

ANNUAL REPORT 2020-21



WELCOME

Welcome to the Deaf Victoria Annual Report for the Financial Year 2020-21. This report serves to represent the organisation's activities and achievements during the Financial Year 1 July 2020 to 30 June 2021. However, given the compilation of the report and the AGM falls in November 2021, some highlights in the report - particularly those undertaken in the first months of Financial Year 2020-21 are mentioned.



ACKNOWLEDGEMENT OF COUNTRY

Deaf Victoria acknowledges that we work on the unceded lands of the Wurundjeri People of the Kulin Nation. Deaf Victoria also acknowledges the continuous care and connections of all Aboriginal lands and waterways across Victoria. We acknowledge all Traditional Owners, Elders and Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people as the custodians of lands and waters ways across Australia. We pay our respect to their Elders past, present and emerging.

TABLE OF CONTENTS

04	ABOUT US
05	BOARD AND STAFF MEMBERS
06	PRESIDENT'S REPORT
08	GENERAL MANAGER'S REPORT
10	ADVOCACY IN ACTION
12	PROJECTS
16	TREASURER'S REPORT
18	REVIEW OF DEAF VICTORIA FINANCES
22	THANK YOU - PARTNERS & SUPPORTERS
23	DEAF SECTOR COLLABORATORS

ABOUT DEAF VICTORIA

WHO ARE WE?

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 interests in both in state government and other advisory groups.

PURPOSE

To advance the needs and aspirations of deaf and hard of hearing people, breaking down barriers and building foundations for a society that acknowledges and celebrates their contributions and capabilities.

VISION STATEMENT

Deaf and hard of hearing people experience equality, opportunity and connection, and are valued for their unique contributions towards a diverse society.

VALUES



AUTHENTICITY

We are the deaf and hard of hearing people's representative organisation in Victoria, engaging deeply with our stakeholders and advocating for human rights and equal opportunities using our shared lived experience and knowledge.



CONNECTION

We are a force for connecting deaf and hard of hearing stakeholders, to each other, to community, to advocacy services and to opportunities for a fulfilling life.



COLLABORATION

We work strategically and generously with partners to build support for campaigns and service responses that address the needs and aspirations of deaf and hard of hearing stakeholders.



JUSTICE

We work using social justice models with deaf and hard of hearing people at the heart of everything we do, to tackle the barriers to a fulfilling life.



Deaf Victoria wishes to thank and acknowledge Deaf Australia as the national representative body for deaf, deafblind and hard of hearing people. Deaf Australia and Deaf Victoria work collaboratively on many issues to further our shared vision for the Deaf Community.

BOARD

AND STAFF MEMBERS



CATHERINE CLARK
PRESIDENT



NICHOLAS STEER
VICE-PRESIDENT



RYAN MALONDA
TREASURER



KARTHIK VIJAYANANDAM
SECRETARY
(until Dec 2020)



STEPHANIE McDONALD
SECRETARY
(Dec 2020-present)



RACHAEL BRISBANE
BOARD MEMBER



OLIVIA BEASLEY
BOARD MEMBER



HANNAH BRITTON
BOARD MEMBER



PHILIP WATERS
GENERAL MANAGER



CATHERINE DUNN
ADVOCACY AND
OUTREACH OFFICER



SHERRIE BEAVER
PROJECTS AND
RESEARCH OFFICER



SARA WEIR
OUTREACH AND
COMMUNICATIONS OFFICER



MAXINE BUXTON
INTERIM
GENERAL MANAGER



- CLICK IMAGE -
for Auslan video.

PRESIDENT'S REPORT

by CATHERINE CLARK



“...As I reflect on the past 12 months, Deaf Victoria now has a **stronger brand and is in a good position financially.**”

As Victoria continues to be impacted by COVID-19, Deaf Victoria maintained our response to an increasing number of advocacy requests, media interviews and provided advice to the Victorian government to ensure that members of our community continued to receive appropriate and increased access to information and were considered in the COVID response like other minority groups. The workload of our staff increased tenfold during this time.

As I reflect on the past 12 months, Deaf Victoria now has a stronger brand and is in a good position financially. We have successfully delivered key government projects acquired in 2020 and as a result significantly improved engagement with the wider community, our back of house systems and created stronger policy and procedures

for both the Board and the staff. Our ability to deliver projects increased our public profile; enhanced our reputation as the 'go to' organisation on matters relating to deaf, deafblind and hard of hearing Victorians. We became known within the disability, advocacy and community development sectors as a responsive, well-regarded organisation that is for and led by Deaf people. This is a wonderful testament to the hard work of the Board and staff.

I would like to thank Maxine Buxton who stepped down as General Manager when Philip Waters was appointed. Max continues to work with us part-time as Manager, Partnerships and Communications. I also acknowledge the hard work of our staff Cate, Sherrie and Sara. The commitment, teamwork and achievements of our small team is reflected in the information contained in this annual report.

One of the Board's goals in the last 12 months was to recruit a deaf professional into the role of General manager, as Maxine's appointment was always temporary. We successfully recruited Philip Waters who began with us in June 2021. The Board looks forward to working with Philip to review our Strategic Plan and continue to deliver advocacy and enable Victoria to be an inclusive state for all Deaf and hard of hearing Victorians.

I'd like to thank my fellow Board members, for their patience, advice, support and guidance throughout the last 12 months. I particularly want to say a special thank you and farewell to our outgoing directors: Nicholas Steer and Rachel Brisbane who led the Governance sub-committee which resulted significant improvements to our constitution which were approved at the last AGM. Further, Karthik Vijayanandam and Steph Macdonald who are also retiring at the AGM, both undertook the important role of the Secretary to support the effectiveness of Board- particularly minute taking and preparing of agenda and board papers which are important but often thankless tasks.

In closing, as I have informed the board, this was my last term as President. As members will be aware, after the AGM the board must elect the new executive team (President, Vice President, Treasurer and Secretary) at their first meeting. Rather than re-elect for President, I will remain as an ordinary board member until our next AGM to support and work alongside the incoming President of Deaf Victoria. It has been a pleasure to lead Deaf Victoria and I look forward to seeing our organisation continue to grow and prosper.

Catherine Clark
President, Deaf Victoria



- CLICK IMAGE -
for Auslan video.

GENERAL MANAGER'S REPORT

by MAXINE BUXTON
and PHILIP WATERS



INTERIM GENERAL MANAGER
May '20- June '21



GENERAL MANAGER
Appointed June '21

Deaf Victoria staff and I have been adjusting to working and living during COVID-19 times that continued well into 2021. This had many impacts on our community and the work we do at Deaf Victoria. Probably the biggest in terms of our team make up was the need to push out the recruitment of our new General Manager even further than planned. What was meant to be an interim post in the GM chair extended out to just over 12 months and in

these strange times whilst this was not ideal, in the end we were able to successfully recruit a wonderful new General Manager, Philip Waters in June 2021. Given the time of Philip's arrival and the fact that this report and the AGM is held in November, this report has been compiled together. This is also indicative of the way in which we worked extensively to "handover" the GM role.

One of the most pleasing things to see over the last 12 months has been the increased profile of the organisation both within the Deaf community as well as the broader government, disability and social services sectors. This has allowed us to work within the confines of our individual advocacy service funding but, with increased capacity to

escalate individual concerns to obtain broader community outcomes. Some examples of this have been our submissions and input into processes such as:

- Parliamentary Inquiry into access for TAFE learners with a disability;
- Victorian Law Reform review on Deaf Jurors;
- Disability Standards for Education Review;
- NDIA independent Assessments;
- Commonwealth Adult Literacy Review, and the
- State Disability Plan.

Many of these submissions have resulted in further action or follow up for advice from Deaf Victoria and really help to put Deaf community issues on a broader agenda. As a result of our submission, Deaf Victoria was invited to give evidence to the Victorian TAFE Parliamentary enquiry via Zoom earlier this year. Also, pleasingly and in response to our Mental Health submission to the Victorian Mental Health review in 2019, the final report released by the Victorian Government this year made reference to various points from our submission and several recommendations are relevant to deaf, deafblind and hard of hearing people. This shows the true value of investing in this work for the Deaf Community's long term gain.

Over this last 12 months and even more so recently, we have also further strengthened our relationship with various government departments including our advocacy service funder- the Office for Disability within the Department of Families, Fairness and Housing. We have also worked with the Department of Health, Department of Premier and Cabinet, and the Department of Education and Training (and the Victorian Deaf Education Institute- VDEI). In part due to these relationships, we have been invited to apply for further funding or give input on government programs that may impact our community.

Our team has also sought to provide practical solutions to the issues we know our community faces every day and hopefully this report will give you some insights on how we do this through our advocacy service, projects and via communication and engagement strategies.

In closing, I'd like to thank the board and staff for all their support and enthusiasm during my time. In particular Cathy Clark for her fierce and strategic leadership and long-term staff Sherrie Beaver and Catherine Dunn who despite all the challenges we shared, were an absolute pleasure to work alongside. I'm so excited to pass the baton on to your new General Manager, Philip Waters and know that I don't need to wish him or the organisation "good luck"- we are definitely on the right track and the only way is up!

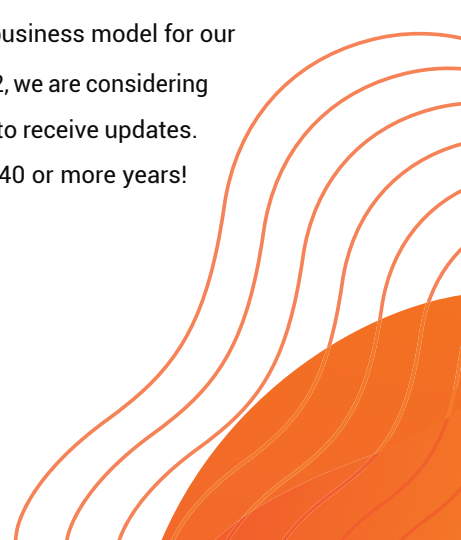
With the increase in vaccination numbers and easing of restrictions, we can finally look forward!

Key things I'd like to achieve in this role are operationalising our strategic plan, developing a business model for our sustainability and... excitingly celebrate Deaf Victoria's 40th birthday! As we were founded in 1982, we are considering ways to mark this occasion, so make sure you are connected to our communication channels to receive updates. We hope to commemorate this with you, as we collectively look with anticipation to the next 40 or more years!

#DeafTogether

Maxine Buxton
Interim General Manager, Deaf Victoria

Philip Waters
General Manager, Deaf Victoria



ADVOCACY

INDIVIDUAL ADVOCACY AND OUTREACH SERVICES FUNDED BY THE DEPARTMENT OF FAMILIES, FAIRNESS AND HOUSING (DFFH)

Advocacy and Outreach by CATHERINE DUNN and SARA WEIR

With all these lockdowns since our last AGM, it is easy to forget that it has only been just one year! The COVID-19 pandemic and vaccination roll out continued to provide a platform for our community in highlighting our right to access information. We loved seeing the community's advocacy efforts through social media with #WhereIsTheInterpreter, Deaf influencers and Deaf awareness going viral - the good kind!

The addition of our Information and Communication's officer, Sara Weir, really strengthened the work of our Individual Advocacy Service as we were able to develop campaigns highlighting the community's voice. You may also recall seeing Lauren Fox and Anthony Young on our social media as they shared their experiences with the Victorian Government's COVID-19 press conferences and lack of accessibility. Likewise, Tony Tran who came to us in relation to the Optus #SignYes campaign. As a result of these individual complaints, we were able to escalate these matters and work with relevant parties like the Department of Premier and Cabinet and the Department of Health in relation to the press conferences, and with Deaf Australia in relation to the Optus #SignYes campaign. It is pleasing that given the opportunity and the right approach, government departments and organisations will liaise with Deaf Victoria to make amends when individual and community expectations have not been met.

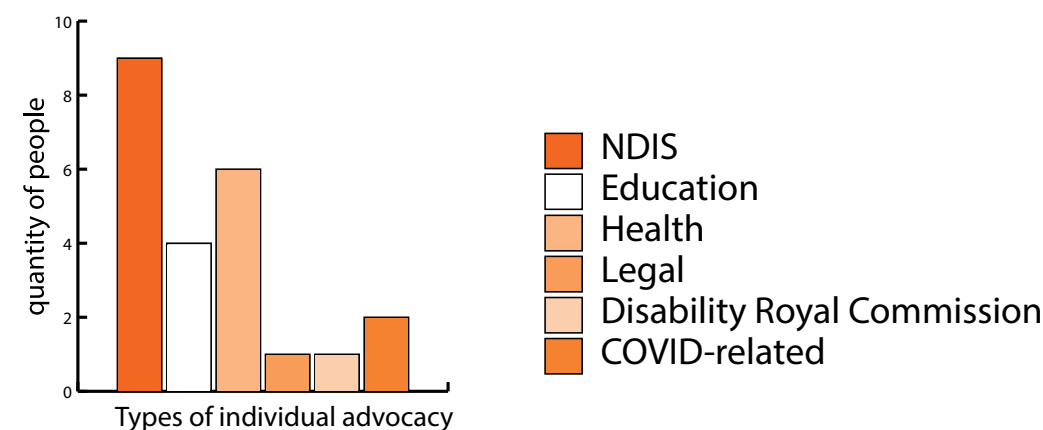
Whilst we are very excited to be #DeafTogether face to face at our AGM, we feel extremely lucky to have remained connected to the community throughout the year with our online Advocacy Forums where we discussed barriers that community members were facing. We also chatted with 278 people via email inquiries! Our Individual Advocacy Service continued to evolve throughout lockdowns as we provided support to Deaf, Deafblind and hard of hearing Victorians all around the state. In between lockdowns, we were also fortunate enough to be able to visit Bendigo to deliver a Self-Advocacy workshop and the John Pierce Centre through our COVID-19 Outreach Project. The pandemic has definitely provided us the opportunity to engage with community members with online appointments which have become the norm. However, we continue to consider how digital literacy and accessibility proves an ongoing barrier for many.

Not only did our connection to community members through our Individual Advocacy Service not waver in the last year, but indeed it strengthened! Deaf Victoria is committed to working with a diverse range of people regardless of age, gender, sexual orientation, location, language preference or cultural and linguistically diverse background. Therefore, we were excited when the Department of Families, Fairness and Housing (DFFH) who fund our Individual Advocacy Service through the Victorian Disability Advocacy Program, announced that data collection of gender will include options outside the gender binary. This means we are excited to support Deaf, Deafblind and hard of hearing people respectfully, no matter their gender!

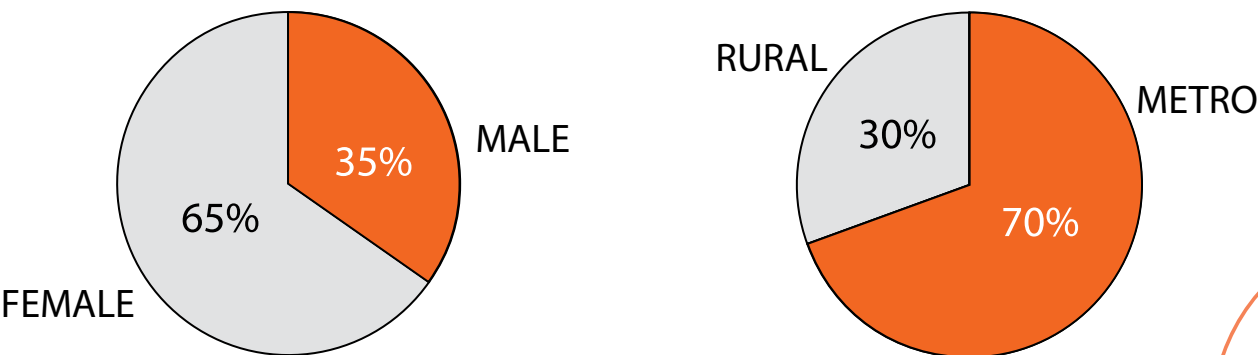
Our service did support more people from metropolitan areas rather than rural Victoria, however we recognise that there was more demand from metropolitan Victorians severely impacted by COVID-19 restrictions. Whilst COVID-19 was the obvious trend for demand of our Individual Access Service, the most frequent requests for support were in relation to the NDIS, access to healthcare and education.

As we wrap up another Financial Year, we want to say thank you for all those who engaged with our service as we persisted through the pandemic together. Our Individual Advocacy Service will continue to be available for appointments flexibly either face to face in our office or online to suit your needs. We hope to be able to visit and see you around in the community soon!

Types of individual advocacy for people who have signed on to the service



Individual Advocacy service users demographics*



*Please note: our data collection of gender within the binary male and female categories was mandated by our service funding data collection purposes. We are excited to be able to let individuals self-identify in relations to their gender moving forward!

PROJECTS

PROJECT WORK TACKLING SYSTEMIC ADVOCACY ISSUES AND CAPACITY BUILDING TO PROMOTE A MORE ACCESSIBLE MAINSTREAM SOCIETY AND RESILIENT DEAF COMMUNITY.

Projects, Comms & Resources by SHERRIE BEAVER and SARA WEIR

At Deaf Victoria, we use grants to implement projects that address systematic issues and barriers identified through our individual advocacy service. Through projects, we are given opportunities to build on and develop partnerships with like-minded organisations within the deaf sector and in the mainstream such as research, health, education and so on. It also gives us the capacity to grow our reputation and to promote essential information such as improving services to meet the needs of deaf and hard of hearing community and making spaces welcoming for deaf, deafblind and hard of hearing people.

DEAF VICTORIA CAPACITY BUILDING PROJECT

funded by NDIA's Information, Linkages and Capacity Building Grant.

The aim of this project was to strengthen Deaf Victoria's capacity as more effective user-led organisation representing deaf, deafblind and hard of hearing Victorians, as well as to empower deaf community to advocate for themselves and to break down barriers. We undertook a number of activities for the community as well as internally for the organisation to build capacity.

Activities included:

- Advocacy & Human Rights workshops, with Melissa Hale and Philip Waters in October 2020
- Self-Advocacy Toolkit launched September 2020.
- Indigenous Cultural Competency Training for Board and staff in August 2020.
- Development of Governance Training for the Board, led by Gavin Balharrie and Phil Harper, with assistance from Expression Australia and Impact Co.
- Development of Evaluation Toolkit with Impact Co.
- Training provided to board and staff to assist in migration to MS Teams to modernise cloud storage and online collaborations.

Project Partners: Disability Advocacy Resource Unit (DARU), Victorian Equal Opportunity & Human Rights Commission (VEOHRC), Expression Australia, Bendigo Deaf Hub and Impact Co.

This project concluded in late 2020.

ADVOCATING FOR YOURSELF

Step by Step

- 1 What do you want?**
Think of your needs for accessibility
- 2 Who can give it to you?**
Policies, agencies, admin staff
- 3 What do they need to hear?**
Focus on IMPACT and RISK. Offer SOLUTION
- 4 Who do they need to hear from?**
YOU, an Advocate or VEOHRC
- 5 How do they need to hear it?**
Put everything in written, an Advocate or VEOHRC

- SCAN CODE -
for Auslan video.

HEALTH ADVOCACY PROJECT

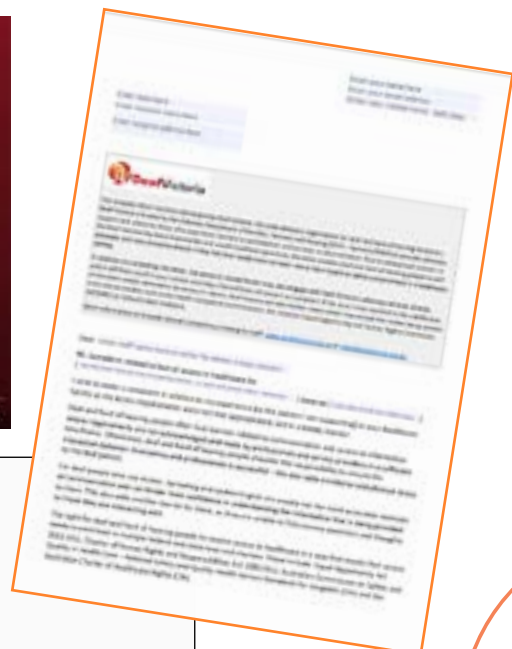
funded by the Victorian Government's Advocacy Futures Grant.

Building on Deaf Victoria's previous work in the healthcare system and accessibility, this project aimed to consult with the deaf community around Victoria to gather data about their experiences with accessing the hospital system then develop tools to improve this access.

Activities included:

- Community consultations through survey and focus groups. A total of 124 people responded to the survey and 14 people participated in the focus groups.
- Self-advocacy graphics for use at hospitals & healthcare facilities
- Self-advocacy videos for use at hospitals & healthcare facilities
- Generic complaint letter for community members to download and use when raising concerns or complaints with hospitals/healthcare providers
- Deaf Cultural Competency Training (DCCT) developed for healthcare professionals
- Comprehensive desktop and literature review of relevant legislation, policies and service delivery models
- Final report with data and extensive recommendations

Project partners: Health Issues Centre, Alfred Health, ASLIA Victoria/Tasmania, Expression Australia, Aspex Consulting. This project concluded in mid-2021.



PROJECTS

NATIONAL DISABILITY RESEARCH PROJECT

funded by the National Disability Research Agenda.

The aim of this project was to consult with deaf and hard of hearing people around Australia envisaging the future of research led by deaf, hard of hearing and deafblind people, and to influence the development of the National Disability Research Agenda to be adopted by the Commonwealth Government.

Activities included:

- Community consultations (in-person and online) held in Sydney and Brisbane.
- National-focused community consultations held via livestream on Facebook and Zoom.
- Compilation of final report for consideration into the national Disability Research Agenda.

This report is also publicly available on our website for the community.

Project partners: Expression Australia with support from Deaf Australia, state Deaf Societies and Deakin University.

This project concluded in mid-2021.



“AUSLAN IN THE CITY” PROJECT

funded by the Social Innovation Partnerships Programme at City of Melbourne.

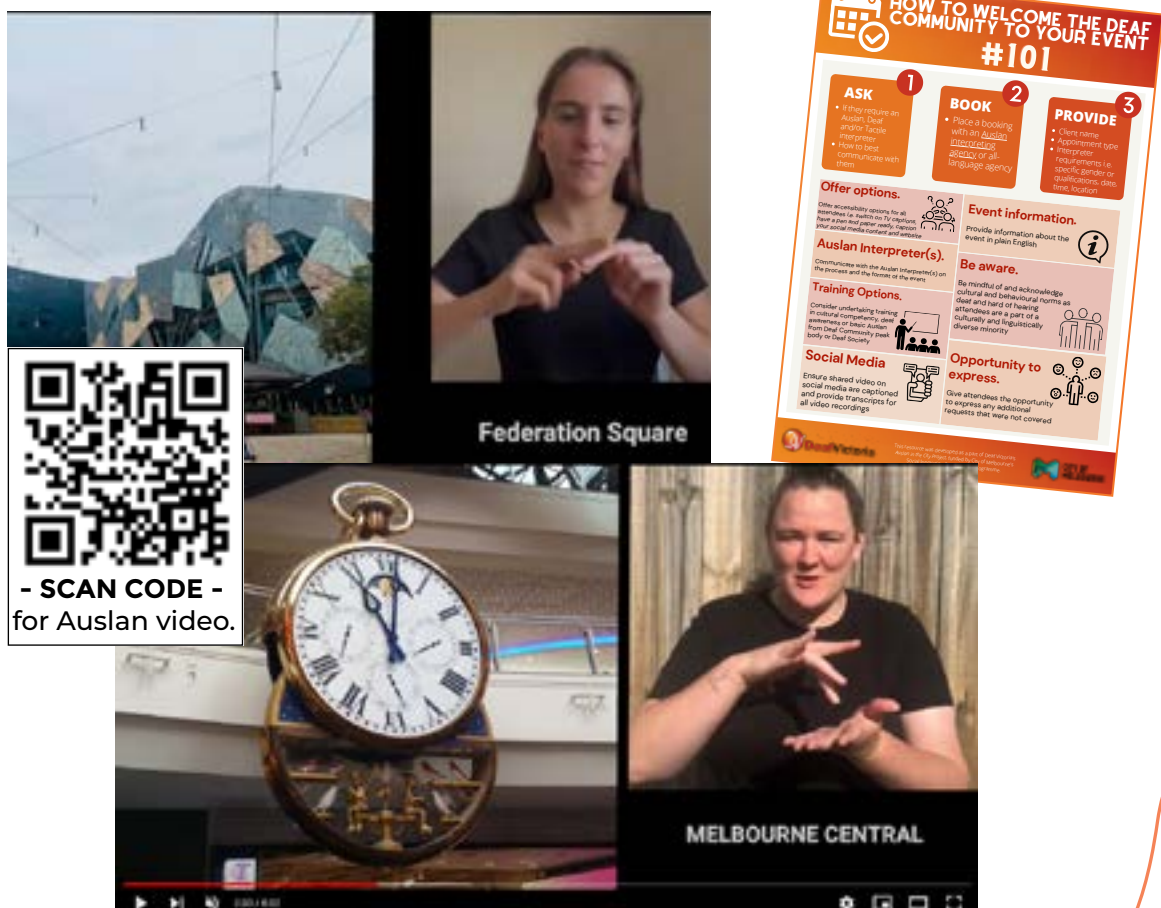
This project aimed to increase the ability of people working, studying, living and visiting the City of Melbourne to become confident with communicating in Auslan and to encourage them to consider studying Auslan further, with input from the Deaf community who will also get an opportunity to be recognised as equal citizens in the City of Melbourne.

Activities included:

- Community contributed videos of Auslan signs for Melbourne landmarks & attractions and common phrases. These videos were gifted to landmarks, attractions and venues around Melbourne.
- Auslan 101 at Sunday Ideas Market as part of Melbourne Knowledge Week, Sunday 2nd May 2021.
- Comprehensive information kits for the City of Melbourne as well as landmarks, attractions and venues on how to be deaf community inclusive and welcoming
- Media kit for City of Melbourne as well as landmarks, attractions and venues on appropriate deaf representation in media posts and guidelines for posting during National Week of Deaf People.

Project partners: Expression Australia.

This project concluded in mid-late 2021.



- CLICK IMAGE -
for Auslan video.

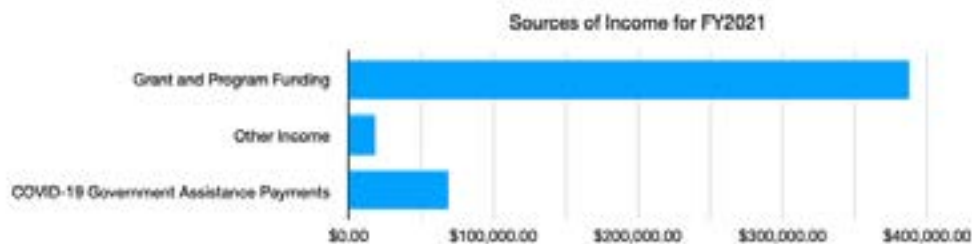


TREASURER'S REPORT

by RYAN MALONDA

On behalf of the Board, I present to the members my Treasurer's Report of Deaf Victoria's finances across 1 July 2020 to 30 June 2021, representing Financial Year 2021 (FY2021). After Victorians experienced extraordinary long lockdowns and a multitude of restrictions throughout 2020, little did we expect that we would continue to experience these all throughout 2021. It has been a tough 2020 and 2021 for many of us, especially the Deaf community with the ongoing requirements to wear masks. I'm very pleased that now at the time of presenting this report (November 2021) that masks are no longer required in most low-risk situations, which is great for our communication as Deaf and Hard of Hearing people. I hope that going forward, we have 'COVID Normal' and never have to relive our experiences of 2020 and 2021. I hope you are all readjusting and making the most of being able to see your friends and families and do the things you love.

In FY2021, our income amounted to \$474,838 (+5% compared to FY2020). The majority of this income came from the Department of Families, Fairness and Housing (DFFH) which you will see in our reports listed as "Grant and Program Funding". Additionally, we were fortunate to receive COVID-19 Government Assistance Payments (such as Cash Flow Boost and JobKeeper) listed as "COVID-19 Government Assistance Payments" which helped keep us afloat at times where the pandemic had peak impact on our operations.



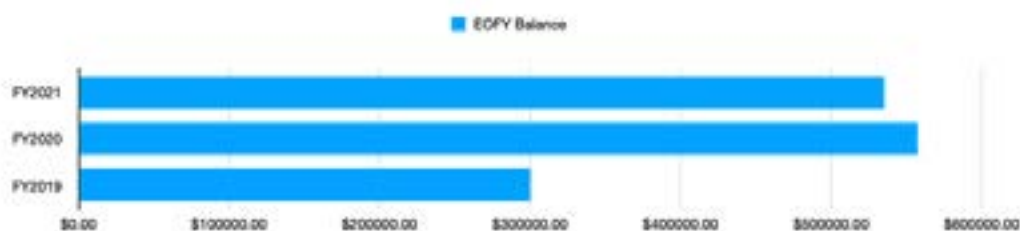
Our members may recall in last year many of our projects stalled due to the uncertainty of working within the pandemic and our expenditure in FY2020 was just \$195,080. In FY2021 we managed to get traction with many of our projects and bring on additional resources (such as staff or external input) to help us with our objectives. This is evident in our expenditure of \$497,079 (+155% compared to FY2020). It is great sign that despite the pandemic, we were still able to obtain and utilise our grant funding for our various projects. We were incredibly fortunate that despite the impact of the pandemic, we were able to push forward, grow and succeed. This would not have been possible without the hard work of the Deaf Victoria General Manager and staff, demonstrating an incredible amount of resilience and determination.



In FY2021 we did not close with earnings, we closed off with a deficit of \$22,241 (compared to a surplus of \$257,026 in FY2020). This is not indicative of insufficient funds, rather the appropriate spending of funds given the surplus of funds we had in FY2020 that should have been spent. We are a not-for-profit organisation and does not set out to make a profit, we aim to apply for grants and spend it accordingly. In fact, when we are given money to deliver a project, we must spend these funds or may have to return them.



Overall, our financial position remains healthy, with our total equity remaining positive across the last three Financial Years with the variance within an acceptable tolerance.



In preparation of this report and in line with our commitment from last year, we sought to have another formal review of our finances. This was completed by Ryk Eksteen from Collins & Co Audit Pty Ltd. As a result of this review, we are satisfied that our financial accounts are being managed appropriately with greater oversight to ensure we are accountable and sustainable as an organisation.

As a result of this financial review, we received advice from the Financial Reviewer and our Financial Controller that Deaf Victoria would benefit from moving from the Cash Basis accounting method to the Non-Cash Based Accruals accounting method. Because we are growing as an organisation, this move allows us to better understand our overall financial activity and financial position, as it takes into account expected payments and expenses even if the transaction has yet to occur. This looks to be a better solution for us in FY2022.

Graphs contained within this report are for a visual indication only, please refer to our Statement of Profit and Loss as well as our Statement of Financial Position for greater detail. The full Special Purpose Financial Report can be obtained by members upon request and is provided to the Australian Charities and Not-for-profits Commission in line with our obligations as a not-for-profit entity.

Ryan Malonda
Treasurer, Deaf Victoria

FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

DEAF VICTORIA INC ABN 62 495 643 645 STATEMENT OF PROFIT OR LOSS FOR THE YEAR ENDED 30 JUNE 2021		
	2021 \$	2020 \$
INCOME		
Grant & Program Funding Income	387,770	428,708
Other Income	18,190	2,220
COVID-19 Government Assistance Payments	68,878	21,178
TOTAL INCOME	474,838	452,106
EXPENDITURE		
Administrative Expenses	123,046	26,599
Depreciation Expenses	579	4,141
Employee Related Expenses	373,454	164,340
TOTAL EXPENDITURE	497,079	195,080
NET SURPLUS/(DEFICIT) ATTRIBUTABLE TO THE ASSOCIATION	(22,241)	257,026

FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

DEAF VICTORIA INC
ABN 62 495 643 645
STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL POSITION AS AT 30 JUNE 2021

	2021 \$	2020 \$
CURRENT ASSETS		
Cash and Cash Equivalents	620,393	616,349
Trade and Other Receivables	46,860	6,580
TOTAL CURRENT ASSETS	<u>667,253</u>	<u>622,929</u>
NON-CURRENT ASSETS		
Furniture and Equipment	723	1,302
TOTAL NON-CURRENT ASSETS	<u>723</u>	<u>1,302</u>
TOTAL ASSETS	<u>667,976</u>	<u>624,231</u>
CURRENT LIABILITIES		
Trade and Other Payable	110,160	21,944
Income Received in Advance	-	34,462
Employment Entitlement Provisions	15,081	7,436
TOTAL CURRENT LIABILITIES	<u>125,241</u>	<u>63,842</u>
NON-CURRENT LIABILITIES		
Employment Entitlement Provisions	7,712	3,125
TOTAL NON-CURRENT LIABILITIES	<u>7,712</u>	<u>3,125</u>
TOTAL LIABILITIES	<u>132,953</u>	<u>66,967</u>
NET ASSETS	<u>535,023</u>	<u>557,264</u>
EQUITY		
Accumulated funds	535,023	557,264
	<u>535,023</u>	<u>557,264</u>



TOWARDS A VISION SHARED


**Collins & Co
Audit Pty Ltd**

 127 Paisley Street
Footscray VIC 3011
Australia

 Phone (03) 9680 1000
Fax (03) 9689 6605

www.collinsco.com.au

Independent Reviewer's Review Report To the Members of Deaf Victoria Inc

Report on the Financial Report

I have reviewed the accompanying financial report of Deaf Victoria Inc, which comprises the statement of financial position as at 30 June 2021, the statement of comprehensive income, statement of changes in equity and statement of cash flows for the financial year ended on that date, notes comprising a summary of significant accounting policies and other explanatory information, and the Committee Members' declaration.

Committee Members' Responsibility for the Financial Report

The Committee Members of the Association are responsible for the preparation of the financial report that gives a true and fair view in accordance with the Australian Accounting Standards, the Associations Incorporation Reform Act 2012 (Victoria) and the Australian Charities and Not-for-Profits Commission Act 2012 and for such internal control as the Committee Members determine is necessary to enable the preparation of the financial report that gives a true and fair view and is free from material misstatement, whether due to fraud or error.

Independent Reviewer's Responsibility

My responsibility is to express a conclusion on the financial report based on my review. I conducted our review in accordance with Auditing Standard on Review Engagements ASRE 2400 *Review of a Financial Report Performed by an Assurance Practitioner Who is Not the Auditor of the Entity*, in order to state whether, on the basis of the procedures described, I have become aware of any matter that makes me believe that the financial report is not in accordance with the Australian Charities and Not-for-Profits Commission Act 2012 including: giving a true and fair view of the Association's financial position as at 30 June 2021 and its performance for the period ended on that date; and complying with the Australian Accounting Standards. ASRE 2400 requires that I comply with the ethical requirements relevant to the review of the financial report.

A review of a financial report consists of making enquiries, primarily of persons responsible for financial and accounting matters and applying analytical and other review procedures. A review is substantially less in scope than an audit conducted in accordance with Australian Auditing Standards and consequently does not enable us to obtain assurance that we would become aware of all significant matters that might be identified in an audit.

Accordingly, I do not express an audit opinion.

Independence

In conducting my review, we have complied with the independence requirements of the Australian Charities and Not-for-Profits Commission Act 2012. I confirm that the independence declaration required by the Australian Charities and Not-for-Profits Commission Act 2012, which has been given to the Committee Members of the Association, would be in the same terms if given to the Committee Members as at the time of this independent reviewer's report.

Conclusion

Based on my review, which is not an audit, I have not become aware of any matter that makes us believe that the financial report of Deaf Victoria Inc is not in accordance with the Associations Incorporation Reform Act 2012 (Victoria) and the Australian Charities and Not-for-Profits Commission Act 2012 including:

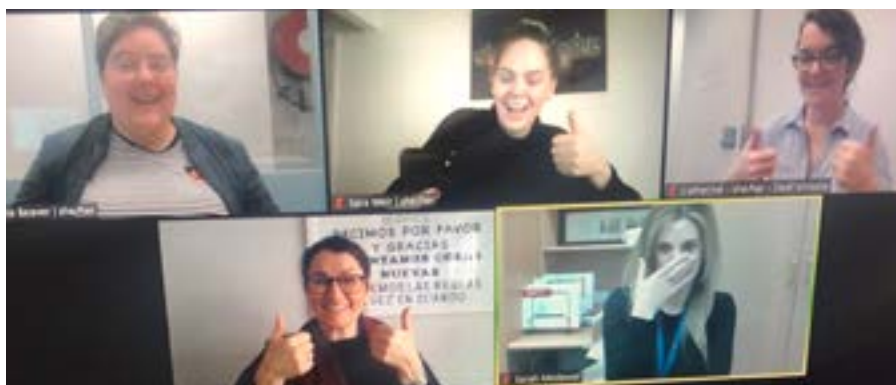
- a) giving a true and fair view of the Association's financial position as at 30 June 2021 and of its performance for the period ended on that date; and
- b) complying with Australian Accounting Standards.

Frederik R.L. Eksteen CA



COVID-19 Outreach project at John Pierce Centre.

Members of the public learning Auslan basics at Deaf Victoria's stall at Sunday Ideas Market for Melbourne Knowledge Week 2021



Deaf Victoria Staff Zoom Meetings in lockdown, 2021.



Sarah Weir (L), Sherrie Beaver (R) representing Deaf Victoria at City of Melbourne's Sunday Ideas Market for Melbourne Knowledge Week 2021

THANKYOU TO OUR FUNDERS & PARTNERS.

We would like to acknowledge the generosity of our funders and partners without whom, our work would not be possible.

FUNDERS

With thanks to our major funder the Victorian Department of Families, Fairness and Housing (DFFS) who provide recurrent funding for our Individual Advocacy Service and time limited project funding. This Financial Year we have also received funding from the National Disability Insurance Agency and the City of Melbourne for capacity building and social inclusion projects.



PROJECT PARTNERS

We acknowledge the following organisations who have provided opportunities for collaboration through projects and steering committees.



THANKYOU ALSO TO DEAF SECTOR COLLABORATORS.

Deaf Victoria would also like to acknowledge the following sector collaborators whose valuable work contributes to ensuring a strong Victorian Deaf Community:

- Auslan Connections
- Auslan Services
- Able Australia
- Deafblind Victorians
- Deafblind Australia
- Deaf Children Australia
- Deafness Foundation
- Deaf Sports Australia
- Deaf Sports and Recreation Victoria
- Echo Interpreting
- Soundfair
- Victorian Deaf Education Institute (VDEI)
- Victorian College of the Deaf

We acknowledge the following organisations and government departments who have worked together with Deaf Victoria:

- Department of Premier and Cabinet
- Victorian Council of Social Service (VCOSS)
- Royal Commission into Violence, Abuse, Neglect and Exploitation of People with Disability
- Law Institute of Victoria
- Children and Young people with Disability Australia
- Amaze
- Youth Disability Advocacy Service
- Department of Education and Training
- Department of Health

Deaf Victoria would also like to thank:

- Deaf Vic team members who joined after June 30, 2021 - Sarah Medawar and Alisha Wormald who have contributed greatly since their appointments.
- Vicky Lee for her assistance with the maintenance of the Deaf Victoria website.
- Defxroma for designing and compiling this beautiful Annual Report.

