



ANNUAL REPORT

2020 - 2021

Deafness Forum of Australia is the peak national body representing the interests of the 3.5 million Australians who live with hearing loss.

Hearing loss is the most common disability of adulthood.

Our mission is to make hearing health & wellbeing a national priority in Australia.

Our work encompasses the full human experience and includes accessibility in communications and the made environment, human rights, justice, education, employment, transport, health and aged care. These aspects of life align with, and are drawn from the National Disability Strategy, a high-level policy framework to give coherence to, and guide government activity across mainstream and disability-specific areas of public policy.

Our constituency is people with hearing loss, ear and balance disorders, people who communicate using Australian Sign Language, and their families. Membership also includes organisations that represent these people; and individuals and associations which provide services that promote hearing health.

We are the peak representative for Australian consumers in the World Hearing Forum, a global network of organisations promoting hearing and ear care in the World Health Organization. We are the Australian member of the International Federation of Hard of Hearing people.

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OUR CHAIR, DAVID BRADY'S REPORT TO MEMBERS



David Brady launches World Hearing Day in Australia, March 2021.

Hearing loss occurs across the life course, from the birth to late age. And it does not discriminate – a favourable postcode won't help you.

It is the biggest disability per head of population in adulthood in Australia. It affects 1 in 6 Australians today and 1 in 4 by 2050. Despite its size, it is very little talked about by our communities.

The annual financial cost to Australia exceeds \$30B and is rising.

Deafness Forum was created in 1993 to foster collaboration on systemic issues.

Our work encompasses accessibility in communications and the made environment, human rights, justice, education, employment, transport, health and aged care.

Our constituency is people who are deaf, have a hearing loss, ear and balance disorders, and their families. Our Members also includes organisations that represent these people; and groups such as Teachers of the Deaf and interpreters, captioners, providers and peak bodies.

We advocate for public campaigns to promote an understanding of the risk factors for hearing loss, we want to have a real national conversation. And we support development of accessible ear health information tailored to specific groups.

We are part of the effort to overcome high levels of ear health issues among First Nation people; and through this, we contribute to Closing the Gap. We also understand the risk of the disappearance of indigenous sign languages and the cultural loss this would cause and we want to play a role in highlighting it. This in addition to the unacceptable high level of ear diseases among some communities.

We represent Australian consumers in the World Hearing Forum, a global network of stakeholders that was created by the World Health Organization.

The COVID pandemic threw up its own set of unique challenges to our organisation but more importantly, the community. As always, we had to adapt the way we operate, and navigate the challenges of lockdowns and isolation procedures.

Social distancing rules and face masks placed a huge strain on the mental health and interaction in everyday lives for millions of Australians with a hearing loss. Our consumer members know why we have to wear masks for safety, but we all await the day when they are off and a relic of the past.

What are things we have done on our members' behalf in 2020-21? We undertook:

- 125 activities and projects
- for 24 organisations and national institutions

Those organisations that required our assistance and advice included but were not limited to:

- The Australian Competition and Consumer Commission
- the Commission on Safety and Quality in Health Care
- the Federal and various State Electoral Commissions
- the Universities of Macquarie, Sydney and Swinburne
- The World Health Organization
- Audiology Australia
- The National Disability Insurance Agency
- NDIS Quality and Safeguards Commission
- Joint Standing Committee on the National Disability Insurance Scheme
- 5 Federal Government departments and agencies
- A Royal Commission into Disability and another into Aged Care

We were a leader in the implementation of Australia's Roadmap for Hearing Health and Wellbeing. We are proud of our boldness to start the campaign, to involve our members and lead this campaign to make this real. It is early days, but important days to ensure we stay the course with Government and the Hearing Health Sector Alliance as the trusted, national, independent consumer voice.

We secured a grant from the NDIS to begin work on an online Lip-reading skills development centre. We hope to have it ready for the market in the next few months. I have been testing the courses and I can tell you it's going to be a fantastic resource for the public.

The number of Parliamentary Friends of Deafness has grown to three with the addition of a new group created by our Western Australian directors Rae and Jeff. So we now have groups of elected representatives in the Commonwealth, NSW and West Australian parliaments.

Together with Aussie Deaf Kids, Deafness Council Western Australia, Parents of Deaf Children Australia, UsherKids Australia and Hear For You, we were influential in the strong consumer focus taken by the Government's review of the Hearing Services Program.

The same collaborative approach was taken to ensure quality standards for seniors are improved as we all know hearing loss and ear disorders impact a larger percentage of this cohort than any population. I am pleased to acknowledge Deafness Forum's volunteers Basil Turner and Emma Scanlan for their work to make this a reality. Their work ensured the our Hearing Assistance in Aged Care and Hospitals program continued to be used and valued in health and aged care systems throughout Australia – thank you.

We were funded for some of this work but not all. The fact is that Deafness Forum exists because a key part of the work that counts will never attract funding, may not always please governments, but it must be done nevertheless.

Our Libby Harricks Memorial Oration committee, chaired by Professor Catherine McMahon, presented yet another world class Oration. The legendary Professor Harvey Coates presented the 2021 Oration to celebrate World Hearing Day from Perth. His topic was Indigenous Ear and Hearing Health: Tackling the Silent Epidemic.

So what have we achieved through all this? Often the answer is just “progress” or keeping the issue alive. Systemic advocacy – putting it another way, changing systems at the national level - is rarely a rapid process – you know, pick up the ball, run straight and score a try. It is methodical, it takes time, alliances and resources. A short-term goal can be 5 years.

I think about our campaign to have captions mandated in the Television Broadcasting Act - it took ten years, two CEOs and numerous volunteers to finally make that happen.

I want to thank our volunteers, our directors and members and our staff. It might sound corny but it's a team effort - that's the fact of it.

As Deafness Forum's Chair I have so enjoyed this wonderful privilege of working with everyone on our campaigns and seeing them through. It is a humbling experience to listen to each consumer and member organisation over the past few months to understand where shall we travel in the future.

The Board and I heard your message that we need to continue on the path to fulfil:

- Our Vision for all Australians who are deaf or hard of hearing live well in the community;
- and our Mission for the next three years is to make hearing health & wellbeing a national priority in Australia.

In the coming weeks we will be finalising our new Strategic plan, this plan builds on the foundations set by our founding Chair the late Libby Harricks OAM and all the members past and present. It ensures we remain the trusted national independent consumer voice for the whole hearing health and deafness sector, and continue to be the honest broker representing all voices that need to be heard. It will set the scene for what will be a crucial few years for our sector and as the nation faces a most important federal election.

Then, when a new Government is in office, we will all come together as a sector from across Australia, to meet in person and virtually, with live captions and interpreters, to catch up with each other after what are some of the most isolating life chapters of our time.

Until then, enjoy the festive season with your families, your friends, and your communities.

This concludes my Chair's report. Thank you.

DEAFNESS FORUM'S MEMBERS

For reasons of privacy, we do not publish the names of our individual members, except for our office-bearers and Honorary Life Members.

This is a list of organisations that are members of Deafness Forum.

- ACT Deafness Resource Centre
- Audiology Australia
- Audiometry Nurses Association of Australia
- Aussie Deaf Kids
- Australian Association of Teachers of the Deaf (AATD Vic)
- Australian Communications Consumer Action Network
- Better Hearing Australia Brisbane
- Better Hearing Australia Canberra
- Better Hearing Australia Central Coast
- Better Hearing Australia National
- Better Hearing Australia Victoria
- CICADA Australia
- CICADA Club WA
- Clearasound
- Cochlear Limited
- Deaf Advocacy Sport & Recreation ACT
- Deaf Society NSW
- Deaf Sports Australia
- Deafness Council of Western Australia
- Ear Science Institute Australia
- EARtrack
- First Voice Australasia
- GN Resound
- Hear and Say Centre for Deaf Children
- Hear For You
- Hearing Australia
- Hearing Matters Australia
- Independent Audiologists Australia
- MED-EL Implant Systems
- Centre for Inclusive Design
- National Association of Australian Teachers of the Deaf
- National Hearing Care
- Oticon Australia
- Parents of Deaf Children
- Phonak
- Princess Alexandra Hospital Audiology Department
- Quota Campbelltown
- Quota Illawarra
- Royal Institute for Deaf & Blind Children
- Shepherd Centre

- Sivantos
- Sonova Australia
- St Dominic's Centre for Hearing Impaired Children
- Sydney Opera House
- Telethon Speech & Hearing Centre for Children
- UsherKids Australia
- WA Foundation for Deaf Children

Deafness Forum's network reaches beyond its membership. Deafness Forum is a member of:

- World Hearing Forum, a global network of stakeholders promoting ear and hearing care is hosted by the World Health Organization
- International Federation of Hard of Hearing People
- Ida Institute
- ACCAN Standing Committee on Disability Issues
- Australasian Newborn Hearing Screening Committee
- Coalition for a National Strategy for Prevention of Avoidable Hearing Loss
- Hearing Health Sector Alliance
- NDIS CEO Forum
- Disability Support Services Committee (Department of Social Services)
- Australian Federation of Disability Organisations
- Aviation Access Forum (Department of Infrastructure, Transport, Regional Development and Local Government)
- Australian Electoral Commission Disability Advisory Committee
- Museum of Australian Democracy Disability Reference Group
- Standards Australia Committee FP002 (Fire detection)
- Transport for NSW Accessible Transport Advisory Committee

Deafness Forum created for the entire sector:

- Federal Parliamentary Friends of Hearing Health and Deafness
- NSW Parliamentary Friendship Group for Hearing Health and Deafness
- Western Australia Parliamentary Friendship Group for Hearing Health and Deafness

PEOPLE

BOARD OF DIRECTORS

The Board of Deafness Forum sets the policy on key issues, based on the consensus of our members. It ensures the organisation is focused on its purpose and strategic objectives and manages its resources efficiently and effectively for the future.

The composition of the Board reflects the broad nature of the deafness sector. The various life experiences and interests of directors, coupled with the Deafness Forum's activities and consultative processes, ensure the organisation is consumer-driven and with the authority to represent the interests and concerns of the entire deafness sector.

The Board Executive meets to advance matters between board meetings.

The Board has a permanent Audit and Finance Committee.

- David Brady, chair, nominated by Hearing Matters Australia
- Beatrice Tarnawski, vice chair, nominated by Better Hearing Australia Brisbane branch
- Cameron Miller, vice chair representing Auslan users, co-opted
- Michelle Courts, nominated by Aussie Deaf Kids
- Jeff Johnson, nominated by Deafness Council of Western Australia
- Raelene Walker, nominated by WA Foundation for Deaf Children
- Anthony Whelan, nominated by Better Hearing Australia National – retired at the 2021 AGM

Board meeting attendances

	Meeting 95	Meeting 96	Meeting 97	Meeting 98	Meeting 99	Meeting 100
David Brady	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Michelle Courts	✓	✓	✓	✓	<i>apology</i>	✓
Jeff Johnson	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Rhonda Locke	<i>n/a</i>	<i>n/a</i>	<i>n/a</i>	<i>n/a</i>	✓	✓
Edwin Tucker	<i>n/a</i>	<i>n/a</i>	<i>n/a</i>	<i>n/a</i>	✓	✓
Raelene Walker	✓	✓	<i>jury duty</i>	✓	✓	✓
Anthony Whelan	✓	✓	✓	<i>apology</i>	<i>apology</i>	✓
Cameron Miller	✓	✓	<i>apology</i>	<i>apology</i>	<i>apology</i>	<i>retired</i>
Beatrice Tarnawski	✓	✓	<i>apology</i>	✓	✓	<i>retired</i>

STAFF

Deafness Forum of Australia is managed by Stephen Williamson. He represents the organisation and its members on the International Federation of Hard of Hearing People and the World Hearing Forum; National Disability Insurance Scheme CEO Forum; Hearing Health Sector Alliance executive; Disability Support Services Committee, convened by the Department of Social Services; and groups focussed on communications accessibility.

GOVERNANCE

Deafness Forum's governance arrangements are reviewed annually.

- Board Code of Conduct and Ethics
- Governance & Ethics Committee
- Policy & procedures to deal with potential conflicts of interest
- Risk management strategy

The organisation has established policies and procedures in:

- Communications
- Electronic ballots
- Grievances
- Persons holding external representative positions
- Sponsorship
- Travel
- COVID-19 strategy and policy

FINANCIAL MANAGEMENT

Deafness Forum seeks financial support from various sources grants, sponsorships, project funding, membership fees and donations.

Deafness Forum maintains its financial records in accordance with the recommendations of its auditor: and lodged all required advice and reports required by law.

The Board of Directors, via its Finance Committee, is provided with comprehensive monthly reports.

Budgets are prepared for Board review before approval and updated biannually.

PREVIOUS CHAIRPERSONS IN CHRONOLOGICAL ORDER

- Libby Harricks AM
- Dereck Ward
- Cath Bonnes AM
- Stan Batson
- Margaret Roberston
- Alex Jones

INDIVIDUALS AWARDED LIFE MEMBERSHIP

- John Bartlett
- Stan Batson
- Victor Bear AM
- Dr Harry Blackmore AM
- Cath Bonnes AM
- Ruth Fotheringham
- Diana Hodgetts
- Hon Peter Howson, CMG
- Alex Jones
- Peter Lindley
- Dr Leo Murphy, OBE
- Robert Quail AM
- Harry Powell
- Margaret Robertson
- Brian Rope OAM
- Dr Jenny Rosen AM
- Andrew Stewart
- Kenneth W Tribe

STRATEGIC PLAN

1. Be the trusted, national, independent consumer voice for the whole hearing health and deafness sector. This means:

Forming realistic, actionable recommendations for reform by engaging with our members and other stakeholders within the sector.

Developing productive relationships with federal politicians, advisers and government officials.

Being represented on strategic groups to provide input during public policy development.

Priority actions

- Advocate for implementation of the national Roadmap for Hearing Health & Wellbeing.
- Advocate for public funding of community awareness of hearing health and issues.
- Contribute to the Commonwealth's National Disability Strategy: 2020 and Beyond.
- Contribute to the Royal Commissions into Aged Care and Disability.
- Advise the National Disability Insurance Agency on matters of consumer concern.
- Contribute to planning the transition of Australian Government Hearing Services Program to the NDIS in 2020.

2. Be a focused, efficient, accountable and sustainable organisation. This means:

Communicating with purpose, balance and integrity.

Ensuring accountable contributions and practice of the board, its appointed representatives and staff.

Managing our resources responsibly, efficiently, and effectively to build an organisation that will be equipped to represent the future aspirations of the people and organisations we represent.

Maintaining an up to date and practical annual Strategic Plan that clearly communicates what our financial situation will allow us to achieve and how we will achieve it.

Priority actions

- Maintain a high degree of public and member visibility via newsletters, social media and websites.
- Seek funding and partnerships to fund and undertake the work of the organisation.
- Appoint and support office-bearers with relevant skills and experience to oversight the running and direction of the organisation.

KEY ACTIVITIES

Requesting organisation	Topic
Department of Health	Hearing Services Program Review, Oct 2020-Jun 2021. Form consumer advisory group to develop submissions, issues papers and respond to Panel discussion papers for the term of the review in 2020-21 financial year. Deafness Forum's submission was referenced 19 times in the review panel's interim report published in May 2021 (Audiology Australia 8, RIDBC aka NextSense 7, Hearing Australia 6, Hearing Health Sector Alliance 6, First Voice 7). A submission to draft recommendations was made in June 2021.
Department of Health	Member of consultative committee for Aged care COVID-19 Grief and Trauma Response. Task - review website content and styling.
Royal Commission into Violence, Abuse, Neglect and Exploitation of People with Disability	Promote Disability Royal Commission - 2500 submissions and counting.
Department of Social Services 'Disability Gateway'	Disability Gateway Reference Group meeting with The Benevolent Society, successful tenderer for audio help-line service within the Gateway website.
Royal Commission into Violence, Abuse, Neglect and Exploitation of People with Disability	Promote notice: Public hearing 15, scheduled to take place in Brisbane this week, has been postponed until August due to ongoing COVID concerns.
National Disability Insurance Agency	Monthly meeting to provide feedback to NDIA Sector Advisor Team.
Royal Commission into Violence, Abuse, Neglect and Exploitation of People with Disability	Submission: disability within culturally and linguistically diverse communities – Deaf people whose native language is Australian Sign Language
National Disability Insurance Agency	Monthly meeting to provide feedback to NDIA Sector Advisor Team.
Department of Social Services	Disability Representative Organisation funding model design - Workshop 1
Department of Health	Hearing Services Program - Step 3 of website redesign consultation - online tree testing task.
Royal Commission into Violence, Abuse, Neglect and Exploitation of People with Disability	Promote series of articles, direct mails, web posts and social media, "Members of the Deaf community have an opportunity to inform the Disability Royal Commission" - Disability Royal Commission wants to hear about challenges, barriers and ways to better prevent and reduce violence against, and abuse, neglect and exploitation of, culturally and linguistically diverse people with disability.
NDIS Quality and Safeguards Commission	Feedback on safety provisions for NDIS participants living alone.
Royal Commission into Violence, Abuse, Neglect and Exploitation of People with Disability	Public hearing to examine the COVID-19 vaccine roll-out for people with disability. Promote throughout networks from 30 April to 15 May 2021.
National Disability Insurance Scheme	In the context of an IT upgrade as internal systems are transitioned to a 'cloud' environment, we provided advice to the NDIA ICT Operations group on hearing augmentation policy as a result of new technology; and recommendations for minimum requirements in meeting rooms.
Department of Health	Member of consultative committee for Aged care COVID-19 Grief and Trauma Response. Participate in advisory group on behalf of Deafness Forum's constituents. Project: create resources to help share information about the grief and trauma supports for those living, working and caring in the aged care sector, who have been impacted by COVID-19. The grief and trauma support and advice services are available Australia-wide. Many people may be suffering grief and loss from the passing of a loved one because of COVID-19, or feeling the loss of their routines, visitors and important events. People may also be experiencing trauma as a response to isolation, physical distancing, COVID-19 hotspot lockdowns, and visitor restrictions in aged care.
Department of Social Services & Department of Health	Disability and Health Sector Consultation Committee meeting. Topics - the committee's terms of reference; perspectives of people with lived experience; COVID-19 vaccine rollout for people with disability.
Royal Commission into Violence, Abuse, Neglect and Exploitation of People with Disability	Auslan videos on the Disability Royal Commission YouTube channel. Subscribe for updates. Promote in social media and newsletter.
Department of Health	Participate in consultation aimed at lifting the quality of hearing health and care in aged care facilities. Meet with and provide background (copies of our recent reports and submissions) to Australian Healthcare Associates, contracted by Department of Health.

Department of Health	Prepare feedback on draft Guidelines and draft Communications Strategy for meeting of Teleaudiology Guidelines working group hosted by Audiology Australia on 20 April.
Royal Commission into Violence, Abuse, Neglect and Exploitation of People with Disability	Promote summary of Employment Issues paper with a focus on Disability Employment Services shortfalls. Social media, national newsletter and update to member organisations.
National Disability Insurance Agency	Monthly meeting to provide feedback to NDIA Sector Advisor Team.
Royal Commission into Violence, Abuse, Neglect and Exploitation of People with Disability	Attend Quarterly meeting with Disability Representative Organisations
Royal Commission into Violence, Abuse, Neglect and Exploitation of People with Disability	Promote on social media and newsletter: 'Your Story Disability Legal Support' has short Auslan videos about how you can get free, independent legal support to safely share your story with the Disability Royal Commission.
Department of Social Services 'Disability Gateway'	Document feedback to Disability Gateway (project) Reference Group meeting 7 April, vis: Emergency contacts, Safety and Help, Communication Aids and Services, Families of Children Newly Diagnosed with Disability
Department of Communications	National Relay Service - assist in marketing registration process for existing and new users. Includes social media posts 22 Jan, 5 & 26 Feb, 19 Mar, 5 Apr; supply of editorial and image in members update 5 Feb 2021.
Department of Social Services	Submission - Assistance Animals: A Nationally Consistent Approach. Complete survey via DSS Engage, promote via newsletter and social media posts
Department of Health	Prepare for and attend first Teleaudiology Guidelines working group hosted by Audiology Australia.
National Disability Insurance Agency	Monthly meeting to provide feedback to NDIA Sector Advisor Team.
NSW Department of Health	NSW Health Disability (COVID-19) Community of Practice
Department of Health	Member of consultative committee for Aged care COVID-19 Grief and Trauma Response. Dementia and Supported Ageing Branch consultation group to create Grief And Bereavement Support social media and brochures in plain language, captioned videos and accompanied by Auslan interpretations.
Joint Standing Committee on the National Disability Insurance Scheme	Independent Assessments: provide inputs to joint submission by Australian Federation of Disability Organisations.
Disability Advisory Forum	A group convened by Australian Communications Consumer Action Network (ACCAN), peak telecommunications consumer advocacy organisation.
Hearing Australia	Prevention Coalition Advisory Group - a forum to devise actions to address relevant aspects of Australia's Roadmap for Hearing Health
Royal Commission into Violence, Abuse, Neglect and Exploitation of People with Disability	Promote hearing 11 outcomes: First Nations people make up 2.5 per cent of the Australian adult population, yet they represent 29 per cent of all adult prisoners via Facebook and newsletter
Hearing Health Sector Alliance	Participate as full member in meetings over 2 days to discuss implementation of Australia's Roadmap for Hearing Health.
Department of Health	Hearing Services Program - Step 2 of website redesign consultation - online sorting task.
Department of Infrastructure, Transport, Regional Development and Communications	Promote on social media and 24 Feb edition of national newsletter Reform of the Disability Standards for Accessible Public Transport: Consultation Regulation Impact Statement
National Disability Insurance Agency	Monthly meeting to provide feedback to NDIA Sector Advisor Team.
Royal Commission into Violence, Abuse, Neglect and Exploitation of People with Disability	Promote 'New videos help explain work of Royal Commission' in social media and newsletter, 3, 10, 18 Feb 2021
NSW Ministry of Health	Consultation meeting for video on "Communicating with people deaf or hard of hearing while wearing a mask"
Royal Commission into Violence, Abuse, Neglect and Exploitation of People with Disability	Promote and foster submissions to the Issues Paper on 'Violence and abuse of people with disability at home'
National Disability Insurance Scheme	Submission on planned changes to NDIS assessments and planning process
Department of Social Services 'Disability Gateway'	Disability Gateway - liaise with project team to remedy absence of National Relay Service (contact) information in its communications
Australian Competition and Consumer Commission	Product Safety Australia. Promote Button Battery Safety campaign online and in newsletters, Nov 2020 - Jan 2021

Royal Commission into Violence, Abuse, Neglect and Exploitation of People with Disability	Promote public inputs to Safeguards and Quality Issues Paper via Facebook posts on 14/1 and 27/1, One in Six newsletter on 27 Jan and email advice to members.
Department of Health	Hearing Services Program. Step 1 (survey) of website redesign.
Royal Commission into Violence, Abuse, Neglect and Exploitation of People with Disability	Article in national One in Six newsletter, "People with disability share stories of gaining open employment"
Royal Commission into Violence, Abuse, Neglect and Exploitation of People with Disability	Social media promotion of article at request of DRC "People with disability can experience violence and abuse in many settings. In particular, they can experience violence and abuse where they are living." Posts on 14/12, 31/12 and 20/01/2021.
Royal Commission into Violence, Abuse, Neglect and Exploitation of People with Disability	Social media promotion of article "People with disability share stories of gaining open employment"
Hearing Health Sector Alliance	Presentation to Review Panel as a member of Hearing Health Sector Alliance
Hearing Health Sector Alliance	Attend Aged Care working group meeting
Royal Commission into Violence, Abuse, Neglect and Exploitation of People with Disability	Promote release of - and invitation to make submissions to Safeguards and quality of services and systems issues paper. Via social media on 20 and 30 Nov, 14 Dec.' update webpage
Department of Health	Australian Government's Hearing Services Program Review. Prepare for presentation to Review Panel.
Department of Social Services 'Disability Gateway'	Disability Gateway - provide Deafness Forum's feedback to Australian Federation of Disability Organisations (to pass to the Dep Social Services) on the pilot website.
Hearing Australia (Government statutory body)	First meeting of coalition for a National Strategy for the Prevention of Avoidable Hearing Loss
Department of Social Services	Disability Gateway - promote member feedback on pilot site via newsletter 23 Sep and (re/ online survey) 28 Oct; and Facebook 25 Sep, 6 Oct, 22 Oct, 27 Oct, 11 Nov, 8 Dec 2020
Royal Commission into Violence, Abuse, Neglect and Exploitation of People with Disability	Promote Barriers To Employment, hearing 9 in Dec via social media posts and members update
Department of Health	Australian Government's Hearing Services Program Review. Prepare and submit submission detailing consumer views in response to 10 questions. Deafness Forum's consumer advisory group members were Aussie Deaf Kids, Usher Kids Australia, Hear For You, Deafness Council Western Australia, Parents of Deaf Children, Hearing Matters Australia.
Department of Health/ Hearing Australia (Government statutory body)	Meeting re Roadmap for Hearing Health implementation with Minister Mark Coulton MP at Australian Hearing Hub. Hosted by Hearing Australia.
NSW Ministry of Health	Meeting to contribute inputs (and follow-ups) to "communication challenges experienced by people who are deaf or hard of hearing, particularly during the COVID-19 response".
Royal Commission into Violence, Abuse, Neglect and Exploitation of People with Disability	Disability organisations quarterly consultation meeting.
Hearing Health Sector Alliance	Executive meeting.
Department of Social Services	Workshop #2 on an outcomes framework for the National Disability Strategy update.
World Health Organization	Attend Ear & Hearing Care in Western Pacific strategy meeting.
Royal Commission into Violence, Abuse, Neglect and Exploitation of People with Disability	Update webpage and Facebook with summary of DRC reports available; and hearing dates in 2021.
Department of Health, and Audiology Australia	Paediatric audiology competency standards working group meeting.
Royal Commission into Violence, Abuse, Neglect and Exploitation of People with Disability	Promote "Help us to spread the word" resources and edition 16 of their "Connect" newsletter. Facebook and DRC webpage update.
Department of Social Services	National Disability Strategy, 2020 and Beyond. Outcomes Framework workshop.
Australian Commission on Safety and Quality in Health Care	Submission to National Safety and Quality Primary Healthcare Standards public consultation focussing on communications accessibility.
University of Sydney	Contribute to research and survey, Disaster Risk Management Practices that Leave Nobody Behind: Emergency Preparedness Survey of People with Disability.
Department of Social Services 'Disability Gateway'	Disability Gateway - Submission to Dep Social Services (due 18 Dec) in response to questions: Capability building and information provision; Information provisions; Mutual Relationship.

Royal Commission into Violence, Abuse, Neglect and Exploitation of People with Disability	Promote 'Interim Report details violence, abuse, neglect and exploitation' on Facebook and in member update (3 Nov 2020) and national newsletter (11 Nov 2020).
Department of Education, Skills and Employment	2020 Review of the Disability Standards for Education 2005. Prepare for, and participate in National Disability Peak Bodies Webinar, 6 Nov 2020.
Department of Social Services	Disability Support Services Committee (DSSC) meeting
Department of Social Services	ILC program review. Participate in online survey.
World Health Organization	World Hearing Forum working group meeting preparing for launch of World Hearing Report in 2021.
Health Department and Audiology Australia	Paediatric Competency Standards Working Group. Prepare for and participate in working group meeting.
Department of Social Services 'Disability Gateway'	Disability Gateway - prepare for, and participate in DSS Disability Gateway Stakeholder Reference Group.
Department of Social Services	National Disability Strategy. Provide list of key issues and outcomes relating to Outcome Areas for Disability Representative Organisations workshop.
Department of Social Services	Disability Advocacy Workshop – Systemic Advocacy. Delivered by DSS contractor APIS to contribute to a politically acceptable model for funding systemic advocacy in Australia.
Department of Social Services	National Disability Strategy: cross-sector collaborative workshop on Community Attitudes: impact on social and economic participation for people with disability facilitated by The Social Deck. Prepare and attend.
Department of Health	Coordinate consumer inputs to devising standards for teleaudiology via Facebook posts, newsletter, member updates. Co-design survey with Health Dep's contractor, Ear Science Institute Australia.
Royal Commission into Violence, Abuse, Neglect and Exploitation of People with Disability	Promote 'public hearing in Brisbane next week to examine the barriers to students with disability getting a safe, quality and inclusive school education. If you need help to tell your story to the Royal Commission, visit ...' on Facebook page and member update
NSW Ministry of Health	Meeting to contribute inputs (and follow-ups) to "communication challenges experienced by people who are deaf or hard of hearing, particularly during the COVID-19 response".
World Health Organization	Working group meeting 7 Oct: World Report on Hearing.
Department of Social Services 'Disability Gateway'	Disability Gateway - give feedback to DSS document, "Consolidated Feedback – 16 July to 1 October 2020 (as at 30 Sept)'
World Health Organization	World Hearing Forum Zoom conference 24 Sep 2020 - Task sharing for ear and hearing care.
Department of Health	Australian Government's Hearing Services Program Review. Prepare brief for meeting with Expert Panel and participate in meeting on 22 Sep 2020
NSW Ministry of Health	Meeting to contribute inputs (and follow-ups) to "communication challenges experienced by people who are deaf or hard of hearing, particularly during the COVID-19 response".
Department of Social Services	Disability Support Services Committee (DSSC) meeting will be held on Monday 21 September between 1.00pm – 5.00pm.
Department of Health, and Audiology Australia	Join working group for Paediatric audiology competency standards - prepare feedback on published papers and provide written feedback before first meeting on 10 Sep 2020
Royal Commission into Violence, Abuse, Neglect and Exploitation of People with Disability	Promote 'Education and learning for people with disability – what are we hearing?' on Facebook and member update
National Disability Insurance Agency	Prepare for, and participate in CEO Forum - Support Coordination Workshop; participate in post-meeting evaluation on 10 Sep.
Royal Commission into Violence, Abuse, Neglect and Exploitation of People with Disability	Promote 'Young people with disability feel 'invisible' in Facebook and member update
Department of Social Services	National Disability Strategy stage 2 consultations. Promote in member direct mail, Facebook posts on 11 and 25 Aug and 9 Sep; Deafness Forum website from 6 Aug; and in national newsletter 19 Aug 2020

Royal Commission into Violence, Abuse, Neglect and Exploitation of People with Disability	Report in response to request by DRC for feedback on matters discussed at the first quarterly meeting (1 Sep 2020) of the Deafness Forum of Disability Representative Organisations and DRC commissioners and staff.
Royal Commission into Violence, Abuse, Neglect and Exploitation of People with Disability	Articles in Facebook and newsletter: 'You or a family member or carers acting on your behalf may need an advocate to help you communicate or understand how to engage with the Disability Royal Commission'. Shared with members via update.
National Disability Insurance Agency	Prepare for and participate in NDIS CEO Forum - Independent Functional Assessment Workshop
Royal Commission into Violence, Abuse, Neglect and Exploitation of People with Disability	Quarterly meeting with Disability Representative Organisations
National Disability Insurance Agency	Prepare for and participate in NDIS CEO Forum
ACT Electoral Commission	Advise on, and distribute to members in the ACT 'Voting With a Disability' factsheets for the October 17, 2020 ACT election
Department of Social Services 'Disability Gateway'	Disability Gateway - promote feedback mechanism in 5 x Facebook posts 6-24 Aug - link to Auslan YouTube video.
Royal Commission into Violence, Abuse, Neglect and Exploitation of People with Disability	Promote article, 'Coronavirus virus led to isolation and alienation: Disability Royal Commission' in Website post and Facebook
Department of Social Services 'Disability Gateway'	Disability Gateway - launch of website pilot and seeking feedback - article in national newsletter and article on Deafness Forum website home page/news
Australian Competition & Consumer Commission	Provide feedback on a consultation paper outlining regulatory options to address button battery safety. Circulate among industry networks, suppliers of products that use/contain button or coin cell batteries
Department of Social Services	Make a submission via questionnaire to 'A new disability strategy stage 2 consultations'
Department of Social Services 'Disability Gateway'	Disability Gateway - briefing in meeting of member organisations. Provide them with DSS stakeholder communication kit and link to Auslan YouTube video to promote in their networks.
Department of Social Services	Promote changes from 31 Mar 2021 to National Auslan Booking Service to Deaf society members, Deaf consumers in a DM and 5 Aug newsletter article
Department of Social Services 'Disability Gateway'	Disability Gateway - provide feedback on pilot website via Feedback button on home page
Royal Commission into Violence, Abuse, Neglect and Exploitation of People with Disability	Promote article, 'Your Story Disability Legal Support can help you' in member direct mail and Facebook
Department of Social Services 'Disability Gateway'	National Disability Information Gateway Reference Group. Provide written feedback on trial website content, including topics, text, links and images - see 'Comments by Deafness Forum of Australia on Disability Gateway service' 3 Aug 2020
Royal Commission into Violence, Abuse, Neglect and Exploitation of People with Disability	Promote article, Disability Royal Commission back on track with public hearings: the Commission has released its schedule of hearings for the rest of 2020
National Disability Insurance Agency	Promote 'Your health and safety' - the NDIS website has questions & answers about Coronavirus (COVID-19) https://www.ndis.gov.au/coronavirus/participants-coronavirus-covid-19/your-health-and-safety
Royal Commission into Violence, Abuse, Neglect and Exploitation of People with Disability	Counselling and advocacy support for people with disability is available: promote via Facebook and member emails
National Disability Insurance Agency	Promote 'Your health and safety' - the NDIS website has questions & answers about Coronavirus (COVID-19) https://www.ndis.gov.au/coronavirus/participants-coronavirus-covid-19/your-health-and-safety
Department of Social Services 'Disability Gateway'	National Disability Information Gateway Reference Group. Provide written feedback on trial website content, including topics, text, links and images - see 'Comments by Deafness Forum of Australia on Disability Gateway service' 23 July 2020
Department of Education, Skills and Employment	2020 Review of the Disability Standards for Education 2005. Prepare for, and participate in webinar with Disability Discrimination Commissioner Dr Ben Gauntlett
Standards Australia	NCC 2022 standards. Proposing standards on hearing augmentation and emergency alerts for inclusion in NCC 2022. Decision made to release for public consultation in Aug/Sep 2020.

Department of Social Services 'Disability Gateway'	National Disability Information Gateway Reference Group. Provide written feedback on trial website content, including topics, text, links and images - see 'Comments by Deafness Forum of Australia on Disability Gateway service' 21 July 2020
Department of Education, Skills and Employment	2020 Review of the Disability Standards for Education 2005. Request to promote Consultation Hub website, including discussion paper, questionnaire and ways to make a submission among Deafness Forum's education stakeholder members and friends, website, Facebook, newsletter.
Department of Social Services 'Disability Gateway'	National Disability Information Gateway Reference Group. Prepare for, and participate in first meeting.
Royal Commission into Violence, Abuse, Neglect and Exploitation of People with Disability	Promote posters, flyers, postcards and animated video that explains how to make a submission. Promote the DRC's interest in hearing from people from First Nations backgrounds and people from culturally and linguistically diverse backgrounds.
Health Department and Audiology Australia	To better understand how telehealth is currently perceived and utilised for the delivery of hearing services, Audiology Australia is planning to conduct a survey of consumers and practitioners about the use of telehealth during the pandemic. DFA was asked to comment on the promotional copy, explanatory text and questions in the surveys.
Department of Communications	Promote 'Improvements to Voice Relay emergency calls through the NRS' in newsletter, Facebook.
Department of Social Services	Promote changes from 31 Mar 2021 to National Auslan Booking Service to Deaf society members, Deaf consumers in a DM and newsletter article.