources. This was primarily because of sponsorship. Full details of the financial and in-kind support are set out separately in this report.

Initiatives for raising funds during the period included:

- continued sale of publications
- seeking of sponsorships for 2007 Hearing Awareness Week
- successful sponsorship arrangements for 2007 Deafness Forum Captioning Awards
- successful sponsorship arrangements for the 5th National Deafness Sector Summit
- regular advertising for donations and bequests in Newsletter
- listings with Pro Bono and Givewell
- successful application for grants from Department of Broadband, Communications and the Digital Economy for Telecommunications Consumer Representation Grant

# PROFILE

## MARGARET ROBERTSON

- successful application for funds from Department of Broadband, Communications and the Digital Economy for sitting fees for representatives on Communications Alliance Disability Council.

Deafness Forum continued to maintain all its financial records using MYOB software, in accordance with the recommendations of its auditor.

The Board of Directors was provided with comprehensive monthly reports explaining how actual income and expenditures compare with budget allocations, and giving explanations for differences. The Board passed an appropriate resolution in respect of each monthly report. The overall financial situation was monitored closely, with projections being made several months in advance to predict when critical financial situations might arise.

Deafness Forum lodged all required advice and reports with the Australian Securities and Investments Commission. Annual audited financial statements for the year ending 30 June 2008 were provided in the required format.

Margaret was awarded Life Membership of Deafness Forum at the 2007 Annual General Meeting. Margaret has a progressive, sensorineural hearing loss and has been reliant on hearing aids for twenty years. Margaret also uses various other techniques to assist her communicate. These include assisted-listening devices, captioning and speech reading.

Her professional life was spent as a Psychologist and she worked in university counselling for 23 years, eight as the Director of a Counselling Service. She is now retired but her interest continues in promoting a cognitive-behavioural approach to rehabilitation for hearing loss and tinnitus.

She has a history of involvement with community organisations, in particular Better Hearing Australia Victoria where she served on the Committee of Management from 1997 to 2004. Margaret also provides articles, workshops, and training programs on rehabilitation and counselling topics to self-help groups in the sector. She also served as a member of the Victorian



Government's Reference Committee for the Redevelopment of Services for Deaf and Hearing Impaired people.

Margaret was a Director of the Deafness Forum from October 1999 to November 2007, including four years as Chairperson and a year as Deputy Chairperson. Margaret has represented Deafness Forum on the Hearing Services Industry Forum. She currently represents Deafness Forum on the Telstra Disability Forum and the Hearing Services Consultative Committee.

Margaret Robertson has rendered outstanding service to the Deafness Forum and in service of its objectives.

# OUR BOARD OF DIRECTORS

The Board of the Deafness Forum is made up generally of ten individuals, elected by the Organisation Members. Eight represent (and are) consumers, whilst two represent (and are) service providers. They are all volunteers and receive no remuneration for their services.

The elected representatives are each required to consult with members so that they are informed about members' views when contributing to Board discussions and decision-making processes.

All Directors are responsible to act on behalf of all members, not just those that elected them.

The Board met on five occasions during 2007-08, either face to face or via electronic means. Face to face meetings were held in Melbourne in October, then in May 2008 immediately following the 5th National Deafness Sector Summit.

The Board conducts much of its business electronically as this is more feasible given the geographic spread of the Directors, from all over Australia.

The AGM provides members in different areas with easier opportunities to have face-to-face input to the Board, but that has to be balanced against the higher costs of holding meetings in some locations. Following each Board meeting and AGM, all members are provided with a summary of the discussion and decisions made.

Every opportunity is taken, through each of these meetings, to enable members to contribute to the development of policy views, so that a national perspective is reflected.

During 2007-08 the Board accepted, with regret, the resignation of Ross McKeown due to ill-health.





# OUR STAFF

## Deaf Section

Alex Jones (Chairperson)

Stephen Miller

## Ear Disorders Section

Bill Hick

Ross McKeown  
(to January 2008)

## Hearing Impaired Section

Liz Evans (Deputy Chairperson)

Margaret Robertson  
(to November 2007)

Lyn Beaumont  
(from November 2007)

## Parent Section

Sarah Livingstone

Jo Quayle  
(to November 2007)

Roz Keenan  
(from November 2007)

## Service Provider Section

Noeleen Bieske  
(to November 2007)

Dr Jill Duncan  
(from November 2007)

Sharan Westcott

## CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER (FULL-TIME)

Ms Nicole Lawder joined the Deafness Forum as CEO in April 2006. The role of the CEO includes:

- facilitating an effective government interface with respect to policy issues affecting people who are Deaf, have a hearing impairment or a chronic ear disorder
- promoting interaction and understanding between organisations and people within the deafness sector, and with the wider community
- providing leadership and guidance to both the Board of Directors and other staff relating to the implementation of the goals and objectives of Deafness Forum and to financial, organisational, administrative and lobbying strategies
- implementation of policy and strategic plans, and providing leadership in their development
- responsibility for day to day operations of the national secretariat
- liaising and collaborating with members
- networking and working within the wider disability sector and other relevant peak bodies, and
- overseeing projects and business activities.



## POLICY AND PROJECT OFFICER (PART-TIME)

Ms Kirsten Preece joined the staff in October 2002. The role of the Policy and Project Officer includes:

- developing, implementing and reviewing policies and projects
- seeking to maximise co-operation within the sector and participation from the sector
- facilitating and seeking to maximise membership participation in the work of Deafness Forum
- promoting the objectives and role of Deafness Forum within both the wider community and the deafness sector
- maintaining a high level of communication with member organisations
- developing awareness through promoting an appreciation of issues affecting Deafness Forum's constituencies in a way that improves understanding and interaction, and
- providing the general community with information on deafness, hearing impairment and chronic ear disorders.



## ADMINISTRATIVE OFFICER (PART-TIME)

Ms Christine Dervaric and Mr Jim McDougall undertake the role of Administrative Officer in a job-share arrangement. Christine and Jim started in January 2007. The role of the Administrative Officer includes:

- maintaining membership and newsletter subscription databases
- banking monies received
- preparing and despatching Tax Invoices as required for purchases of goods and services from the Deafness Forum and ensuring payments are received for all invoices
- preparing and sending Board mail outs as required
- opening, logging and distributing incoming mail and faxes, and
- maintaining necessary supplies.

Rogan McMahan-Hogan joined us for 7 months while Kirsten Preece was on maternity leave.

## OUR VOLUNTEERS

Volunteers make a very significant contribution to the work of Deafness Forum.

The Board of Directors acts on a voluntary basis, as do the various individuals who represent Deafness Forum on numerous committees and other bodies, and to meet ad hoc needs. Many Board members also represent Deafness Forum on other committees and we re grateful for their contribution.

In addition to Board members and the members of the Libby Harricks Memorial Oration Organising Committee (named in the Projects section of this report), the following people who represented the Deafness Forum in various ways during 2007-08 are acknowledged: Andrew Stewart, Brian Rope, Ruth Fotheringham, Kaye Gooch, Kathy Challinor, Alan Keir, Peter Lindley, and Margaret Robertson.

## OPERATION OF THE OFFICE

During 2007-08 we must particularly acknowledge the work of Andrew Stewart, who undertakes an enormous amount of work on numerous telecommunications panels for us, as well as Peter Lindley, who undertook a considerable amount of advocacy in support of the campaign to have hearing health declared as a national health priority.

The contributions of those specifically named here as well as all other volunteers are received with extreme gratitude and respect by the Deafness Forum.

We are always looking to improve the operation of our office and introduce new ways of working. During 2007-08 this included some administrative policy changes.

In order to facilitate communication between staff, we engage sign language interpreters as required. In addition, some staff are undertaking Auslan courses through TAFE to enable them to communicate with Deaf employees.

During 2007-08, some of our Board members attended a Board Builders conference in Melbourne.

## ACKNOWLEDGMENTS

The Australian Government recognises Deafness Forum Limited as a peak national organisation in the deafness area. During 2007-08 the National Secretariat Program (NSP), administered by the Department of Families, Housing, Community Services and Indigenous Affairs, provided funding for the Deafness Forum's national secretariat.

We also received Disability Conference funding to assist with our 5th National Deafness Sector Summit.

Also during 2007-08 Deafness Forum Limited was supported by the Australian Government through the Telecommunications Consumer Representation Grant Program of the Department of Broadband, Communications and the Digital Economy.

# OUR EFFORTS IN LOBBYING

During 2007-08 Deafness Forum engaged in a variety of activities in pursuit of our lobbying and systemic advocacy goals.

Members and other stakeholders are consulted during the formation of our submissions and position statements to ensure that Deafness Forum's official documents reflect the views of our members. Copies of all formal submissions were provided to the Department of Families, Housing, Community Services and Indigenous Affairs following the lodgment of the submission.

Formal and informal submissions and presentations were prepared and lodged as follows:

- Extensive discussions with HREOC, Media Access Australia and other stakeholders on captioning issues generally and our strategies for advancing captioning take-up in free to air TV, subscription TV, cinema, and other areas
- Worked with the Australian Federation of Disability Organisations (AFDO) on a range of initiatives including commenting on the government's indigenous announcements, the UN Convention on Rights of Persons with Disability and election campaign issues
- Worked with the Human Rights and Equal Opportunity Commission and other stakeholders on the United Nations Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disability
- Submission and presentation to Accessible Public Transport hearing in Canberra
- Carers payment for people with chronic disorders of the ear
- Deaf Employment
- Universal Service Obligation review
- Deaf and blind jurors (NSW Law Commission)
- Survey of Disability, Ageing and Carers
- Emergency Call service (ACMA)
- NextG phones as replacement for CDMA phones and launch of our new brochure "Choosing the right phone" in Sydney, with Senator Helen Coonan
- Health Services Access Card (until 2007 election)
- Motion on captioning by Senator Natasha Stott Despoja, including liaising with Senator Stott Despoja's office, and meeting with Senator Gary Humphries regarding the motion
- The launch of a new parents' DVD in August 2007 with no captions
- Triple o advertisements without captions
- Government investigation into media access for people who are Deaf or hearing impaired
- National Auslan Booking, Payment and Information Service
- Australian Electoral Commission on their Disability Action Plan
- Regional Telecommunications Review
- Lodging a number of complaints with the Human Rights and Equal Opportunity Commission relating to captioning, hotel access and other issues under the Disability Discrimination Act



# PROFILE

## RUTH FOTHERINGHAM

- National Patients Charter of Rights
- Liaised with members to write and complete an official Deafness Forum position statement on communication access in airports to Department of Families, Housing, Community Services and Indigenous Affairs and other government departments
- Discussion paper on captioned telephones
- Submission to WA government on newborn hearing screening.

Ruth Fotheringham was a Director of the Deafness Forum from 2002 to 2006. She has had a hearing loss for over 30 years and acquired a cochlear implant in 2002, and a second one in 2007. She joined Better Hearing Australia in 1972 and is still an active member.

Ruth previously has been a member of the Australian Hearing Services Steering Committee for Expanded Service Delivery, the Commonwealth Government's Hearing Services Advisory Committee, and the External Review Panel for the NSW TAFE Audiometry Certificate Courses.

She also has a wider interest in people with disabilities, having worked as a Social Educator for people with an intellectual disability prior to retirement. She represented the Deafness Forum on the Board of the Australian Federation of Disability Organisations.

Ruth continues to represent Deafness Forum on matters relating to emergency management and electoral matters. Ruth is a deserving recipient of Life Membership of Deafness Forum of Australia.



Ruth received Life Membership of Deafness Forum at the 2007 AGM.

# OUR REPRESENTATION ON PANELS AND COMMITTEES

Deafness Forum is often called upon by government departments and Ministers to provide representatives to committees, councils, panels or working groups. We call upon our Board members, staff, and a range of knowledgeable and committed volunteers to undertake this work.

We are grateful to those people who act as our representatives on the committees for sharing their time and expertise, usually in their own time. These commitments are also acknowledged in the section on volunteers.

Deafness Forum representatives participated in the following working parties, committees, and forums:

- HREOC-convened forums – on captioning in cinemas, DVDs, Free-to-air TV and Subscription TV
- Telstra Disability Forum
- National Relay Service Customer Consultative Committee
- Communications Alliance Disability Council
- Telecommunications and Disability Consumer Representation (TEDICORE) Project Advisory Board

- Standards Australia Committees ME-064 and FP-002
- Australian Federation of Disability Organisations
- National Newborn Hearing Screening Committee
- Hearing Services Consultative Committee
- NSW Ministerial Standing Committee on Hearing
- NSW Department of Juvenile Justice Disability Strategic Group
- Qantas Disability Advisory Panel
- Australian Electoral Commission Disability Advisory Panel
- National Forum on Emergency Warnings to the Community.

In addition, through the Australian Federation of Disability Organisations, Deafness Forum provided representatives to the following:

- Optus Consumer Liaison Forum
- Telstra Consumer Consultative Council.

## TRAINING FOR TELECOMMUNICATIONS REPRESENTATIVES

Training for telecommunications representatives In February 2008 Deafness Forum repeated its popular and successful Telecommunications Consumer Representatives Training program.

The program was first run during 2006-07, through a grant from the (then) Department of Communications, Information Technology and the Arts. In 2007-08 Deafness Forum again received a grant from the Department of Broadband, Communications and the Digital Economy to run this training and this time it was expanded to a 2-day program.

The training aimed to include people from rural areas and was held in Bathurst (NSW) in February 2008.

The expanded course time enabled the inclusion of sessions on:

# PROFILE

## PETER LINDLEY



Peter Lindley has had profound sensorineural hearing loss since the age of seven. Peter left school at the age of fourteen and worked in a butter factory – then held various jobs, erecting blinds, packer and storeman, fruit picker. In the late 60s, Peter started work as an orderly at a public hospital in Brisbane – a position he held for 33 years, working in three different areas of rehabilitation.

Through his involvement with Better Hearing Australia, the Australian Deafness Council, and Deafness Forum of Australia, Peter has been a passionate and committed advocate for better hearing health and access to services.

Peter chairs Deafness Forum's Hearing Health as a National Priority advocacy committee and is an extremely active member of our campaigns.



- various mobile phone technology
- real time messaging
- internet relay
- Teleschool and other web-based applications.

The training manual was well received and participants felt it was professional and useful.

# OUR CONSULTATION AND NETWORKING

During 2007-08 Deafness Forum engaged with a wide range of Ministers, Members of Parliament, Senators, State and federal Government Departments and agencies, and other disability groups about key policy issues, including the following:

- Regular meetings were held with key officers of the Office of Hearing Services (OHS) within the Department of Health and Ageing, providing a specific mechanism for the provision of feedback on government policy, services and programs relevant to OHS
- Regular meetings with the Department of Families, Housing, Community Services and Indigenous Affairs were also held during 2007-08, providing a feedback mechanism in respect of government disability policy, services, and programs relevant to the Branch
- Meetings with Blind Citizens Australia and deafblind representatives about deafblindness issues
- Met with office of Senator Conroy (ALP Shadow Minister for Communications – prior to 2007 election)
- Met with Senator Jan McLucas (ALP Shadow Minister for Disabilities and Ageing – prior to 2007 election)
- Met with office of Julie Bishop MP (Minister for Education – prior to 2007 election)
- Met with Dr Carmen Lawrence MP (ALP – prior to 2007 election)
- Attended AFDO election campaign for Campaign Enable in Sydney
- Met with office of Fran Bailey MP (Minister for Tourism – prior to 2007 election)
- Met with Senator Natasha Stott-Despoja
- Met with Minister for Ageing Justine Elliot
- Attended hearing screenings at Parliament House Canberra run by Australian Hearing, including press conference of Senator Chris Ellison (Minister for Human Services)
- Attended a number of AFDO member meetings
- Met with office of Minister for Employment Services Brendan O'Connor
- Met with Shadow Minister for Families and Community Services Tony Abbott MP
- Met with Shadow spokesperson on disability, Senator Cory Bernardi
- Met with Senator Rachel Siewert of the Australian Greens, who is assisting us with our captioning lobbying
- Attended ACOSS national Congress
- Attended Australian Council of Social Service (ACOSS) national member meetings (Deafness Forum is a member of ACOSS)
- Attended meetings about palliative care and quality care at the end of life.
- Attended consumer day of the Audiology Australia conference
- Attended meetings and liaised with Human Rights Commission, Free TV, Media Access Australia, Independent Cinemas Association, ASTRA and other interested parties regarding progressing captioning in various industries

# CASE STUDY

- Attended a range of workshops around Australia on the National Mental Health and Disability Employment Strategy, run by Minister for Employment Participation Brendan O'Connor, and Parliamentary Secretary for Disability and Children's Services Bill Shorten
- Attended workshops with Department of Broadband, Communications and Digital Economy regarding consumer representation and participation in telecommunication industry codes
- Attended meetings of Australian Standard 1428.5 and provided written comments on the standard throughout the year
- Attended Department of Families, Housing, Community Services and Indigenous Affairs (FaHCSIA) discussions on the National Disability Advocacy Program
- Attended 2007 National Disability Awards
- Attended Better Hearing Australia (Vic) 75th anniversary seminar
- Attended 2007 National Newborn Hearing Screening Conference
- Attended the joint Deaf Australia/ ASLIA forum on interpreting
- Attended the Human Rights Awards lunch at HREOC
- Attended launch of the 2008 National Disability Awards at Parliament House.
- Attended a meeting with the Telecommunications Industry Ombudsman to discuss their disability action plan
- Attended the launch of the Internet relay, held at Parliament House on 3 September 2007
- Attended Access Card meetings and workshops (prior to 2007 election) on the exposure draft of the Access Card legislation.

Deafness Forum wrote to the Office of Hearing Services in the Department of Health and Ageing in early 2008 to draw attention of providers to the need for a holistic approach, as hearing aids alone do not and cannot address all the difficulties that are experienced by someone with hearing loss.

The need is to address the client as a whole person, and the total impact that a hearing loss may have on their life. This model is supported by the literature particularly coming out of the US and UK: the implicit reason hard of hearing people access Hearing Care (Audiology / Rehabilitation) services is not for hearing aids per se, but because they want/seek help in minimizing the hearing-related problems they are experiencing.

The letter encouraged encourage service providers to refer their clients to other vital community groups, consumer groups, self-help groups, and all other services in their area to ensure they get the best possible support for their hearing needs, including talking with other people and families with children who have been through the same journey and may have valuable tips.

# OUR PARTICIPATION IN RESEARCH

## PROJECT LOOKING AT THE CO-EXISTENCE OF HEARING LOSS AND MENTAL ILLNESS

During 2007-08 Deafness Forum was pleased to auspice a research project on the co-existence of hearing loss and mental illness. This study specifically looked at post-lingual hearing loss (as opposed to people who have been Deaf/hearing impaired since birth).

The researchers, Chrissy O'Reilly and Kate Treloar, wanted to investigate the response of hearing service providers to hearing loss issues and its social and mental impact. Issues such as misdiagnosis, fragmented treatment, prolonged hospital stays and increased risk of relapse were of interest.

The researchers gave a presentation on their findings at the 5th National Deafness Sector Summit in May 2008 in Canberra.

This research project was possible thanks to a research grant from Friends of Australian Communication Exchange Service (FACES).

# OUR INFORMATION AND AWARENESS RAISING ACTIVITIES

## NEWSLETTERS

Four issues of Deafness Forum's quarterly Newsletter were completed. All used full colour on their outside covers. Deafness Forum's Newsletter has been utilised to provide members with accurate information regarding government policies. During this year we continued our themed approach for the newsletter, which included:

- Newsletter No. 54, August 2007 – Babies and children
- Newsletter No. 55, November 2007 – Ear disorders and noise injury
- Newsletter No. 56, February 2008 – Language
- Newsletter No. 57, May 2008 – Government policy and programs

Deafness Forum is frequently approached by other organisations who wish to reproduce articles in their own newsletters and permission is granted for this.

During 2007-08 we undertook a design review of the Newsletter and updated its look to become more consistent with our website and our "One in Six" newsletter.

## MONTHLY EMAIL NEWS UPDATES

Our monthly electronic newsletter "One in Six" is prepared and distributed in-house. It provides links to relevant research and articles as well as a calendar of upcoming events. During 2007-08, "One in Six" had a minor re-design, from 3 columns to one column to make it easier for those with vision impairment to read.



## WEBSITES

Deafness Forum's two websites [www.deafnessforum.org.au](http://www.deafnessforum.org.au) and [www.hearingawarenessweek.org.au](http://www.hearingawarenessweek.org.au) were updated on a regular basis as a means of providing community information and education on hearing impairment and deafness.

The Deafness Forum website underwent a major re-design during 2007-08 with the assistance of a team of IT students from the University of Melbourne. The new website was launched in December 2007 and provides a more intuitive interface as well as easier updating and maintenance for Deafness Forum staff. Specialist web skills are no longer required, meaning that any staff members can use the content management system to quickly and easily update the information on the website. It also means that our home page is regularly updated, rather than static.

## MEDIA RELEASES

Deafness Forum issued a number of media releases during 2007-08, relating to particular events and issues, including:

- Raising Children DVD released without captions
- ooo advertisement on TV without captions
- Captioning Awards winners
- DVD accessibility
- The 5th National Deafness Sector Summit is approaching
- Rural Health expos
- Government investigation into media access
- Objection to Free to Air exemption application.

## INTERNATIONAL

Dear Deafness Forum,

Thank you for your mail, to read about all these activities on AUSTRALIA DAY!

I am a regional volunteer for dutch organisation Hard of Hearing, and a member of their small international committee. It does me good to read about all these activities in Australia, and your facilities and events, also from the previous newsletters of the forum.

I wish you lots of luck from the Netherlands, Europe, and we get a small picture about Australia. (in the mornings there is a BBC program about people emigrating to Australia, so that is a tiny image of Australia.

Greetings,

Hannie Huigsloot  
van vegcheltstraat 6  
5993 ep maasbree

## BROCHURES

All Deafness Forum publications, including several information brochures and its quarterly Newsletter, are available to members and to the public, free of charge.

Deafness Forum also distributed quantities of various publications produced by other organisations.



## MEMBERS COMMUNICATION CHANNELS

Deafness Forum provides a large amount of information to members about upcoming events, activities and undertaken by the Board and staff.

This information is sent via both “push” and “pull” styles. As information comes to the office, it is sent to members either as standalone emails, or as part of monthly e-news updates or quarterly newsletters.

Just a small sample of some of the items of interest which we have communicated to members during the year include:

- Information about the 2007 federal election and appointment of new Ministers
- Captioned theatre performances
- Government media releases about issues affecting our members
- Information about the UN Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disability
- Deafness Forum upcoming events including Hearing Awareness Week, Captioning Awards, Rural expos, 5th National Deafness Sector Summit
- Passing on third party requests for participants for research activities

- Surveys including online surveys about Deafness Forum events and activities
- CDMA closure and information about 3G.

Some of our communication during 2007-08 has included:

- Quarterly Newsletters sent to members, subscribers and other relevant organisations
- News Updates sent to organisation members (to most by e-mail) monthly
- All material for publication received from members or contributors is published as sent, with the only exception being grammatical/ orthographical corrections
- Regular e-mail/mail sent to members and non-member deafness sector organisations
- Websites maintained with current news and information and upcoming events
- Telephone (voice, text and via National Relay Service), e-mail and mail contact with various relevant individuals and organisations



## ORATION MONOGRAPH

- Uniphone (voice and text) used to receive/make calls from/to people with TTYs
- Face-to-face meetings (including Board meetings) with various relevant individuals and organisations, using Auslan, real time captioning and hearing augmentation systems as necessary to suit the individuals involved.
- Videos screened for Deaf and hearing impaired people have captions
- Videos screened for signing Deaf people interpreted when not available in captioned formats
- Portable TTY provided for use by Deaf and hearing impaired participants attending meetings if none available on the meeting site
- CART (computer-aided real time transcription) provided as necessary for representatives participating in meetings
- DVDs, videos, and TV Community Service Announcements produced are all captioned, and some have Auslan interpreters on them..

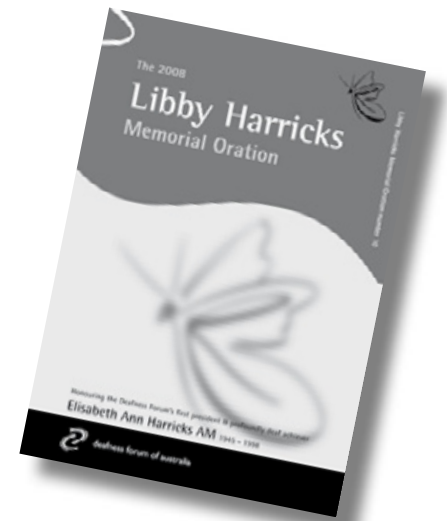
The tenth Libby Harricks Memorial Oration was delivered by Associate Professor Bob Cowan during the 5th National Deafness Sector Summit.

Professor Cowan spoke about “Access, equity and hearing loss in Australia in 2008”, in which he presented a picture of hearing loss in Australia to the present date, and as an update to the well-regarded and extensively used Access Economics report “Listen Hear: The economic cost and impact of hearing loss in Australia”.

The annual Libby Harricks Memorial Oration is designed to contribute to community education and is published to facilitate wider dissemination of the awareness raising messages in them. Published monograph versions of all Orations have been printed and two of them have also been made available for sale in captioned video versions.

The published monographs are made available to professionals and other sectors, directly and via public libraries, as a contribution to informing them regarding hearing impairment and deafness issues.

Monograph of The Tenth Libby Harricks Memorial Oration (ISBN 978 0 9578615 8 9), May 2008



## OTHER PAPERS AND PRESENTATIONS

Deafness Forum often takes the opportunity to present at other conferences and events. These presentations might be by staff, Board members or other representatives.

Every opportunity also was taken to raise awareness in various professional and other quarters, including:

- 2007 National Newborn Hearing Screening Conference
- Macquarie University Masters of Audiology class
- Emergency Warning to the Community conference
- 2007 Community Nurse Audiometrist Association
- Sydney Film Festival access panel.

Deafness Forum receives numerous requests for articles from our newsletter to be re-used in other publications.

## EXPOS AND DISPLAYS

On occasions, Deafness Forum participates in expos, displays and conferences to provide information about our activities. Some of the events we attended during 2007-08 included:

- 2007 National Newborn Hearing Screening Conference
- Hearing screenings at Parliament House during 2007 Hearing Awareness Week
- Rural Expos in Ballarat (Victoria) and Bathurst (NSW)

The Rural hearing and health expos were organised and run by Deafness Forum for the first time in February 2008, with the assistance of the National Relay Service Outreach Service.

Deafness Forum invited a large number of local community organisations, largely involved in health and community services, to participate at the rural expos. Experts in particular fields gave talks throughout each of the 2-day expos. Full communication access was provided (hearing loop, Auslan interpreters, and real time captioning).

Mischelle Edmunds (Cochlear) gives a talk at Ballarat



# OUR MEMBERS

## STRUCTURE

Deafness Forum has four classes of membership: Consumers, Consumer Associations, Service Providers, and Service Provider Associations.

Consumer means an adult who is Deaf or has a hearing impairment or has a chronic ear disorder; or a parent of such a person.

Chronic Ear Disorder refers to such disorders of the ear as tinnitus, Meniere's Disease, Acoustic Neuroma, hyperacusis and recruitment. People with such ear disorders may also have a hearing impairment.

Deaf refers to people who see themselves as members of the Auslan-using Deaf community by virtue of its language (Auslan) and culture.

Hearing Impairment refers to a hearing loss. People with a hearing impairment (or who are hard of hearing) may communicate orally (sometimes described as 'oral deaf') or may use a sign language or other communication methods.

All Consumers are entitled to describe themselves using whatever

terminologies they prefer, and are asked to do so at the time of joining and each time they renewing membership.

Consumer Association means an incorporated Association of, or for, consumers (as defined above).

Service Provider means an adult who provides services that promote the well being of people who are consumers (as defined above). Examples are audiologists, audiometrists, teachers of the deaf, stenocaptioners, Auslan interpreters, and ENT specialists. Service Providers also include various other occupations that provide services to consumers who are Deaf, have a hearing impairment or have a chronic disorder of the ear.

Any Consumer who is also a Service Provider may only join as a Consumer.

Service Provider Association means an incorporated Association, which has (as its principal purpose) the provision of services that promote the wellbeing of consumers (as defined above).

Any Consumer Association that is also a Service Provider Association may only join as a Consumer Association.

## LIFE MEMBERS AS AT 30 JUNE 2008

- Mr John Bartlett
- Mr Stan Batson
- Dr Victor Bear AM
- Dr Harry Blackmore AM
- Mrs Cath Bonnes AM
- Mrs Ruth Fotheringham
- Ms Diana Hodgetts
- Hon Peter Howson CMG
- Mr Robert Quail AM
- Mrs Margaret Robertson
- Mr Brian Rope OAM
- Mr Andrew Stewart

## ANALYSIS OF MEMBERSHIP

Deafness Forum endeavours to maintain and grow its membership base. Whenever any members advise that they do not wish to renew membership, particular Directors of Deafness Forum are asked to make personal contact to ascertain why and endeavour to change the members' minds. Every opportunity is also taken to promote membership. The following table analyses membership as at 30 June 2008.

MEMBERSHIP ANALYSIS AT 30 JUNE 2007										
Class	SA	NT	TAS	WA	ACT	NSW	VIC	QLD	O'seas	GRAND TOTAL
Consumers	11	2	3	10	7	38	23	5	5	99
Consumer Associations	2	1	0	1	1	10	6	4	4	25
Service Providers	4	2	0	6	0	15	13	11	11	51
Service Provider Associations	2	0	0	1	2	14	11	3	3	33
<b>Grand Total</b>	<b>19</b>	<b>5</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>18</b>	<b>10</b>	<b>77</b>	<b>53</b>	<b>23</b>	<b>23</b>	<b>208</b>

## BENEFITS OF DEAFNESS FORUM MEMBERSHIP

- Quarterly newsletter and regular email information
- Your means of making your views known to government
- The opportunity to work cooperatively with other individuals
- and Associations on issues of mutual concern
- Be kept up to date on issues, events, trends
- Access to literature, resources, services, information, statistics.

# OUR PROJECTS



## HEARING AWARENESS WEEK

National Hearing Awareness Week is always held in the final complete week of August (from Sunday to Saturday). Each year there is a new focus and theme for Hearing Awareness Week.

The theme for 2007 was "GET THE MESSAGE".



### Posters

Deafness Forum produced a poster for 2007 Hearing Awareness Week. The poster covered issues ranging from noise pollution, to hearing aids, group communication and the use of sign language.

Around 6000 posters were distributed Australia-wide.

The posters were also available on the Hearing Awareness Week website [www.hearingawarenessweek.org.au](http://www.hearingawarenessweek.org.au) for download so potentially more posters were out in the public view.

### Website

Deafness Forum maintains a special website on which any organisation may register events, produces posters and other material for use and seeks national media coverage. Individual

events may be organised by any other organisations that wishes to do so. There are co-ordinating groups in most States, but some organisations operate independently of them.

New fact sheets and a few other resources were added to the site for this year's theme. Feedback received about the website so far would suggest that it is user friendly and has useful and up to date information. Some people have asked for more child or youth friendly resources to be made available and this is something we can consider and work towards as the resources and staff time allow.

### Media release

Deafness Forum produces media materials that can be re-used by participants in Hearing Awareness Week activities.

Deafness Forum must congratulate all the HAW committees and organisations and individuals around the country whose tireless work helped to bring noise injury and prevention to the attention of the wider community.

The assistance of various sponsors is appreciated as it enables us to continue to provide posters (including postage and handling) and the website free of charge to all.

**SIEMENS**

**Australian  
Hearing**

**Cochlear**

**HCC**

Sponsors are acknowledged in the Financial and In-Kind Support section of this report.

## NATIONAL DEAFNESS SECTOR SUMMITS

The 5th National Deafness Sector Summit was held in Canberra in May 2008. Day 1 covered topics including government updates, a number of “My Life” presentations, and mental health. Day 2 covered a lifecycle approach with sessions on babies, children, adolescents, working age, and older Australians.

There were also a number of workshops offered on telecommunications, captioning, rural health, and advocacy. One of the key outcomes of the 5NDSS was a commitment to a position statement on captioned telephone.

The presentation by Li Cunxin, author of “Mao’s Last Dancer” and his daughter Sophie, was especially popular with delegates.

### History of the Summit

In August 1999, the then Board of Deafness Forum decided to explore the possibility of conducting a Summit of the entire deafness sector. The proposal initially was put to the Deafness Forum for consideration by Better Hearing Australia after learning about a highly successful summit held in Britain.

Coincidentally, the then Minister for Family and Community Services subsequently expressed a wish that added another very good reason for the proposed summit. The Minister was very keen that each sector (in the family and community services arena) spoke to her and, through her, to the whole of government with one voice. Thus, in the deafness sector, she would very much prefer to receive just one submission on any one topic from the peak body, rather than a number of submissions saying the same thing (or, sometimes, different things) from various organisations.



The Hon Bill Shorten MP with Alex Jones (Chairman) and Liz Evans (Deputy Chair) at the 5NDSS

The inaugural National Deafness Sector Summit was conducted successfully in Canberra in March 2000. There were 96 delegates from 65 different organisations. The majority of delegates represented organisations of and for the Deaf community, people with a hearing impairment or a chronic disorder of the ear, and parents of Deaf and hearing impaired children.

There also were a significant number of delegates representing service provider and government organisations that have a particular interest in deafness.

The Summit identified many matters that the entire deafness sector could work on together, advocating and achieving results by being united. Since the inaugural Summit, the Deafness Forum has used a policy development process that seeks to enable all deafness sector organisations to participate.



SIEMENS

Department of Families, Housing, Community Services and Indigenous Affairs

Department of Health and Ageing – Office of Hearing Services



## LIBBY HARRICKS MEMORIAL ORATION

A number of policy positions have been adopted.

Since then further Summits have been held including:

- The 2nd National Deafness Sector Summit was held in Melbourne in 2001, focussing on areas that had been identified as current priorities, with a view to finalising some additional policy positions and making a substantial start on some others. Again, all deafness sector organisations and other relevant bodies were invited to participate.
- The 3rd National Deafness Sector Summit was held in Brisbane in May 2004. It was designed to enable delegates to identify practical actions that are required in a number of other particular priority areas.
- The 4th National Deafness Sector Summit was held in Perth in May 2006 and covered topics of considerable current concern for members.

The Libby Harricks Memorial Oration is held each year in memory of Founding President and Life Member Mrs Elisabeth Ann (Libby) Harricks, AM who died on 1 August 1998.

As at 30 June 2008 the committee comprised Mr David Harricks, Dr Jenny Rosen, Ms Sharan Westcott, Mr Peter Cipollone, Ms Lyndall Carter, and Mr Marshall Smither.

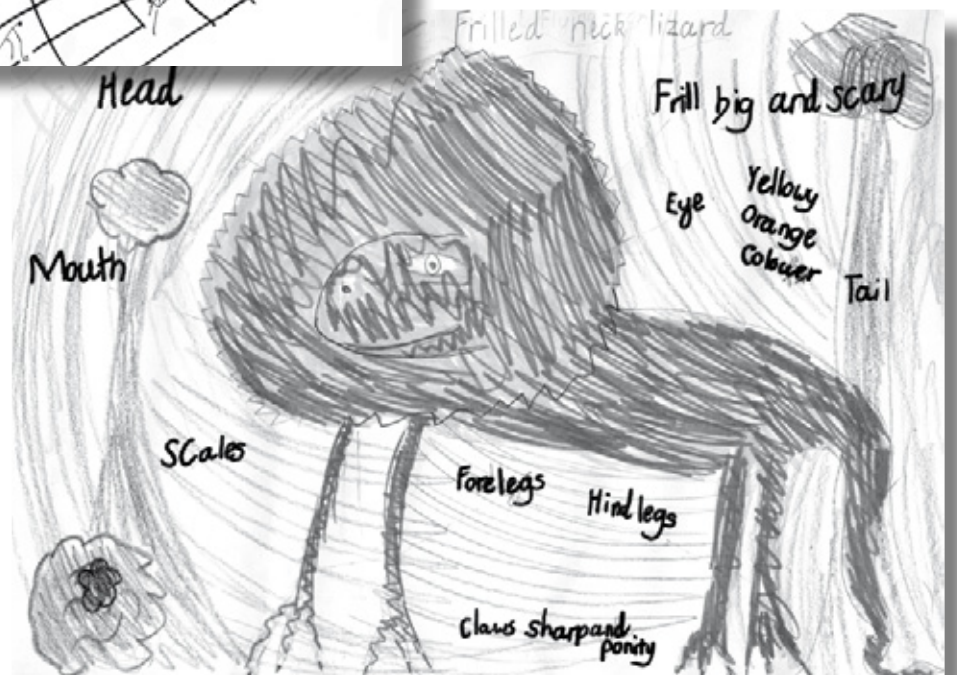
The orator was Professor Bob Cowan who spoke about “Access, equity and hearing loss in Australia in 2008”, in which he presented a picture of hearing loss in Australia to the present date, and as an update to the well-regarded and extensively used Access Economics report “Listen Hear: The economic cost and impact of hearing loss in Australia.

*Dr Jenny Rosen (Chair of the Libby Harricks Memorial Oration Organising Committee) with 2008 orator A/Professor Bob Cowan, Anthea Green of Australian Hearing, and members of the LHMO Organising Committee David Harricks, Sharan Westcott, Lyndall Carter, Marshall Smither (absent Peter Cipollone)*





Thanks to ACT primary school students with hearing impairment who provided these artworks









## CAPTIONING AWARDS

The 2007 Deafness Forum Captioning Awards were a major success. The award winners were announced at a dinner in Sydney in August 2007.

After the 2007 Captioning Awards, Deafness Forum distributed a survey to all attendees to seek their feedback on the Awards and to inform our preparations for the 2008 Captioning Awards.

Deafness Forum gratefully acknowledges the support of all sponsors, who made this event possible. The assistance of various sponsors is acknowledged in the Financial and In-Kind Support section of this report.

### **2007 Roma Wood OAM Community Award**

Presented to John Byrne

### **2007 Members Choice Award**

Highly commended  
Dora the Explorer (Nickelodeon); Gena Apartments (Caloundra);  
Australia's Next Top Model (FOX8);  
Spongebob (Nickelodeon)  
Winner QANTAS

### **2007 Award for DVD Captioning**

Highly commended ABC  
Winner National Geographic Channel

### **2007 Award for Advertising Captioning**

Winner Area 51 captioning advertisements

### **2007 Award for Pay TV Captioning**

Winner The Great BBQ Challenge Grand Finale Live  
(Lifestyle FOOD Channel)

### **2007 Award for Free to air TV Captioning**

Highly commended 2007 Australian Open, Seven Network

Winner ABC for increasing captioning, and the Anzac Day live captioning coverage

### **2007 Award for Best Promotion of Captioning or Best Consumer Education Campaign**

Winner Glen Street Theatre

### **2007 Award for Best Event Captioning**

Highly commended The Captioning Studio for Libby Harricks Memorial Oration, 9th National Rural Health Conference  
Winner Darebin City Council

### **2007 Award for Most Consistent Use of Captioning**

Highly commended Antiques Roadshow (Lifestyle Channel)  
Winner Disney Channel

### **2007 Award for the Best New Captioning Initiative**

Highly commended The Captioning Studio (Go-Theatrical)  
Winner FOXTEL IQ Upgrade



Department of Families, Housing,  
Community Services and Indigenous Affairs





Best new captioning initiative – Foxtel



Best DVD captioning winner National Geographic Channel, Highly Commended ABC

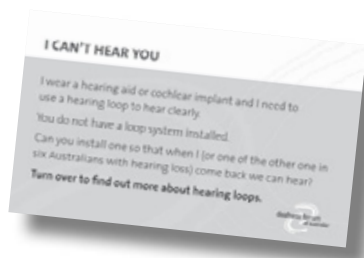


Winner of 2007 Roma Wood Community Awards, John Byrne, pictured with Roma Wood OAM.

## HEARING LOOP CARDS

During 2007-08 Deafness Forum produced 2 sets of hearing loop cards. The business-card sized cards are distributed free to members, to be handed in at venues that either do not have a hearing loop installed, or have a loop which is not switched on or working properly.

The cards are a quick and easy way to complain about induction loops, you can just pass one on to a shop assistant, bank clerk, cinema staff member. The card explains that you need an induction loop to hear clearly, and it asks staff to check if the loop in their premises is working properly. The card has a link to the Deafness Forum website for more information. These loop cards produced with the assistance of Printacall.



## EDUCATIONAL SCHOLARSHIPS

In January 2008 Deafness Forum awarded two educational scholarships to assist students who are Deaf or hearing impaired to pursue further studies. These scholarships were possible through a donation in memory of Joan Binns, and from the proceeds of a silent auction at the 2007 Captioning Awards. The 2008 educational scholars were from NSW and Victoria. Each scholarship is worth \$1,500. There were 20 applications received. A small committee of two Board members assessed the applications and recommended recipients.

## PARENT STEERING COMMITTEE PROJECT

During 2007-08 Deafness Forum had assistance from a final year student from the University of Canberra who was undertaking a Bachelor of Community Education. The student assisted with a project focusing on producing family-centred standards for the early years of a child's life when diagnosed with deafness. The project is still underway as there are currently limited resources to devote to it.

# OUR FINANCIAL SITUATION

Deafness Forum's 2007-08 total income increased by 102,610 compared with 2006-07. This increase was largely associated with sponsorship of the 5th National Deafness Sector Summit. The net profit/loss for the year was \$4,908 compared with a net loss of \$8,514 in the previous year. Full and accurate information regarding the financial situation is in the separate audited financial statements.

As annual reports have noted for some years the Deafness Forum cannot be complacent about its financial future. It continues to be important that Deafness Forum increase its income from other sources, to enable it to maintain operations at minimal levels and provide members and others with the current level of service. As a result, additional sources of income constantly need to be identified and tapped.

## FINANCIAL AND IN-KIND SUPPORT

Deafness Forum gratefully acknowledges the following financial and in-kind support during 2007-08:

GOVERNMENT GRANTS AND OTHER GOVERNMENT FUNDING	
	\$ (GST included)
Department of Families, Community Services and Indigenous Affairs - National Secretariat Program	210,936.00
Department of Families, Community Services and Indigenous Affairs - National Disability Conference Funding	11,165.00
Department of Communications, Information Technology and the Arts - Telecommunications Consumer Representation Grants Program	49,082.00
Department of Broadband, Communications and the Digital Economy - Telecommunications Consumer Representation Grants 2007-2008 Sitting Fee	1,879.50
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>252,721.50</b>

## SPONSORSHIPS

	\$ (GST excluded)
Australian Communication Exchange (2007 Captioning Awards)	5,000
Australian Communication Exchange (2008 Libby Harricks Memorial Oration)	5,500
Australian Hearing (2007 Hearing Awareness Week)	2,000
Australian Hearing (2008 Libby Harricks Memorial Oration)	5,500
ASTRA (2007 Captioning Awards)	3,150
AUSTAR (2007 Captioning Awards)	6,250
Captioning and Subtitling International (2007 Captioning Awards)	1,650
Cochlear (2007 Hearing Awareness Week)	5,000
Cochlear (5th National Deafness Sector Summit)	5,500
Dept of Families, Community Services and Indigenous Affairs (2007 Captioning Awards)	3,150
Disability ACT (5th National Deafness Sector Summit)	1,500
FOXTEL (2007 Captioning Awards)	6,250
Helen King Hearing (2007 Hearing Awareness Week)	1,000
Media Access Australia (2007 Captioning Awards)	3,150
Media Access Australia (5th National Deafness Sector Summit)	4,000
National Auslan Interpreter Booking and Payment Service (5th National Deafness Sector Summit)	5,000
National Relay Service Outreach (5th National Deafness Sector Summit)	5,000
Printacall (Loops Cards)	1,000
Siemens (5th National Deafness Sector Summit)	5,000
Seven Network (2007 Captioning Awards)	12,500
Siemens Hearing Instruments (2007 Hearing Awareness Week)	2,000
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>\$89,100</b>
Captioning and Subtitling International	In kind support through providing stenocaptioning
Printacall	In kind support through providing Hearing Loops
The Captioning Studio	In kind support through providing stenocaptioning

Without the valuable sponsorship we receive, we would not be able to undertake the events and activities we carry out. Your sponsorship is very much appreciated.

## DONATIONS

	\$ (GST exempt)
Dr Harvey Coates	22.60
Caroline Lister	10.00
Kathy Stoddart	262.60
Barry Mackinnon	12.60
Laurie Kellam	50.00
Nathan Parry	62.60
Elizabeth Burgess	26.00
Chris Thompson	1.10
Patricia Laidlaw	200.00
Hugh Ralston	50.00
Linnett Sanchez in memory of Joan Binns	1000.00
Reserve Bank Benevolent Fund	2750.00
Reserve Bank	2750.00
Hearing Retail Group	25.00
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>7,222.50</b>

Donations are greatly appreciated and assist us to undertake work such as producing hearing loop cards, brochures, and awarding scholarships to Deaf and hearing impaired students.

## NATIONAL SECRETARIAT

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[www.hearingawarenessweek.org.au](http://www.hearingawarenessweek.org.au)



