

# *Insights into the Deaf Community*

## Perspectives on Deafness.

### Cultural Perspective on Deafness.

- Deafness is accepted
- Deafness is seen as a positive part of a person's identity
- Focuses on what Deaf people *can* do
- Visual communication and sign language are encouraged and seen as a valid way of communicating
- English is accepted as a second language
- Deaf people are just as intelligent as hearing people
- Recognise the existence of a Deaf Community

### Medical Perspective on Deafness.

- Deafness is seen as a problem to be "cured"
- Emphasis placed on what deaf people *can't* do (deafness is a deficit which limits ability)
- Sign language is not promoted – emphasis is placed on the development of verbal skills (speech is seen as superior and the most valid method of communication)
- English is forced upon deaf people as their first language
- Deaf people are slow learners with inferior intelligence
- Denies the existence of the Deaf Community (deaf people should be integrated into the hearing world)