



South Australia

Term 3 2023 Newsletter

POSTCARD FROM THE PRESIDENT

Dear Members,

Cheers from Europe! This term, Deaf education in SA looks so exciting, I almost wish I was there!

A big thank you to the committee members who have continued to meet and work on a response to the Cochlear Implant Review, training and development for term 4, and the AATD(SA) teacher of the Deaf Award. The association has

been in good hands, and everyone has worked together to ensure the smooth running of the Association.

See you all at the end of year dinner celebration!

- Claire



AATD(SA) Members
Term 3 Newsletter



64 The First School for Deaf and Dumb Children

Thomas Braidwood founded the first school in Britain designed to teach deaf and dumb children. He set it up in a house in the Canongate in Edinburgh in 1780. Braidwood also codified the earliest version of British Sign Language. It was based on the use of the hands, the shapes they made, how they were turned, were placed and moved. British Sign Language has even developed regional dialects. Some Scottish signs are not understood in the south of England. The school tended to cater for those with the means to pay its fees. Joseph Watson, a relative of Braidwood, founded the first public school for the deaf and dumb.

Based in Bermondsey in 1792, the London Asylum for the Deaf and Dumb was very successful. By 1783, Braidwood himself had moved to London to found a new school and his grandson set up a school in Virginia in the USA. Thomas Braidwood would have smiled to see British Sign Language recognised alongside English, Welsh, Gaelic and others as one of Britain's official languages. His original school in the Canongate is remembered in the nearby district of Edinburgh, the Dumbriedykes.

Stitched in Edinburgh by Cammie Quilters:

Katherine Forsyth
Rosemary Gordon-Harvey
Avril Green
Elizabeth Reekie
Gillian Swanson
Norma Watsons
Caroline Watson











HEAR OUR HEART EAR BUS PROJECT



WHEN?

Wednesday 25th October
5.30-7.30pm



WHERE?

Flinders Park Office
20 Beatty Street, Flinders Park
Parking available at rear



WHAT?

The Hear Our Heart Bus project based in NSW began in late 2011. The project provides free ear health education, targeted hearing testing and access to ear specialists to children in Dubbo and Districts. The co-directors are visiting SA to share their journey and hard earned success. Why and how the project operates and how they blend their volunteer roles within the project while working for the NSW Education Department.



PRESENTERS

Donna Rees
Volunteer Co-director & Teacher
of the Deaf and Hard of Hearing

Rachel Mills
Volunteer Co-director & Teacher
of the Deaf and Hard of Hearing



COST?

\$25 AATDSA members
\$30 non-members
Free for parents / caregivers



Auslan interpreting provided



Online access: live and recording



Register online by Friday Oct 20:
aatdsa.org.au/pd-upcoming.html



JOIN US FOR OUR
**END OF YEAR
CELEBRATION**

NOV
23
6PM

Kentish Hotel
23 Stanley St,
North Adelaide

RSVP secretary@aatdsa.org.au
by 21 November

for members, the first drink is on us

Early Intervention Service News



This term has been super busy for the EIS team! I'm sure it's the same for all of you though. We have had 13 new referrals, with 12 of those families joining our service and 1 yet to decide. Most of the new referrals have come through the Universal Newborn Hearing Screening process, so it's great to provide the little ones intervention in a timely manner and connect with families.

Deaf Mentor Program

Kylie Phillips has joined our team for two days a week as a Deaf Mentor. We were fortunate to receive funding through the Leonie Jackson Memorial Fund for the program. Parents and centres are loving having Kylie involved and so are we! In a short time we are seeing more people trying to sign and raised deaf awareness. Kylie has been a real positive role model, particularly showing our parents that their child is not limited in future opportunities.

New Team Member

We said goodbye to Sarah Lewis last term, but welcomed Tanya McKinna to the team. Tanya has jumped in head first and made the transition from working with the big kids to the tiny ones really smoothly. Feel free to stick around Tanya!

Playgroups

We have had two really successful playgroups this term. The first was themed "We're Going on a Bear Hunt" and the second was held at Klemzig Auslan Bilingual Preschool. We had good numbers for both, with people travelling long distances and new families joining us.

Alison I'amafana

Project Officer Early Intervention Service Deaf/Hard of Hearing











Interview with AATD(SA) committee member - Mandy Conner



1. What is your current role?

My current role is a Project Officer in the Early Intervention Service for Deaf children. I support families of newly diagnosed babies and children until they enter school. Some of the work is based in families homes:

- supporting their parent-child communication skills, using home routines and a basis for enhancing these
- navigating appropriate pathways e.g. NDIS, referrals for speech pathology, preschool and school enrolment
- supporting links with the deaf community
- developing parent's advocacy skills
- Ensuring parents understand their child's hearing levels and know how to use assistive technology effectively
- supporting language and communication skills

- supporting the development of listening and attention skills

My role is also in supporting children in their early years settings i.e. childcare centres and preschools.

- Ensuring staff have appropriate, ongoing training and development to support their work with deaf children
- Supporting the inclusion of Deaf children in terms of access to the full curriculum
- Developing children's social and communication skills
- Supporting sites to use assistive technology
- Providing a link between home and centre – keeping parents informed of progress
- Working as part of a team to support individual children
- Supporting transition to school by sharing information

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

I completed my Bachelor of Teaching in the UK. In my final practicum, I worked in a mainstream school with a Deaf 'Unit.' I became really interested in how best to support these children and formed friendships with some of the Deaf staff. After teaching in the same school for a couple of years I applied for a job (without having the ToD qualification). I was not successful but worked on short term contracts there for a while and went along to BSL (British Sign Language) classes. I then won a scholarship to complete a Graduate Certificate in Deaf Education at Birmingham University. After completing this, I won a permanent job at the school! I have been really fortunate to work in a wide variety of ToD roles since then.

3. What is the best part about your job?

I absolutely love working in the early years with babies and families. Each child and family is different and I work hard to form excellent relationships with each one. It's rewarding to watch their progress over an extended period of time and celebrate each tiny step with the parents. I remember my initial visits with families as tiny babies fondly and I support their journey to school 5 years later!

I am also fortunate to work with a fabulous team of dedicated and passionate people who are always striving to improve services, try new ideas and engage in current research. We are continually learning and supporting each other.

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

One challenge is definitely driving. We sometimes cover large distances during the day and it can be a challenge to fit families in geographically when some parents work on certain days, there's childcare/kindy days to consider as well as baby sleep times J Constant juggle! Our timetables are ever

changing. We have to be highly responsive to newly diagnosed families when they appear (and you never know when) and try to look cool, calm and confident!

Also, knowing which assessment and tracking tools to use can be a challenge. You need comprehensive knowledge of the available tools to assess listening development, language and communication skills, concept knowledge, Auslan development, pragmatic skills etc. etc...knowing when, why and how to use them appropriately with young children can be a challenge. You need to be really creative!

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

I would definitely say 'go for it!' I've had the most rewarding career and truly enjoyed all of my different roles over the years. I've become part of a community of amazing educators who are passionate and great advocates for deaf children. I've also become part of the deaf community, supporting the next generation of confident adults and work alongside many deaf families. The trust that is placed on your skills and guidance from the deaf community is humbling and never taken for granted.

You won't regret joining our team.

The Australian Expanded Core Curriculum-Deaf Update

AECC-D Update Development of the Australian Core Curriculum for the deaf is really gaining momentum. There was a lot of groundwork that needed to be discussed and finalised prior to starting the actual resource, but it is exciting to see it beginning to take shape and reflect the Australian context. The committee meet twice a term and in the past few meetings they have been working on the Audiology Focus Area.

Thanks again to all who participated in our Focus Area Survey. There was a minimum of 91% consensus for each of the areas proposed by the committee. The survey will be open until the end of term if you haven't had a chance to have your say. Here's the link, just in case:

<https://forms.office.com/Pages/ResponsePage.aspx?id=6f57c4gGRkmuqb0LtA7PB1EIXa5rNJZKjVQnxliRO4FUQIFQVIBHOU1YWUo4MjIXMEFQWFYwSU1aRy4u>

We look forward to sharing more updates as we progress.

On behalf of the AECC-D Committee,

Alison I'amafana

Brighton Primary CDE - Tennis Gala Day - Tuesday 15th August 2023



Brighton Primary School's Centre of Deaf Education students love our CDE Big Day Out excursions. We are so excited to see and connect with all of our Deaf/Hard of Hearing peers from the other four Centres of Deaf Education around Adelaide. Our first Big Day Out this year was at Tennis SA for a Gala Tennis Day. All the CDE students (F - Yr 12), Teachers of the Deaf and Bilingual Student Support Officers (BSSOs) were greeted by Tennis SA with big smiles and a full day planned. Everyone was delighted to re-connect and chat with old friends and meet new friends.

Coaching sessions

Before we went to our CDE Tennis Gala Day, we had an opportunity for some extra tennis coaching sessions. A coach from Tennis SA came to our school to teach us important tennis skills and introduce us to the rules of the game. We enjoyed learning different ways to improve our racquet techniques and enjoyed playing a variety of games.

Tennis Time

It was a perfect winter's day with lots of sunshine. Tennis SA organised our groups and the activities began. Each group tried all the different tennis activities. It was great to see everyone working as a team and having a go at all the games. JP teams enjoyed trying to throw the ball over the net and hit the cone. It was tricky but we persisted. MP teams played mini games with each other.

What a day!

After lots of tennis games and activities, we all enjoyed chatting with our friends and eating our pizza lunch! We were all very happy at the end of the day. A big thank you to Tennis SA for organising our Tennis Gala Day. We appreciated our extra coaching sessions and having interpreters on the courts with us! We look forward to our next CDE Big Day Out at Tennis SA.

Catharine Carlin

Assistant Principal - Brighton Primary School CDE













Avenues College CDE - Show Day Excursion



On Thursday 7th September, students and staff from Avenues CDE embarked on an exciting educational adventure as they visited the Royal Adelaide Show. Filled with enthusiastic curiosity, the students explored the world of agriculture, entertainment and community spirit. While petting cute yet noisy (and occasionally smelly) farm animals like baby lambs, piglets, chickens and puppies, as well as exploring creepy crawlies safely enclosed in cages, the students embraced a diverse range of animal experiences offered at the show. They engaged in feeding demonstrations, had the opportunity to touch and discern the contrasting qualities of sheep and llama wool, along with cheering on the agile horses as they showcased their tricks. Some students eagerly embraced the challenge of the side-show alley and skilfully claimed a share of its prizes with much delight. Despite the start rainy start, it was a fun-filled day that also imparted valuable lessons and created lasting memories for them all.

Jo Weedon - Avenues Centre of Deaf Education (Y7-12)

















National Week of Deaf People at Klemzig Primary School



The staff and students at Klemzig Primary School look forward to celebrating National Week of Deaf People each year. This year was another busy week filled with activities designed to celebrate our community and to learn more about our culture, history, language and community.

We launched the week with a whole school assembly on Monday morning. Later that day our CDE students, siblings, CODAs and Auslan classes were invited to participate in some Minute to Win It activities in the gym; promoting collaboration and fun in a voices-off, deaf space.

On Tuesday, our Auslan Bilingual Preschool hosted some families and teachers from the Early Intervention Service for Deaf and Hard of Hearing. The beautiful weather made for a perfect morning with children and families playing in the preschool yard before enjoying a signed story time before saying goodbye,

On Wednesday, the Klemzig staffroom became a voice-off zone. All staff members were required to fingerspell their name to upper primary CDE students before entering the room and were given blue cupcakes as a special NWDP morning tea. Wednesday we also had Klemzig alumni and deaf community member Tan Cheung visit. They spoke to our middle primary and upper primary CDE students about their experience at high school and university and as an adult navigating their way in the world. The students were thrilled to learn from Tan and were excited to chat and ask a lot of questions after the talk. It was a brilliant learning opportunity for all involved.

All mainstream classes were given some games and lessons to run throughout the week too, these centered around why we celebrate NWDP, practicing some basic signs, understanding the important role deaf people play in diversifying the broader community and understanding the theme for this year, A World Where Deaf People Can Sign Anywhere.

Friday there was a student-led assembly that included a performance by an Auslan L2 class to celebrate NWDP. The highlight of the week for many came on Friday after school with the reestablishment of the biannual CDE sleepover. CDE students remained at school as their peers went home for the weekend, some families of CDE students joined in the fun too. Students were put into four teams, each team named after a significant member of the Australian Deaf Community. The teams participated in an idiom quiz and scavenger hunt before relaxing with some social time and a shared dinner. Once families and some students went home for the evening, the remaining students prepared to settle for the night, setting up their sleeping bags to watch some movies before bed. Students and staff went home Saturday morning a little tired but mostly ecstatic with the experience.

Deaf Australia explains that National Week of Deaf People is an opportunity to build and maintain relationships with Deaf people and be recognised as an ally to the Deaf community. I think Klemzig seized this opportunity and made the most of it for staff, students, families and the community this year. I look forward to celebrating again next year.

Sarah Lewis

Teacher of the Deaf

Klemzig Primary School

CALL FOR PAPERS IS NOW OPEN!

CLOSES NOVEMBER 10!



The Call for Papers for ANZCED 2024 is now open! Submissions close November 10, 2023. Dont miss out on this opportunity to share your knowledge, research, and or evidence based practice with our audience. More details on the website: <https://anzced.naatd.com.au/>

Audiology Refresher Course



Discover the Audiology Refresher Series, conceived by Margaret Glasgow and featured in BATOD Magazine. For ToDs and educators, these articles offer quick access to essential audiological knowledge. Now updated with fresh insights and expertise, the series covers:

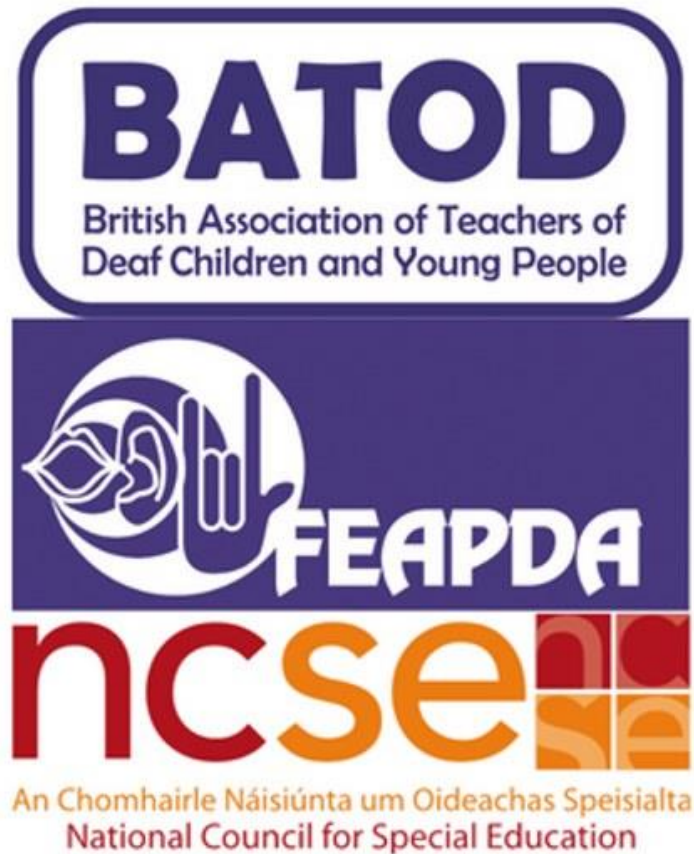
- Ear anatomy
- Types of deafness
- Hearing testing
- Acoustics
- Listening skills
- Hearing technologies

Further material will be added over the coming months.

Click here to learn more: <https://www.batod.org.uk/resources-category/audiology-refreshers/>

Funded by William Demant Foundation and BATOD, with DeafKidz International and British Society of Audiology.

Save the Date: Joint BATOD Conference 2024 in Ireland!



Deaf education enthusiasts, mark your calendars for the 27th FEAPDA Congress, in collaboration with BATOD, supported by BATOD Northern Ireland and NCSE.

Dates: April 26th – 27th, 2024

Location: The Grand Hotel, Malahide, Co. Dublin, Ireland

Languages: English (Interpreted into IS, Irish Sign, and BSL)

Theme: Diversity in Deaf Education

If any members are visiting Ireland next April, our call for contributions for the joint Congress between FEAPDA, NCSE and BATOD is open: <https://www.batod.org.uk/about-us/batod-national-feapda-ncse-joint-congress-2024/>

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!