



Term 1 2024 Newsletter

From the Past President

This is my final update as president of the South Australian Branch of the Australian Association of Teachers of the Deaf. At the AGM held in February, Teresa Maiolo was elected as our President for 2024.

It has been my pleasure to lead the association over the past 3 years. While we did not achieve all we aimed for, we worked hard and ensured that the Education Department gave some attention to the needs of deaf children in South Australia. The association will need to continue advocating in this area. At times, we can be a lone voice when advocating for deaf children and students, and the support of all our colleagues working in the field is greatly appreciated.

So why should you become a member of the association? The National Association of Teachers of the Deaf was first established as a national organisation in 1935, and state branches were created in the late 1950s. The purpose of the association in the 1930s was similar to today's, with one major exception: the association developed the curriculum to train teachers of the deaf, taught them in schools for the deaf to perform their jobs, and then nationally examined them. Today, the training of teachers of the deaf is the responsibility of universities, and the national body conducts audits of the courses to ensure they meet the standards as defined in the elaboration of the professional standards of the teachers. While we no longer have an explicit role in training teachers, we still ensure that the qualifications people receive to become full members of the association and to be able to call themselves Teachers of the Deaf all have the same knowledge base. The curriculum for training teachers in 1935 is not the same as today, but you will still see similarities. However, with advances in technology, sign language research, and our

knowledge of language development, we see changes over time. Multitone hearing aids were first introduced into Townsend House School for the Deaf in the 1930s; they used mains power and certainly could not be used in the playground.

A key role of the association is to provide continuing training and development for teachers of the deaf. As professionals, we all need to maintain our skills and knowledge base. The association's role is to focus on the specific curriculum needs and learning of deaf children. As a member of the association, it is important to let the committee know what you want to learn. Is there anything you have read about that you would be interested in learning more about? Is there something in your site that you have been doing and want to explore how it impacts deaf children? Please let a member of the association know so we can explore ways to meet your needs.

I remind everyone that the Australian New Zealand Conference of the Deaf will be held in September in Sydney: <https://anzced.naatd.com.au/>. Early bird registration closes in the middle of April. I encourage you to attend as there is something for everyone.

Claire Loades

Immediate Past President

2024 AATD(SA) Committee Members



1 - Teresa Maiolo - President, National Representative



2 - Briony Harrison - Secretary



3 - Sandra Di Fava - Treasurer



4 - Nicola Capon - PD Committee Chair



5 - Claire Loades - National Representative



6 - Alison l'amafana- National Representative



7 - Danielle Hobbs - Educators SA



8 - Jasmine Darrie



9 - Tanya McKinna

Please find attached the notice of meeting for the NAATD AGM on May 2, 2024. All state members are welcome to attend.



National Association of Australian Teachers of the Deaf Inc.

**Notice of
Annual General Meeting (AGM)
Thursday 2 May 2024**

Time: 7:30 pm-8:00 pm AEST

Where: via Zoom

Join Zoom Meeting

[2024 NAATD AGM](#)

Meeting ID: 860 8150 9659
Password: 18145572

Agenda

1. Confirmation of the 2023 AGM minutes
2. Chairperson's report
3. Treasurer's report and the financial statements for the previous financial year
4. Determination of nominated members
5. Decree that all positions are vacant: (Immediate past Vice Chairperson presides over election of the Chairperson)
6. Election of the Chairperson
7. Election of office bearers

ANZCED scholarships

ANZCED Scholarship Recipients

AATD(SA) are proud to announce the recipients of the Credit Union SA - 2024 ANZCED Scholarships.

Congratulations:
Jasmine Darrie
Hannah King
Ben McNicholl

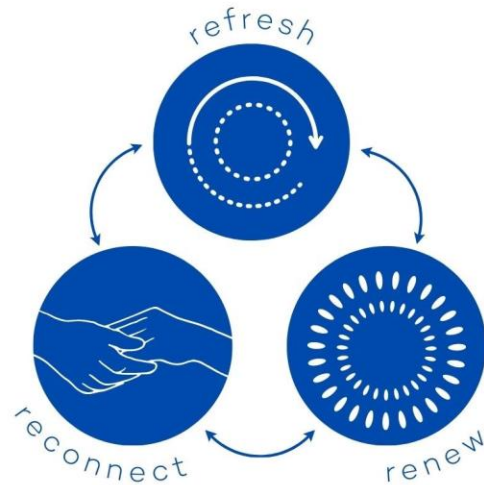
credit unionsa

AATD South Australia

The poster features a photograph of a woman and a young boy smiling together. The background is dark blue with decorative elements like dotted patterns and wavy lines. The text is in white and yellow. The AATD logo is at the bottom right.

ANZCED 2024

ANZCED 2024



Exciting news – the program for ANZCED 2024 is now up on the [website](#)! This year's conference is packed with insightful discussions, workshops, and more.

Keen to dive in? [Register now](#) to secure your spot!

Looking forward to seeing you there!

ANZCED Workshop

The workshop will have a focus on the assessment of deaf children and students: what assessments we should be using, how we administer and how we can best use the information for planning and programming the child's developmental goals and next steps.

Participants will workshop with colleagues to finetune assessment processes including appropriate tests to use with the DHH cohort and who to include in the assessment team.

The workshop will run 9am-4pm Friday 27 September 2024 and be held at the Australian Hearing Hub at Macquarie University. [Tickets available now!](#)

Professional Standards: A Study of Teachers of the Deaf PD



On the 16th of March the AATD(SA) hosted professional development from Trudy Smith from NextSense. Trudy is well known in the field of deaf education and has been a Teacher of the Deaf (ToD) since 1998. She has worked both as a classroom teacher and an advisory visiting teacher in Queensland, has worked as an AVT and is a qualified listening and spoken language specialist and has held the role of statewide advisor and is now the manager of continuing professional education at NextSense institute. Clearly, she brings a wealth of knowledge and experience about what it means to be a Teacher of the Deaf!

Trudy had a significant role in the development of the Teacher of the Deaf elaborations, and this sparked her desire to know more about the professional identity of Teachers of the Deaf. This led her to almost a decade of research into ToD identity. Through her PhD study she has canvassed ToD's around Australia to identify what it means to be a ToD, and the ways in which we know our profession and one another.

Attendees were extremely fortunate to be presented with the results of this research, through which Trudy talked about professional identity. Areas of discussion include what 'being a professional' means, 'the professionalisation of the role', and 'being professional'. She also shared what ToD's thought was important for professional identity. Trudy also gave attendees an opportunity to reflect on what they are passionate about, and why they choose to work in the field. This was a wonderfully positive experience.

that sparked conversation amongst the group and provided an opportune moment of reflection, reminding many of us why we are ToD's.

Interestingly many feel that membership of the AATD is important in our professional identity. So, if you happen to know a ToD who may like to join the association, please encourage them to do so.

Trudy's research will be published in due course, and we look forward to reading her full results.





Early Intervention Service News



This year we welcomed two new members to the EIS team. Dani Hobbs, whom many of you will know from her work at Klemzig and Brighton CDE's and Carrie Jullian has returned from maternity leave. Both Dani and Carrie have hit the road running and we love their fresh enthusiasm. EIS have had 13 new referrals this year already, so the team are super busy.

Kylie Phillips has continued in her Deaf Mentor role this year through the Leonie Jackson Memorial Funding. The work Kylie did last year and is doing this year is extremely valuable. Family and site feedback has been extremely positive, and data collected by the team reflects this too.

Recently EIS held their Easter Playgroup at Glover Playground on South Terrace. Several new families attended, which was great to see, and the kids had a great time as always making new friends and catching up with familiar ones. Easter Bunny left some surprises – we hope the crash from the sugar rush wasn't too bad for the parents later 😊

Next term Playgroups will be held at our CDE's. We thank Klemzig Auslan Bilingual Preschool and Brighton Primary for welcoming us back. It's always great for our parents to see possible pathways for their children and for our children to see representation from the 'big kids'.







Interview with AATD(SA) committee member - Nicola Capon



1. What is your current role?

I am a Teacher of the Deaf for Can:Do 4Kids working with school aged students at school, home or via telehealth.

2. How did you get into this line of work?

When at Uni, I originally wanted to go into Outdoor Education but, due to the courses not being available, I became a ToD. I have worked in my current job for quarter of a century!

3. What is the best part about your job?

- Seeing kids' eyes light up when they make sense of something they have been learning.
- Hearing kids talk about a skill they have (e.g. putting on/off their hearing aids) and reminding me that I told them they would learn how to do it themselves.

4. What are some of the challenges of your job?

Convincing some teachers the importance of correctly using students' WCDs and not having working hearing aids/ cochlear implants needs to be followed up with parents.

5. What advice would you give for someone who is looking for a career like yours?

Be able to advocate for D/HH students and liaise confidently with students, parents, teachers and school staff.

Sharing recent highlights from Adelaide High - Term 1

Recent events:

Recently Deaf role model Karli Dettman, provided an enriching session for our students. Karli led interactive activities tailored to foster resilience, self-awareness, and effective communication skills. Through sharing her own life story, students were empowered to cultivate a positive identity and navigate their journey with confidence as a student. It was a valuable opportunity for personal growth and development. Big thanks to Ms Sophia Borick for instigating this.



Adelaide High School Formal:

Our Year 12s showcased remarkable maturity and grace at the School Formal. Dressed to the nines, they exuded elegance and respect throughout the evening. Whether posing for photos in the booths or twirling on the dance floor, each moment was imbued with a sense of celebration. A touching highlight was witnessing Ms. Sophia Borick (Deaf teacher) and Ms. Tracy Papanotis (Deaf BSSO) being honoured with flowers for their dedication to teaching Auslan to Year 11 and 12 students. Sharing photos below.



10 - 2024 Year 12 DHH students



11 - 2024 Year 12 DHH students



12 - Auslan students



13 - Auslan students

Clubs

CDHH Clubs began in week 3 students are really enjoying catching up with each other and creating lasting memories and stronger connections. See photo below of students during Friday lunch in Board Games Club.



Deaf Cricket

Shrey Patel old scholar (2023) of Adelaide High CDE had the honour of representing the Australian Deaf Cricket Team at the World Titles in Dubai earlier this year. His outstanding performance significantly contributed to the team's success, as he demonstrated exceptional skill in striking out opponents with precision throws to hit the wicket. Shrey's dedication and talent undoubtedly played a pivotal role in the team's achievements on the global stage.

Furthermore, Shrey has embarked on an exciting new chapter in his academic journey by commencing a Computer Science degree at Adelaide High. With his renowned work ethic and the unwavering support of his encouraging family, there's no doubt that Shrey will excel in his studies and make significant contributions to the field of computer science.





Toni Angus - Leader: Centre for Deaf and Hard of Hearing at Adelaide High

Participants wanted

Leigh-Anne Edwards is a dedicated advocate for Deaf education currently pursuing a Doctor of Education (Ed.D.) Her research focus lies in understanding the perspectives of teachers of the Deaf (TODs) on educating Deaf and hard-of-hearing students with language deprivation. This critical area of study holds immense significance, as it seeks to illuminate the challenges and strategies employed by TODs in empowering students who face significant language barriers.

Leigh-Anne's passion for Deaf education likely stems from her personal experiences and commitment to disability rights. She is passionate about equal access in language development for Deaf and hard-of-hearing students. Her research delves into a crucial aspect of Deaf education— addressing the language deprivation faced by many students. This deprivation can significantly hinder their academic progress and overall development.

By exploring the perspectives of TODs, Leigh-Anne's research has the potential to provide valuable insights into effective teaching methods and support systems required to bridge the language gap for Deaf and hard-of-hearing students. Her work holds the promise of contributing to a more inclusive and successful educational experience for this population.

Leigh-Anne would appreciate the TODs' involvements to make her research a successful. Please contact her for further information on bear0045@flinders.edu.au and she will be more than happy to discuss things further with you.

Leigh-Anne Edwards



Participants wanted

Are you a qualified teacher teaching Deaf/Hard of Hearing Students?

If you answered Yes!

I would like to hear from you and invite you to participate in my research.

If you want to know more, email me at bear0045@flinders.edu.au

 Flinders University

This project has been approved by Flinders University's Human Research Ethics Committee (Project ID: 5727)

Please send in any event information, news, articles or other information you would like shared with your colleagues in the field. The AATD(SA) newsletter is always looking for content from our members, for our members. Send anything through to Briony at secretary@aatdsa.org.au - Thank you!