



Term 4 2022 Newsletter

From the President

Welcome to our last newsletter for 2022. Thank you to Briony Harrison for all the work that she has put in to make the newsletter easy to read and interesting. Thank you to all our other contributors who have made the newsletter inclusive. If you wish to submit an article, please contact Briony. We have had many positive comments from both interstate and SA members on our newsletter.

You would have all received an email from me about the mapping of children and students with cochlear implants. We have sent a letter to the Minister and the Chief Executive of the Education Department. We are all very aware of the long-term implications for individual students and the additional supports that they are likely to need. While it may be deemed a health issue it will become one that the education system must provide intervention for through out the child's schooling.

I had the great pleasure to attend the Educators SA World Teachers event where the achievements and the work several of our colleagues were acknowledged. Have a look further in the newsletter for more information. Congratulations to all our award winners.

We have not yet had a response to our proposal for services to deaf and hard of hearing children in their local school. Hopefully we will have some information before the end of the school year.

We have several functions happening before the end of the year, and I would encourage you to participate. Our dinner will be held on the 25th of November. NAATD will have a zoom session for all states where Alison Hawkins Bond will discuss her research, I believe many SA teachers were involved in

this. It should be an interesting session. We also have an extraordinary general meeting to make some changes to the constitution. We have further information about within the newsletter.

2022 has been a busy year for staff and for AATDSA. Thank you for all your work in improving the learning of deaf and hard of hearing students in South Australia. Thank you to the AATDSA Committee and the PD Committee for all their work in providing training for everyone and advocacy for all deaf and hard of hearing students. While AATDSA is a small group of teachers we are very active and work towards making a difference for students and the profession.

Have a wonderful Christmas and summer holiday.

Claire

Congratulations to our Award Winners



educators

Congratulations to the winners of 2022:



1 - The Teachers Registration Board Early Career Mentor of the Year 2022 State Award winner: Mandy Conner. Awarded for her significant contribution to the induction, mentoring and professional development of early career teachers.



2 - Teacher of the Deaf 2022 Award for Excellence winner: Teresa Maiolo. Awarded for her professional knowledge, practice and engagement.



3 - Australian Association of Teachers of the Deaf Life Member Award: Nicola Capon. Awarded for her contribution and advocacy for Deaf and hard of Hearing students across all sectors.

Thanks to Hannah King for coordinating the awards process.







World Teachers' Day 2022
Recognition of Excellence
Award
Nirala Capron
Teacher of the Year
Award
2022

CTIA
Award of Excellence
2022

World Teachers' Day 2022
Recognition of Excellence
Award
Teresa Mulo
Teacher of the Year
Award
2022



Why are we making changes to the constitution?



As an association we are proposing that:

Committee members be limited to no more than nine, and to include one country, one Deaf and one non-government member.

- To ensure that we have a variety of voices that represent the field on the State committee.
- It is important that everyone feels represented.

National Reps move from two to three.

- This proposal will bring South Australia in line with the National Constitution.

To enable this to happen in 2023, all committee members will step down. They will be eligible to be re-nominated to the 2023 Committee. The committee will then determine who has a one year or two-year term.

Pleaser come along to the Special General Meeting at EDC Hindmarsh on 7th December, 6-7pm.

Early Intervention Service News

In Week 5 we held another Playgroup, this time at the Big Rocking Horse in Gumeracha. What an amazing day we had! The weather was very kind to us and we all had a wonderful time. We explored the wildlife park and met some very cheeky goats! Some of us even braved climbing the steep ladder to the very top of the Rocking Horse! The rest of us were very happy to watch the climbers and take photos! Our next Playgroup will be our last for the year and is usually our biggest, maybe because the big man in red pays a visit.

If any ToD's would like to organize a joint Playgroup with their class in 2023, we'd love to hear from you. It's great for our little ones and their families to see older Deaf/HH children and of course a great opportunity for the older kids to do some peer support.







We've welcomed many new families to the service over the term and of course we have been busy with the transition of our Preschool leavers. It is always bitter sweet to wave them off as they begin their school journey, which usually means we (sadly) don't get to see the families anymore either.

Term 3 and 4 also saw EIS welcome Julie Daley back into the team while Carrie takes maternity leave. Julie has of course slotted straight back in, and we love having her singing and sense of humour around again.

At the end of this term we say goodbye to Sally Mainsbridge. Sally has been our speech pathologist for 13 years. Sally has an absolute wealth of knowledge and experience in supporting students who are deaf or hard of hearing. There has never been a question too difficult for Sally to answer. Her speech pathology expertise paired with her Auslan skills has provided such a comprehensive service option for our families.

She has continually kept her knowledge updated to ensure we had access to her specialist knowledge including completing Grad Cert in Education for D/HH children. Sally set up a specialist speech pathologist working party for those Speech Paths working with D/HH children.

She is highly collaborative and enjoyed working as a member of our team - brainstorming and problem solving with those tricky little ones, and very passionate about her work.

Thank you, Sally, for your amazing dedication and your willingness to share your skill set over the many years in your work with the Department for Education. You will be really missed. Enjoy a fun filled retirement.

Alison I'amafana

Interview with AATD(SA) committee member - **Alison I'amafana**



1. What is your current role?

The official title is Project Officer, Early Intervention Service - Deaf/Hard of Hearing, but I usually just say Teacher of the Deaf with the EIS team.

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

It was a gradual process. I'd been working mostly in mainstream High School Special Ed for about 10 years and had started learning Auslan out of personal interest. Greg Pedder used to visit kids at the school where I was and the information he'd share made me realise there's a lot more to just seating these kids at the front of the class. He let me know about the scholarships on offer for the Masters course, I applied and was successful (not sure if anyone gets knocked back!) So from there I did bits and pieces in Deaf ed and returned to my Mainstream Special Ed Coordinator role in between. My first experience was a short stint as a Hearing Services Coordinator, which is now known as Special Educator (Hearing). Then I went to Samoa as a Secondary Teacher of the Deaf for a year and stayed a second year as a volunteer Deaf Inclusion Advisor through Austraining International. This was an amazing personal and professional experience. It really made me understand how little I knew and how integral language is as a foundation for learning and identity. I also developed a greater appreciation for different cultural beliefs and to check my own prejudices.

Then I came back to Australia determined to leave mainstream and work in Deaf Ed somehow. Quentin sent an email for a Coordinator role in the IPP for Aboriginal Children with Conductive Fluctuating Hearing Loss. I was hesitant because I had very little experience with preschool, but I took a leap and am so glad I did. I really loved the role - it was challenging, but again I learned so much about hearing, language, culture, families, working with other agencies and working across different sites. I also learned

the importance of reaching out to more experienced people. I often would bug Sandra Kelly and Julie Daley for advice during this time - thanks ladies. At this time I was also up to doing my prac placements in the Masters course. I did my first placement with Mandy Connor in Early Intervention. I knew immediately that one day I'd like to work on that team. I loved that each session was completely guided by the needs of the child or the family, nothing else. My second prac was at Adelaide. That was nice too - I was used to the High School context and Tanya and the team were lovely. The IPP was going through some uncertainty, so I went back to mainstream and made plans to move to Melbourne to work in Deaf Ed. At the AATD(SA) end of year dinner Sandra Kelly introduced me to Kim Adams from the Klemzig CDE. The universe aligned and the very next year I started as a ToD at Klemzig with a Reception/Year 1 class. Another steep learning curve! I did a couple of years in the classroom, then a little over a year in the Klemzig Auslan Bilingual Preschool before finally landing at EIS. I'm heading into my 3rd year with EIS next year.

3. What is the best part about your job?

As I said before, I love that each session is driven by the needs of an individual child and/or their family. If you start working with a family when their child is identified through the UNHS you see them grow and develop from a tiny baby all the way to when they go to school. We see first signs, first words, first steps - It's really lovely. The EIS team are also really supportive (and funny). There's a wealth of knowledge and experience amongst them so there's always an opportunity for me to pick someone's brain.

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

The first thing I found challenging is that you only have 1 hour or so a week or fortnight with the child and their family or teachers. You can only do so much in that hour and the rest really depends on what the adults do with the child in between your visits. In a classroom or the preschool, you can target a growth point over a whole day or week and often see development quickly. Another challenge is the travel. I see families as far south as Willunga and as far north as Nuriootpa and Hamley Bridge. The travel can be tiring and also impact on how many children you get to see, how much time you get in the office to do the admin side of things and share the team workload. You also have to plot where the decent toilets are (there's not many) and when you can squeeze in lunch. Other challenges would be similar to any ToD - mostly relating to people, processes and perceptions 😊.

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

Always challenge yourself even if it's scary and overwhelming to begin with. It's when you try new things or talk to new people that you realise how little you actually know still but then can also grow personally and professionally. Most days something happens to remind me how much I still have to learn. I also look at each child as a new and exciting opportunity to learn as a professional, no matter where they are in their development. Also, as a ToD you need to be an active advocate. You might need to advocate for the child with their parents or other educators, support the parents in advocating for their child or advocate for yourself, your colleagues or Deaf ed in general. Unfortunately, there's still a long way to go

so it's important we, as ToD's do all we can to make change happen. Also, join the AATD, go to events, come to the dinner - You might get a new job out of it! 😊



4 - Here is the classroom where we had the Year 9 group for most lessons



5 - This is the breezeway is where I taught the Year 10s for Maths. We were usually joined by a stray dog or two! At the end of every day the kids wiped down all the furniture, swept and mopped the floors and wiped all the louvres in the windows.

AATD(SA) Invests in New Equipment

credit union^{sa}



From small beginnings, in February 2021 AATD(SA) ran their first hybrid event with a face-to-face audience an online audience and the option to access the recording.

Since this event we have worked hard, to continue to improve access to professional learning and committee meetings.

As part of this ongoing commitment, **AATD has spent over \$3000 on equipment** and subscriptions this year, so we have the technology to produce better quality hybrid events.

The funds were spent on a transportable kit with items such as: a projector, webcam and tripod, headphones, multidirectional meeting microphone, wi-fi hotspot and mobile router.





We have also purchased new banners to reflect our new logo.



In addition to the AATD(SA) funds spent, we were successful in obtaining a **\$2000 grant from Credit Union SA**, which was invested in a portable Sound Field System and two pass around microphones.



We greatly appreciate the support of Credit Union SA, as quality sound and optimal access for all, is important to our association.

Thank you to Dani, Sandra and Claire for their work in researching and organising the purchase of this equipment.

Past recorded PDs are now available on the AATD(SA) website. This bank of resources will continue to expand as we co-ordinate more hybrid professional learning opportunities.

Jasmine Darrie

MorThemes Grant



Schools Plus

The Avenues CDE team have been successful in gaining a \$30,000 grant to further expand and refine our site developed literacy intervention program - MorThemes. We are incredibly proud of this achievement, especially knowing that there were over 500 submissions from across Australia in this year's round of grants. Over the coming year we will use the grant to establish trials (in SA and hopefully interstate sites too), in order to collect wider data around our program's impact on Deaf students' literacy and to evaluate the program's efficacy on a larger scale. If you are interested in more information, please get in touch with one of our team!

Teresa Maiolo

A Tradition Continues...



On December 2nd, the Centres of Deaf Education within the Department for Education came together for the annual Townsend House Picnic, held at Marshmallow Park. The picnic gave Deaf and Hard of Hearing students an opportunity to socialise within their broader Deaf community, catching up with friends old and new. The sunny weather and shady trees provided students with the perfect setting for activities, with some of the older role models organising sack races for the students. There was even a special visitor whose sleigh made a detour from the North Pole. Father Christmas could sign with the students and even had some lollies to share. What a special memory!

Thanks to the leadership team for once again organising a successful picnic and thanks to all the staff who supported on the day. I'm sure everyone is looking forward to the tradition continuing next year.

Sarah Lewis











GOOD JOB!
PICNIC
2022

GOOD JOB!
PICNIC
2022

THIRD
PICNIC
2022

GOOD JOB!
PICNIC
2022















AATD(SA)'s Christmas Dinner



join us for our
**END OF YEAR
CELEBRATION**

celebrating all of our hard work this year
and wishing our colleague Greg Pedder a
happy retirement

6PM FRIDAY 25
NOVEMBER



FIRST DRINK
IS ON US

MOSAIC HOTEL, WEST LAKES
37 Turner Dr, West Lakes SA 5021

AATD (SA) members and colleagues in Deaf education came together on Friday 25th of November at the Mosaic Hotel in West Lakes to celebrate the end of another year. We enjoyed a meal together and it was fantastic to be able to catch up with so many friends and colleagues from around South Australia. Greg Pedder, who is retiring after many years in Deaf education, was invited as a special guest and AATD (SA) president Claire Loades spoke about some of the highlights of Greg's career, his dedication to improving access and education for our students, and the huge impact his work has had for so many people. Thank you Greg for all of your hard work and we wish you all the best for your much deserved retirement!

Danielle Hobbs

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 briony@aatdsa.org.au - Thank you!