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the newsletter with appropriate  
acknowledgement to Deafness Forum  
of Australia*

### Deafness Forum of Australia

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Currently **one in six** Australians suffer  
from some form of hearing loss.  
This may increase to one in four by 2050.  
*Access Economics 2006*

19-25 AUGUST 2007



PRIME MINISTER  
CANBERRA

### MESSAGE: SUPPORT FOR HEARING AWARENESS WEEK 2007

I am pleased to give my support to Hearing Awareness Week 2007. Hearing is a key part of our sense of connection to our community and sometimes it is forgotten that one in six Australians has some form of hearing impairment. This week is an excellent opportunity to raise community awareness about hearing impairment and ways to protect your hearing. I encourage people to become involved in the many worthwhile events and support this year's slogan 'Get the message'.

The Australian Government is committed to helping people avoid or manage hearing impairment. Over 475,000 Australians benefited from the government's Hearing Services programme in 2006-07. As announced in the 2007-08 Budget an additional \$70.7 million will be provided over the next four years to help new clients get the most out of their hearing device and improve services for children and special needs clients. Importantly, this also includes nearly \$10 million for hearing research and hearing loss prevention activities.

Finally, I would like to take this opportunity to commend Deafness Forum of Australia, the national co-ordinator of Hearing Awareness Week, for its efforts in improving the quality of life for Australians who are deaf, have a hearing impairment or have a chronic disorder of the ear.

(John Howard)

Check the Hearing Awareness Week website [www.hearingawarenessweek.org.au](http://www.hearingawarenessweek.org.au) for events near you this week.

**With thanks to our 2007 Hearing Awareness Week sponsors  
Australian Hearing, Helen King Hearing, Siemens, and Cochlear.**

## WHAT HAVE WE BEEN DOING IN THE PAST MONTH?

The past month has been very busy, with end of financial year activities as well as attending a number of events and carrying out our systemic advocacy activities. Just some of the activities the Board members and staff, and other representatives have undertaken in the past month since the last newsletter include:

- Attended a Disability Advocacy conference
- Completed test and tag of all electrical equipment in our office
- Gave a presentation to Accessible Public Transport hearing in Canberra
- Worked on issues relating to Carers payment for chronic disorders of the ear
- Completed a number of funding submissions and reports
- Attended National Deaf Employment Forum in Melbourne
- Met with office of Senator Conroy (ALP Shadow Minister for Communications)
- Met with Senator Jan McLucas (ALP Shadow Minister for Disabilities and Ageing)
- Met with office of Julie Bishop MP (Minister for Education)
- Met with Dr Carmen Lawrence MP (ALP)
- Met with office of Fran Bailey MP (Minister for Tourism)
- Met with Senator Natasha Stott-Despoja
- Attended hearing screenings at Parliament House Canberra run by Australian Hearing,

including press conference of Senator Chris Ellison (Minister for Human Services)

- Wrote to Senator Helen Coonan, Minister for Communications, regarding costs of NextG phones as replacement for CDMA phones
- Attended a roundtable with Senator Chris Ellison on the health services Access Card
- Had the auditor at our offices in preparation for the annual report and annual financial statements.
- Sent out thousands of Hearing Awareness Week posters and related materials
- Prepared for Captioning Awards to be held 23 August in Sydney
- Prepared for launch of our new phone brochure to be launched by Senator the Hon Helen Coonan, Minister for Communications, IT and the Arts, in Sydney on 23 August
- Prepared and sent out our August printed newsletter.

## WEBSITE UPDATES

As usual, there have been various additions and updates to the main Deafness Forum Website: [www.deafnessforum.org.au](http://www.deafnessforum.org.au). Please take the time to visit the Website on a regular basis to keep up with what is happening.

## CAPTIONING FREE TO AIR TV

AAD and Deafness Forum are still working to get an agreement with Free TV, ABC TV and SBS about the next quota of captioning for free to air TV. The meeting has not occurred as quickly as we would have liked. ABC is being very

amenable however the response from the other free to air channels has been lukewarm.

In the next agreement, we hope to also include a Captioning Quality Guidelines so that channels will also be accountable for the quality of their captions.

We will keep members informed of developments in this area.

## CHOOSING THE RIGHT PHONE FOR YOUR HEARING NEEDS

Deafness Forum has recently completed a new brochure for people who are deaf or have a hearing impairment, on how to choose the home or mobile phone to best meet their communication needs.

Buying a new phone can be a bewildering experience with so many choices and options, from cameras to browsing on the internet. How do you know what will work best for your hearing needs?



The new brochure will be launched in Sydney during 2007 Hearing Awareness Week by Senator the Hon Helen Coonan, Minister for

Communications, Information Technology and the Arts, Deputy Leader of the Government in the Senate.

Deafness Forum of Australia acknowledges funding from the Australian Government Department of Communications, Information Technology and the Arts through the Consumer Representation Grants program.

## CAPTIONING OF DVDS

Deafness Forum is representing the deafness sector on a small HREOC working party with DVD distributors and other media players, to try to come to an agreement about captioning of DVDs. We appreciate comments from members to inform us in this work. Please keep your comments coming in.

## 5TH NATIONAL DEAFNESS SECTOR SUMMIT – MAY 2008

The 5<sup>th</sup> National Deafness Sector Summit will take place in Canberra on 24 and 25 May 2008, immediately following the Audiology Australia conference which is also set for Canberra. Registrations will be in the \$250 range (plus conference dinner) so make sure you put a little allowance in your next year's budget now for the Summit!

## SHOWCASE YOUR PRODUCTS AT THE UPCOMING SUMMIT

Want people with hearing loss, their families and loved ones to know more about your products? Then think about showcasing them at the 5<sup>th</sup> National Deafness Sector Summit in May 2008, a fully accessible conference for people with hearing loss to be held in Canberra 24-25 May 2008.

Contact [info@deafnessforum.org.au](mailto:info@deafnessforum.org.au) or visit our website at [www.deafnessforum.org.au](http://www.deafnessforum.org.au)

## ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

Deafness Forum Annual General Meeting and election of Directors will take place on Saturday 13

October 2007. You might like to consider nominating for a position of the Board. More information will be sent out to members over the coming months.



# community news

## CREATE A SUSTAINABLE GARDEN WORKSHOP

As part of the Sustainable Homes Program the City of Whittlesea would like to invite members of the Melbourne Deaf Community to join our Create a Sustainable Garden Workshop. We would greatly appreciate your organisation's assistance in circulating this information and /or adding it to your event listings. See attached flyer for more information.

The City of Whittlesea and the Sustainable Homes Program invite you to join our Auslan interpreted workshop Create a Sustainable Garden

When: Wednesday 5 September 7.00-9.00pm (registration and snacks from 6:45pm)

Where: City of Whittlesea, Council Offices, Fountain View Room, Ferres Boulevard, South Morang

Expert gardeners will guide you through how make the most of your garden. Learn more about waterwise gardening techniques, composting, growing organic vegetables, attracting native fauna, indigenous and native gardening. There will be something for every yard big & small! FREE Sustainability Starter Kits provided. Light snacks and refreshments will be served.

Bring the kids, fun and fantastic children's activities will be provided for ages 3 and up.

At this workshop Auslan Interpreters will be provided on request, please notify us when registering for the workshop if you would like to use this service.

To register or for more information go to [www.sustainablehomes.vic.gov.au](http://www.sustainablehomes.vic.gov.au) or contact Rebecca Petit, the

Sustainable Homes Program Coordinator on TTY 8470 8696 or voice 8470 8373 or email [sustainablehomes@darebin.vic.gov.au](mailto:sustainablehomes@darebin.vic.gov.au)

## D-PAN

Deaf Performing Artists Network (D-PAN) USA have produced a great clip based on John Mayer's song "Waiting on the World to Change" See it at [http://www.d-pan.com/index.php?option=com\\_content&task=view&id=36&Itemid=45](http://www.d-pan.com/index.php?option=com_content&task=view&id=36&Itemid=45)

## COOL KIDS COOL PARENTS - NSW

PCDE, along with the support of Deaf Children Australia and Deaf Society NSW, is proud to offer a two day program "COOL KIDS COOL PARENTS" about sharing the challenges of raising young children with hearing impairment. The program enables parents to reflect on their parenting practices, to explore strengths and to develop skills and confidence in their parenting role. The two day program incorporates a variety of information sharing opportunities, with lots of case studies, activities, reading material, videos and group discussions.

The program will be covering topics such as:

- o Deaf Friendly Parenting
- o Discipline Does Matter
- o Understanding Discipline & Time Away – relationship with siblings
- o Looking after yourself

This program will be run over a two day slot – Saturday 15 & 29 September 2007 from 10.00am – 3.30pm.

Any questions or information can be directed to Nickie Flambouras, Information & Advocacy Manager, Parent Council for Deaf Education T 02 9871 3049 F 02 9871 3193 MOBILE: 0419628829

## THE GOOD, THE BAD AND THE UGLY

The Human Rights and Equal Opportunity Commission has produced a new CD aimed at designers, builders, building certifiers, access consultants and access advocates.

*The good the bad and the ugly* looks at thirteen examples of common mistakes made in applying today's Building Code of Australia (BCA) in areas such as handrails on stairs, use of Tactile Ground Surface Indicators, signage, visual indicators on glazing and kerb rails on ramps.

The purpose of this resource is to explain why precise application of the BCA and its referenced Australian Standards is necessary by describing how people with disability benefit from good design and construction.

It does not try to replicate all the access provisions of the BCA or Australian Standards in words and pictures, and it does not seek to define access requirements under the Disability Discrimination Act. It simply draws attention to the fact that the technical specifications are there for a reason and failure to apply them has serious consequences.

*The good the bad and the ugly* could be used as a self learning tool or as an in-house continuing education program for building certifiers, designers, builders, building managers, fit-out specialists, access consultants or advocates interested in access issues.

The CD also contains the photographs used in *The good the bad and the ugly* which can be used to develop your own presentations by copying them into programs such as PowerPoint.

A copy of the Commission's *Guidelines on access to buildings and services* is also included on the CD. The guidelines are aimed at

businesses, service providers, Government agencies, property managers and anyone involved in the purchasing, leasing or assessment of property. The aim of the guideline is to assist in identifying possible barriers to buildings and services and direct people to resources and expertise to address those barriers.

All these resources have been developed in consultation with people with a disability and others in the building, design and access fields, however, once the material is more widely circulated no doubt there will be many good suggestions for editorial changes and additional material, including photographs. Ideas and comments should be sent to

[disabdis@humanrights.gov.au](mailto:disabdis@humanrights.gov.au)

To order a free copy of this CD please contact [publications@humanrights.gov.au](mailto:publications@humanrights.gov.au) or telephone 1300 369 711 or see [http://www.humanrights.gov.au/disability\\_rights/buildings/good.htm](http://www.humanrights.gov.au/disability_rights/buildings/good.htm)

## NEW ACE CEO

The Board of Directors of Australian Communication Exchange (ACE) Limited is pleased to announce the appointment of Mr Alexander (Sandy) Gilliland to the position of Chief Executive Officer.

Mr Gilliland has held several senior state, national and international positions in the Not for Profit sector for over 15 years, in particular serving as CEO of Diabetes Australia Queensland (DAQ) for 10 years, CEO of the Royal Blind Foundation (RBF) for 4 years and most recently as National General Manager of Strategy with Vision Australia. Each of these organisations is a complex mix of commercial and service oriented activities in the disability sector.

In his ten years with DAQ, he grew the business from one central administration and service centre in Brisbane to a sustainable, multi-dimensional, decentralized service

to all of Queensland with 30 retail and service outlets and sub-agencies as far north as Thursday Island.

At RBF he created 4 regional offices and related services in response to evidenced need.

In 2005 he was elected as the Chairman of the Australian Blindness Forum, the national peak body representing the blindness sector to Government, an office he retained until resigning to take up the position as CEO with ACE.

He has successfully facilitated the restructure of Government departments, state and national NGOs through the development and implementation of appropriate change management processes. He has also controlled multi million dollar mergers and acquisitions (including due diligence) in both the for-profit and not-for-profit sectors.

Mr Gilliland will commence in the role on August 13 2007.

## ABORIGINAL DISABILITY NETWORK

Deafness Forum member and active advocate for Deaf Young-Joo Byun is pictured below with Lester Bostock, chairperson of Aboriginal Disability Network (ADN) at Redfern 20 July 2007. Young-Joo donated to A D N prize money that Young-Joo had received in the first Australian Korean Women's day.



Young-Joo informs us that ADN will sue the donation to for set-up an Aboriginal Deaf dancing group for performance in future.

Congratulations Young-Joo on sharing your prize money for the assistance of others.

# international

## CHHA AND IFHOH PRESENT CONGRESS 2008 – A GLOBAL COMMUNITY OF COMMUNICATION

The Canadian Hard of Hearing Association and the International Federation of Hard of Hearing People are hosting the eighth International Hard of Hearing Congress in Vancouver, Canada July 2-6, 2008. This prestigious international conference, which is held every four years, draws presenters and participants from countries around the world. This is the first time that the Congress will be held in North America.

The theme for Congress, *A Global Community of Communication*, reflects the growing momentum to recognizing the significance of hearing loss as a major health and socio-economic concern. Societal impacts of hearing loss has far-reaching in terms of healthcare costs, poverty, loss of economic gains, reduction in quality of life, and lack of civic participation. The good news is that the effects of a hearing loss can be ameliorated through early detection and intervention programs, educational and self-help support, education and awareness of hearing loss, technological supports, and medical care and other interventions. Congress 2008 will cover these areas through presentations, workshops and poster sessions.

Congress 2008 will be unique in bringing together consumers and professionals to discuss hearing loss issues. A specific youth forum will be tailored for youth and young adults.

The Congress will be held at the first-class Sheraton Wall Centre in downtown Vancouver, British Columbia, Canada. The Province of British Columbia will play host to the Olympic Winter Games in 2010 and offers many exciting places to visit

as well as much to do including the renowned Capilano Suspension Bridge, Grouse Mountain, Vancouver Aquarium, Van Dusen Botanical Gardens and Stanley Park, just to cite a few attractions of this Pacific Coast Jewel.

The Call for Proposals for the Congress has been issued and **September 1<sup>st</sup> 2007** is the deadline for submissions. For more information about the Call for Proposals to Present and about the Congress go to [www.chha-ifhohcongress2008.com](http://www.chha-ifhohcongress2008.com) or e-mail [congress2008@chha.ca](mailto:congress2008@chha.ca)

## focus on technology

### ACMA CONSUMER CONGRESS - AUGUST 22, 2007 - SYDNEY

The Consumer Congress being hosted by the Australian Communications and Media Authority and the Communications Alliance will be held on the Wednesday, 22nd August, 2007, at the Masonic Centre in Sydney from approximately 10.00am - 4.00pm. The event is designed to help attendees gain insights into the likely impact of future technologies on consumers.

Go to: <http://www.slatteryit.com.au/congress/>

### TRIALS FOR INTERNET RELAY SERVICE ARE VERY PROMISING

This August, the National Relay Service will introduce Internet Relay to add to the suite of phone communication options for deaf, and hearing and speech impaired Australians.

Internet Relay will allow users to phone people from their personal computers or laptops. If they have an internet-enabled mobile phone, they can use that too. It will be an excellent addition not just for home

use, but for calls that need to be made from the office.

And instead of being dependent on a fixed TTY located at home or at work, access to any computer or laptop will allow calls to be made from work, wireless internet cafes, or friends' houses.

The number will be dialled in one simple entry either through the NRS website, or through existing Microsoft Messenger (MSN) and AOL instant messaging arrangements.

It's the online version of the type and read caller option, using a conventional computer keyboard, and without having to use a TTY keyboard.

The conversation can be typed directly by the user, and then the relay officer relays the conversation by voice or text.

While calls can be made anywhere, callers will still need a TTY to receive calls.

Because it is online, the caller will be able to set the size and colour of the display text to suit their own requirements.

Internet Relay has been piloted over the past few weeks by NRS users. The feedback so far, has been enthusiastic.

Comments such as:

"Wow! What a wonderful tech find! I can type easily and faster on my fingers and relaying is ever so much better - and I am happy to continue to use relay service on computers.

Wonderful. Congrats to those who started this method."

... "Overall, the Internet Relay Service is Gold!" ... "Fantastic!! It has made very easy to access anywhere I go without having a problem to find TTY to get anywhere. Now I can use my laptop for traveling and make IR calls anywhere. That's great."

Or even: "Thumbs up. Great for at work or netcafe shop. So much

easier. No more driving back home!"

Our "guinea pigs" who conducted the test were also happy with the easy-to-use instructions, which will be located on the NRS website when Internet Relay is launched.

They also gave us valuable feedback which is allowing us to make a few more improvements before the August launch.

We are grateful to the various State Deaf Societies whose members have assisted us in this "test drive" of the new Internet Relay system.

Please remember, this new technology is in addition to the various call options currently offered by the National Relay Service – all users will still be able to use their TTYs and will still receive the friendly professional service from our relay officers, whichever option they choose.

## NEWS FROM TELSTRA

As you know, following the launch of the Next G™ network in October 2006, Telstra is planning to switch off its CDMA network on 28th January 2008, and is currently in the process of moving its more than one million CDMA customers to the new network.

Key messages for CDMA customers, from Telstra's point of view, are:

- Telstra intends to close the CDMA network on 28th January 2008.
- Telstra's Next G™ network already covers 98.8% of people where they live or work. It is 100 times the size of any other 3 G network in Australia.
- Telstra has announced that it expects to provide the same or better coverage to CDMA on the Next G network by mid October 2007.
- Next G™ handsets such as the LG TU550 are ideal for people who need maximum coverage in

regional areas using a car kit or external aerial.

- CDMA users with hearing aids or cochlear implants can confidently utilise 3G and Next G™ handsets.

- Pre-paid Next G™ service offers are now available.

- By moving to the Next G™ network Telstra CDMA customers will be able to roam to many international locations with their handset.

- Many Next G™ handsets can be connected to a computer to operate as a wireless modem giving broadband data speeds in coverage areas.

## DEAFNESS FORUM WRITES TO MINISTER REGARDING COSTS OF NEXTG PHONES

In August 2007 Deafness Forum wrote to Minister for Communications, Senator Helen Coonan, and a number of other politicians, regarding the closure of the CDMA network and the costs for people who have hearing aids or a cochlear implant, to upgrade to NextG phones.

When we have received a reply we will advise members.

## TELSTRA'S DISABILITY ACTION PLAN

Telstra today publicly lodged its 4th Disability Action Plan with the Human Rights and Equal Opportunity Commission. Graeme Innes, Disability Discrimination Commissioner welcomed Telstra's unique commitment and consistency in taking action to increase accessibility for people with disabilities to communications services.

Go to:

<http://www.telstra.com.au/abouttelstra/media/release.cfm?ObjectID=40137> or [www.telstra.com.au/disability](http://www.telstra.com.au/disability)

## BLIND CUSTOMERS TAKE ACTION AGAINST THE CELL PHONE INDUSTRY

August 2, 2007

Washington, DC - Blind and visually impaired customers are taking legal action against the cell phone industry in an effort to improve cell phone accessibility. This week, 11 customers from across the country filed complaints with the Federal Communications Commission (FCC), which enforces Section 255, the law that requires phones to be designed to be accessible for people with disabilities. Complaints were filed against both the cell phone carriers and manufacturers.

"These complaints illustrate a market failure on the part of the cell phone industry to address accessibility," said Paul Schroeder, VP, Programs and Policy Group at the American Foundation for the Blind. "While some companies have taken steps, consumers with vision loss have few good options for accessibility, and almost no reliable information about accessibility."

There is a growing need for accessible phones given the increasing rates of vision loss. Experts predict that by 2030, rates of severe vision loss will double along with the country's aging population. For people with vision loss, finding a cell phone with a readable screen or with voice output of essential features like menus or text messages is almost impossible. Some companies, like AT&T, have taken the lead on providing accessible phones. But too often the handsets and services are not designed to be user-friendly for those who are blind or visually impaired. Earlier this month, AFB initiated a campaign called 255 Action to help people with vision loss understand access requirements, and if necessary, file complaints. As part of that campaign, AFB sent letters to leading cell phone service providers and manufacturers asking what they are doing to meet the needs of people with vision loss. Frequent complaints from blind and visually

impaired cell phone customers include:

- cell phones do not provide for audio output of information displayed on the screen;
- the visual displays on most phones are hard to read;
- numeric and control keys are not easy to distinguish by touch; and
- product manuals or phone bills are not available in braille, large print, or other formats they can read.

The complaints filed with the FCC came from customers in Florida, Georgia, Colorado, California, and W Virginia.

#### QUOTES FROM FCC FILINGS

##### **Problems Purchasing Equipment**

"In November 2006, I asked for assistance in identifying and purchasing a new telephone. The agent was completely uninformed regarding available phones with built-in accessibility features for a Blind user. The representative did not even understand what features a Blind user would need in purchasing a phone." Melissa Green, Greeley, CO

##### **Phones Features Are Inaccessible**

"I cannot text message, surf the Internet, or use the phonebook. Additionally, the numbers displayed on the keypad are too small for me to read, thus I have to use the voice recognition feature to call contacts in my phonebook. This poses some limitations, because I can only program in ten names, yet I have many more contacts than this amount." Douglas Brooks, Winston, GA

"Even after setting my phone's level of brightness to the highest level, I still have to use a closed circuit television (cctv) to read the text displayed. This magnification device is quite large, encompassing a television set with a similar sized

stand. This defeats the "mobile" aspect of my phone, since I have to wait until I am at home to enter contacts in the phonebook, change settings, etc." Richard Rueda, Union City, CA.

##### **Documentation Is Inaccessible**

"Upon receiving my phone, I was given an inaccessible print manual explaining how to use the phone. However, because I am totally Blind, I cannot read the text on the instruction manual. My phone's instruction manual is in a pdf file, which I have difficulty accessing with my computer's screen reading software because graphical representations are used to instruct a person on how to use the phone." George Roberts, Orlando, FL

##### **Phones With Access Software Cost More**

"In order to access the features of the MotorolaQ, I had to make an additional out-of-pocket purchase of Mobile Speaks (a screen reader) to access the cell phone features. While this phone is more accessible than the Katana with my add-on software, it was quite expensive, and I would not have purchased it if my previous phone was accessible. Being Blind forced me to stretch my budget to the limits in order to have access to my cell phone's features." Tony Claive, Winter Park, FL

##### **Customer Service Is Inadequate and Accessibility Features/Information are Unavailable**

"I went to my local Sprint store, and explained that I was legally blind and looking for an accessible cell phone. The salesperson did let me know about getting my bill in large print format. Sprint's representatives were unable to provide me with a description of the accessibility and compatibility features of their phones." Dennis Wyant, Melbourne FL

## sport

### XV AUSTRALIAN DEAF GAMES



ADG is scheduled to take place 3-10 January 2008 on the Gold Coast. For further information, go to [www.austdeafgames.org.au](http://www.austdeafgames.org.au)

We are seeking deaf and hearing impaired people of all ages who have an interest in the following events:

- Basketball
- Beach Volleyball
- Cricket
- Darts
- Eight Ball
- Golf
- Lawn Bowls
- Netball
- Squash
- Swimming
- Table Tennis
- Tennis
- Ten Pin Bowling

Most of these sports have pathways to international competitions. Check out <http://www.deafsports.org.au/events/index.php>

Sport is a great equaliser for d/hi people- it's a wonderful opportunity for young people to improve in their sport and to forge networks and friendships, particularly if they are still in, or have just left, high school. Likewise for young adults who may have been in the workforce for a while and are looking for a sporting outlet. People who do not know how to sign are welcome. People who are learning to sign are welcome. People with cochlear implants are welcome. It's all about the sport - and if a person is good enough, it's all about playing for Australia one day!

# upcoming events

AUGUST 2007			
19-25 Aug	Hearing Awareness Week	Nation-wide	Email: <a href="mailto:info@deafnessforum.org.au">info@deafnessforum.org.au</a> Web: <a href="http://www.hearingawarenessweek.org.au">www.hearingawarenessweek.org.au</a>
23 Aug	2007 Captioning Awards Presented by Deafness Forum of Australia	Sydney (NSW)	Email: <a href="mailto:info@deafnessforum.org.au">info@deafnessforum.org.au</a> Web: <a href="http://www.deafnessforum.org.au">www.deafnessforum.org.au</a>
SEPTEMBER 2007			
4-7 Sep	Hear, Speak, Live Conference It is hosted by the Deadly Ears Team - the Statewide Aboriginal & Torres Strait Islander Ear Health Program (RCH - Brisbane)	Gold Coast, (Qld)	Bonny Marsh Deadly Ears - Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Ear Health Program Community Child Health Service 184 St Paul's Terrace SPRING HILL Qld 4002 Email: <a href="mailto:RCH-deadlyears@health.qld.gov.au">RCH-deadlyears@health.qld.gov.au</a> Fax: 07 3250 8509
25-30 Sep	The 2007 International DeafBlind Conference	Perth (WA)	For more information, go to <a href="http://www.dbiconference2007.asn.au/">http://www.dbiconference2007.asn.au/</a>
12-13 Sep	Second Annual Meeting of Leaders in Oral Deaf Education Featuring a keynote address by Dr Todd Houston	RIDBC Sydney (NSW)	The Renwick Centre Royal Institute for Deaf and Blind Children Private Bag 29 Parramatta 2124 Fax: (02) 9873 1614 Email: <a href="mailto:cpe@ridbc.org.au">cpe@ridbc.org.au</a>
14 September	Annual Conference for Itinerant Teacher of the Deaf, Teachers of Hearing Impaired Students : Keynote address by Dr Todd Houston	RIDBC Sydney (NSW)	The Renwick Centre Royal Institute for Deaf and Blind Children Private Bag 29 Parramatta 2124 Fax: (02) 9873 1614 Email: <a href="mailto:cpe@ridbc.org.au">cpe@ridbc.org.au</a>
OCTOBER 2007			
5-7 Oct	Better Hearing Australia (BHA) National Conference 2007	Maryborough (Qld)	Please contact Margaret Crowley (07 4129 8507) for further details on the Conference.
14 Oct	Deafness Forum AGM	Melbourne (Vic)	Email: <a href="mailto:info@deafnessforum.org.au">info@deafnessforum.org.au</a> Web: <a href="http://www.deafnessforum.org.au">www.deafnessforum.org.au</a>

<b>NOVEMBER 2007</b>			
17-18 Nov	Victorian Council of Deaf People III Victorian State Deaf Conference	Melbourne (Vic)	Email: <a href="mailto:info@vcod.com.au">info@vcod.com.au</a> .
<b>JANUARY 2008</b>			
3-10 Jan 2008	Australian Deaf Games	Gold Coast, (Qld)	Web: <a href="http://www.austdeafgames.org.au">www.austdeafgames.org.au</a>
<b>MAY 2008</b>			
24-25 May	5 <sup>th</sup> National Deafness Sector Summit	Canberra (ACT)	Email: <a href="mailto:info@deafnessforum.org.au">info@deafnessforum.org.au</a> Web: <a href="http://www.deafnessforum.org.au">www.deafnessforum.org.au</a>

Please consider making a bequest to Deafness Forum to enable us to keep improving access for Australians who are Deaf, have a hearing impairment, or suffer from a chronic disorder of the ear. Please go to [www.deafnessforum.org.au](http://www.deafnessforum.org.au) to donate – use the link that looks like the picture on the right.

