



2017-2018

34th Annual Report



Deaf Victoria Inc.

2017-2018

35th Annual Report

For the financial year ending on 30th June 2017

About Deaf Victoria

Deaf Victoria advocates on behalf of Deaf and Hard of Hearing Victorians to increase access to services and to educate the wider community on how to work, play and study with Deaf and Hard of Hearing people. Deaf Victoria also represents Deaf and Hard of Hearing people in both state government and disability groups.

Vision Statement: A voice for Deaf and Hard of Hearing Victorians.

Mission Statement: Deaf Victoria is a non-profit organisation led and managed by Deaf and Hard of Hearing people through provision of advocacy and information services to strengthen community participation and quality of life for Deaf and Hard of Hearing Victorians.

Contact Us

Office: Level 3, 340 Albert Street,
East Melbourne VIC 3002

Mobile: 0431 476 721 (SMS only)

Email: info@deafvictoria.org.au

Website: www.deafvictoria.org.au

Key Result Areas

Empowerment, Access and Advocacy

To provide activities related to empowerment of community, access to everyday life and advocacy to Deaf and Hard of Hearing individuals and groups to produce systematic and systemic improvements in social justice and human rights.

Government Relationships and Stakeholder Partnerships

To influence and provide advice to government departments and service organisations of Deaf and Hard of Hearing people on issues pertaining to the Deaf community and Hard of Hearing people. To partner with stakeholders to deliver programs, events and workshops to the community.

Deaf Youth Victoria

To provide support groups, workshops and camps for Deaf and Hard of Hearing youths in Victoria on issues based around Empowerment, Access and Advocacy.

Organisational Sustainability

To maintain sound financial management and human resources of the organisation.

Deaf Victoria wishes to acknowledge the Department of Health and Human Services (DHHS) for their continuing funding of this organisation.

Board & Staff



Mija Gwyn
President



Ryan Malonda
Vice President



Margherita Coppolino
Secretary



Matthew Norman
Treasurer



Julia Murphy
*Deaf Youth Victoria
Representative*



Alexander Teh
Board Director



Sherrie Beaver
*Policy & Community
Engagement Officer*



Simon Andersson
Advocacy Officer



President's Report

Mija Gwyn

It has been another busy year for Deaf Victoria!

We had a number of co-opt Board Members join us this year; Margherita Coppolino, Ryan Malonda, Julia Murphy, Matthew Norman, and Alexander Teh. A big thank you to them for committing their time and energy to supporting Deaf Victoria.

We also had Simon Andersson join the Deaf Victoria team, as our Advocacy Officer. Sherrie Beaver took on the role of Policy & Community Engagement Officer. They've both worked very hard this year to ensure that Deaf and hard of hearing people continue to have representation in the community.

As per our new Strategic Plan for 2018 - 2023, which we are now launching, we've continued our work responding to the issues facing Deaf and hard of hearing Victorians, including access to interpreting, health and wellbeing and access to quality education.

An example of this in our work for 2017 - 2018 is the Mental Health Interpreting Project, funded by the Disability Advocacy Innovation Fund. In the first half of 2018 Deaf Victoria worked with ASLIA Victoria and Monash University to develop the curriculum of the course. The course structure was informed by input that we received from focus groups that included Deaf people and interpreters. The course is designed to increase the skills and confidence of interpreters when they are working in the mental health sector. This will in turn lead to better outcomes for Deaf people who need interpreting in this setting.



President's Report

Mija Gwyn

Earlier this year we also participated in the #Deafshare project facilitated by Expression Australia (formerly Vicdeaf), with Sherrie sharing information about emergency interpreting.

In the second half of 2017 Expression Australia and Deaf Victoria partnered to arrange a visit from Heather Harker, the Chief of Staff of the President's Office at Gallaudet University. Heather spoke at Deaf Victoria AGM last year about the Deaf President Now movement at Gallaudet University, and leadership in the Deaf community.

I want to thank our staff, Board members, partners, funders, and most importantly, the Deaf and hard of hearing community for their hard work, support and feedback this year.



Policy & Community Engagement Officer

Sherrie Beaver

It is my pleasure to present my report for 2017-2018 as the Policy & Community Engagement Officer.

The last 12 months at Deaf Victoria has been busy, although it is constantly a learning curve as we continue to engage with our stakeholders, particularly deaf and hard of hearing Victorians.

My main focus this year was continuing working on the Mental Health Interpreting Project. We conducted focus groups earlier this year which allowed us to collect data for Monash University to use so they could design the course content and curriculum. We also worked closely with ASLIA Victoria and Julie Judd to oversee this project. The mental health interpreting training course has been developed and is due to be delivered in November 2018. This project was funded by the Disability Advocacy Innovation Fund through the Department of Human and Health Services.

We also worked on finalising the Strategic Plan for 2018-2023. This also included translating the Plan into Auslan and editing the video to be ready for public release. Special thanks goes to Sign Language Video Productions at Vicdeaf (now Expression Australia) for allowing us to use their studio and equipment.

We continued our partnership with ASLIA Victoria, and we have had a number of discussions on issues within the interpreting industry. ASLIA Victoria and Deaf Victoria have been preparing for the NDIS 101 - a community forum for deaf and hard of hearing people and interpreters to learn more about the NDIS and its impact on everyone involved.

In late 2017, we entered discussions with Melbourne Star on how they can provide a better experience for deaf and hard of hearing people. This was due to a group of Deaf people making complaints to the tourist attraction based on their policy. After a couple of months of discussions, Melbourne Star has revised their policy and installed a communications system where deaf and hard of hearing people are given a mobile phone prior to entering the attraction so they will be able to communicate with the ground staff in the event of an emergency. This is a great example of systemic advocacy and what Deaf Victoria can do for a group of deaf and hard of hearing people in Victoria.

We have begun revising on Deaf Victoria's inquiry into Auslan interpreting in Victorian hospitals as we have been receiving more complaints about the lack of provision of Auslan interpreters upon request at hospitals across Victoria. This will be our main focus for 2019.

As we enter 2018-2019 financial year, we are looking forward to continuing our work with deaf and hard of hearing people, our partnership with esteemed stakeholders, and making the world a better place for deaf and hard of hearing people in Victoria.

It has been a privilege to work with the Board and our Advocacy Officer Simon Andersson, and our stakeholders and partners during 2017-2018.

I look forward to continuing the good work we do to make the world a better place for deaf and hard of hearing Victorians.



Advocacy Report

Simon Andersson

It has been wonderful to start work with Deaf Victoria April this year. Deaf Victoria has been a big part of my life - I was old enough to remember when it was founded in 1982, and have always keenly watched the activities of Deaf Victoria (or Victorian Council of Deaf People as it was known before). I particularly remember one advocacy case that DV (VCOD) supported me when I asked the RACV to provide a text messaging service for the breakdown service back in 2001. And now here I am as the Advocacy Officer for Deaf Victoria!

My role is to provide advocacy services for individual Deaf or hard of hearing people in Victoria. That means if any Deaf person has any issue that they want to raise or advocate for, but need support or advice, they can come to me.

Issues that I have advocated for Deaf and hard of hearing people from April to June this year include:

- education
- employment
- NDIS
- health and hospitals
- access to interpreting



Advocacy Report

Simon Andersson

I work closely with Sherrie Beaver, our Policy and Community Engagement Officer, on systemic advocacy for the issues that Deaf and hard of hearing people have brought up with us. Sherrie is responsible for systemic advocacy, meaning that she advocates for issues that impact many Deaf people in Victoria. One example is where we are looking at Auslan interpreting at hospitals following a number of individual cases brought up with me.

Another area that I work on is looking at how to develop peer advocacy for the Deaf and hard of hearing community in Victoria. This is where Deaf and hard of hearing people support each other in advocating for the issues that are important to them. One example of peer advocacy out there is a Facebook group for Deaf participants in the NDIS where Deaf people share their issues and get ideas and advice from each other.

How can Deaf Victoria develop Deaf and hard of hearing peer advocacy further? I have submitted a application to the University of Melbourne for a Community Fellowship to research this further.

I am also looking forward to exploring how advocacy and peer advocacy services work in the United Kingdom in July, developing my understanding of advocacy further.

Deaf Victoria Inc.
Balance Sheet
As of June 30, 2018

	<u>Total</u>
Assets	
Current Assets	
Cash and cash equivalents	0.00
Petty Cash	103.60
WBC Cash Res. #3505	21,359.10
WBC Cash Res. Bonus #3456	65,241.04
WBC Cheq. Acc #0705	219,530.60
Total Current Assets	A\$ 306,234.34
Long-term assets	
Office Equipment	
Office Equipment - Accum. Dep	-12,736.00
Office Equipment - Original cost	16,442.82
Total Office Equipment	A\$ 3,706.82
Total long-term assets	A\$ 3,706.82
Total Assets	A\$ 309,941.16
Liabilities and shareholder's equity	
Current liabilities:	
Credit Card - ending 9237	0.00
BAS Liabilities Payable	0.38
BAS Suspense	9,156.00
Grant Received in Advance	0.00
PAYG Withholdings Payable	0.00
Payroll Clearing	0.00
Payroll liabilities	
Salary Sacrifice Payable	0.00
Superannuation Payable	1,232.96
Total Payroll liabilities	A\$ 1,232.96
Suspense	0.00
Total current liabilities	A\$ 10,389.34
Non-current liabilities:	
Deaf Youth Victoria	605.27
Total non-current liabilities	A\$ 605.27
Shareholders' equity:	
Net Income	90,751.54
Opening Balance Equity	115,581.33
Retained Earnings	92,613.68
Total shareholders' equity	A\$ 298,946.55
Total liabilities and equity	A\$ 309,941.16

Deaf Victoria Inc.
Profit and Loss
 July 2017 - June 2018

	<u>Total</u>
Income	
DHHS Grant	185,735.27
Donations	66.06
Sales	3,050.00
Sales of Product Income	693.83
Workshops and Training	740.91
Total Income	A\$ 190,286.07
Cost of Sales	
Freight and delivery - COS	15.00
Total Cost of Sales	A\$ 15.00
Gross Profit	A\$ 190,271.07
Other Income(Loss)	
Interest income	966.44
Total Other Income(Loss)	A\$ 966.44
Expenses	
Advertising	701.63
Bank charges	75.00
Board	496.00
Computer Expenses	375.07
Conference	644.82
Contractor Expenses	5,070.92
Deaf Market Expenses	1,199.56
Gift	518.63
Insurance - Workcover	1,421.47
Interpreting and Captioning	940.00
Meals and entertainment	1,056.78
Membership/Affiliation Fees	978.64
Mobile Phone	939.19
Other general and administrative expenses	7,614.22
Project Costs	21,416.50
Rent or lease payments	6,499.94
Software	699.73
Stationery and printing	10.55
Superannuation	3,867.69
Travel expenses	1,487.87
Travel expenses - general and admin	25.54
Travel expenses - Meals	16.09
Travel expenses - Vehicle , Taxi and	
Parking	174.84
Venue Hire	3,065.45
Wage expenses	41,103.52
Website	86.32
Total Expenses	A\$ 100,485.97
Net Earnings	A\$ 90,751.54