



November 2021
Term 4

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Claire Loads

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AGM

Welcome to the newsletter for Term 4.

Welcome to the fourth edition of the Newsletter for 2021.

We hope that your term 4 has been productive so far and that you enjoy the content.

I would welcome any contribution or suggestions regarding the newsletter. If you have an interesting class project, professional news, or any items relevant to your fellow Teachers of the Deaf don't hesitate to contact me using the details below.

Regards,

Hannah King

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President's Report – October 2021

AATDSA Presidents Report

27th October 2021

Congratulations

Congratulations to Alison l'amafana who has been awarded the South Australian Teacher of the Deaf for Excellence in 2021. Alison is a highly motivated teacher, working with children and families from the time of diagnosis. She has a focus on the development of communication and language skills in both English and Auslan for Deaf and hard of hearing students. She is a strong advocate for deaf children and works to ensure a team around the child. Alison continues to develop her knowledge and skills in the area of Deaf Education and has also provide mentoring to Deaf family mentors and colleagues in Samoa.

Thank You

Thank you to Nicola and Leigh Anne for completing the selection process with for the SA Teacher of the Deaf Award for Excellence. I would also like to thank the individuals who took the time to nominate a fellow member for acknowledgement.

President's Report – October 2021 Continued

October the 29th is World Teachers Day in Australia and it is fitting to acknowledge all teachers of the deaf for their work and commitment to improving the educational outcomes for deaf and hard of hearing students. We all know that teaching is not a 9 to 5 job and working as a teacher of the deaf involves understanding not only the Australian Curriculum but also the Core Curriculum for Deaf and Hard of Hearing students. We are also judged and against the ATSL Professional Standards for Teachers and have the Elaborations of the Standards for Teachers of the Deaf to give our performance and professional development. Thank you to all Teachers of the Deaf in South Australia.

Letter to the Minister

I have completed the letter to the minister and emailed it off. Thank you to all committee members who provided additional information and concerns. Hopefully we will hear from the Ministers Office soon.

Brighton Centre for Deaf Education Visit

I visited Brighton Centre for Deaf Education early this term. Some of the issues raised included:

Issues for the minister

1. Who is involved in panel process for determining placement for students with deafness and additional disabilities? The question was asked do they have knowledge and expertise to understand the educational needs of deaf and hard of hearing children and the options available.
2. Limits to the number of students in facilities, which may mean that students don't have access to a facility.

Training and development ideas

3. Training and support from AATDSA for implementing the Elaborations for Teachers of the Deaf of the AITSL Standard.
4. Using Meg Phiddian to provide more training for staff especially in colourful semantics

Additional ideas

5. Can we organise a parent day with Early Intervention and private providers to discuss schooling options?

I have recontacted the others sites this week. But realise for many it may be too late in the year. I would welcome committee members working with your line manager to set up a time.

End of Year Dinner

The End of Year Dinner is on 17th November at Fedoras Restaurant Hilton Hotel at 6.00pm don't forget to put it in your diary.

Ros Senior

Ros Senior has been unwell and has been in hospital. We have sent her a card. I believe that she should be home with her sister by now. But wish her a speedy recovery.

2022 Committee

I would strongly encourage people to think about participating in the AATDSA Committee. Having been involved for a long time at both a state and national level has been some of the best times of my professional career. I have made some lifelong friendships from my involvement at both a state and national level. I would highly recommend that you give some consideration to being involved.

Best wishes for the festive season.

Claire Loades
Chairperson AATDSA

ICED – International Congress on the Education of the Deaf Scholarship recipient –Hannah King

Recipients of the ICED scholarship are required to provide a detailed review of their experiences at ICED. These will be printed across a number of newsletters.

After the excitement of the ICED announcement, I was somewhat unsure about the how the online format would work, but was pleasantly surprised. I found the presentations engaging, and the interactive chat forum a great resource, and opportunity to unpack my thinking with colleagues.

I particularly like the flexibility of the format, meaning I could organise my busy home life around presentations I wanted to watch live. In addition, having twelve months to watch all sessions has meant I have been able to dip into a wonderful resource.

I particularly wanted to reflect on Elizabeth Matthew's presentation, which I watched shortly after reading her book 'Language, Power and Resistance.' She unpacks the concept of power within Deaf education, in the context of mainstreaming, which as we know is the educational experience of most Deaf and Hard of Hearing students today. Matthew's research is situated firmly in the Irish experience, and yet I was able to draw many comparisons to the experiences in Deaf education. She shares qualitative research in which professionals, parents, and Deaf community members talk about the sense of powerlessness they experience in enacting change upon a system. I honestly believe that most professionals in Deaf education have experienced the need to advocate for students, resources, or access, and in the process of doing so have felt powerless to influence positive change.

Matthews also discusses traditional modes of resistance and advocacy in the Deaf community and the role of Deaf schools in this process. She highlights the transient nature of power that is not connected to people, or to position, but to resources, including the resources of a community.

Matthews urges those involved in Deaf education to use this model of resistance, exemplified by the Deaf community through the Deaf schools to advocate for Deaf students in the mainstream. Power, she tells us is manifested in togetherness, in collective action, it creates 'power to'.

For students in mainstream, in the absence of the critical Deaf mass, what collective then can work to develop 'power to' [advocate, inform, support, access]? It seems to me that the professional association must be that focus point for Teachers of the Deaf. I reflected that since being involved in the AATD I have seen the many ways the association gathers individuals together to advocate, train, agitate, and support. As individuals, and as an organisation, let us then consider how best we capitalise on our 'power to,' in the interests of Deaf students.

Professional Development Opportunities

Next Sense are offering scheduled professional development event in addition to many that have been pre-recorded and can be accessed anytime, online.

A Day at the Australian Hearing Hub for IToD's.

The Australian Hearing Hub members invite Itinerant Teachers of the Deaf (IToD) to a fully virtual event.

- Learn from researchers- what are the current research findings and how this can be translated into practice.
- Learn from IToD- what challenges are presenting in the classroom and how can they be solved through innovation and research?

There will be a number of short presentations by the Australian Hearing Hub member organisations, including Hearing Australia, National Acoustic Laboratories, Next Sense, The Shepard Centre, Macquarie University and Cochlear Limited. Followed by an interactive session where Itinerant Teachers of the Deaf are invited to share challenge experienced in the classroom when working with students who are Deaf and Hard of Hearing. The agenda will be released in November.

10th December 2021 9:30-3:30 (Fully online)

<https://www.nextsense.org.au/professional-development/a-day-at-the-australian-hearing-hub-for-itods>

Public Education Awards

Congratulations to the team at Avenues College for recognition of the excellent work they do. They have been nominated as a finalist in the Public Education Awards in 'The University of South Australia Team Teaching Award'.

The Centre of Deaf Education (CDE) team at Avenues College is an exemplary example of high-quality bilingual support. The team implements inclusive education practices to ensure Deaf and Hard of Hearing students have full access to all aspects of school life. They are instrumental in implementing high-impact intervention programs, establishing life skills training programs and providing high quality interpretation services. In 2021 the team implemented an original Literacy Intervention Program 'MorThemes', a morphological awareness program that has dramatically improved the literacy of deaf students, specifically growth in their vocabulary, writing and comprehension.

AGM 16th February 2022

16th February 2022 AATDSA AGM

Join us for the AGM at EDC on the 16th February 2022 at 5:00pm.

We be showing the Jane Madell prevention on Understanding the LMH 10 Sound Test talk from Next Sense. The Ling Madell Hewitt or High Mid Low Test has been developed on the work of the Ling 6 Sound Test to provide us with additional tools to monitor children and students performance with the technology choices of today.

As always we will be calling for committee members. Continuing members in the committee for 2022 are Leigh Anne Edwards, Hannah King and Ashlyn DeHaas. Members who have completed their 2 year and are eligible to be renominated are: Claire Loades, Alison l'amafana, Jasmine Darrie and Nicola Capon.

I would encourage anyone thinking about joining the committee to give it serious consideration. You need to be a full member of the association to be on the committee. If you wish to be nominated please talk to one of the committee members if you are looking for more information.

If you can't make the meeting and wish to be nominated, this needs to be provided in writing prior to the meeting.

We look forward to seeing you at the AGM.