

# Hands On News



## Deaf Society of NSW

### Voting time!

Welcome to another edition of Hands On News.

political groups and their policies.

Government is running a campaign against domestic violence (violence in the home). The campaign is called 'Violence Against Women – Australia Says No'. Turn to page 2 for more information.



Hands On News brings you the news in the Deaf community and the wider Australian community.

The big news is that there will be a Federal election soon. If you are over 18 and an Australian citizen, you **must** vote.

But how do you decide **who** to vote for? Turn to page 8 for lots of information about the

In other important news for all Australians, the Federal

We also have lots of great info about what's happening in your community – special events, workshops and courses.

We hope you enjoy this edition of Hands On News!



This is 'hello' in Greek!

Our Australian athletes are in Athens right now, working hard and winning lots of medals. We wish them luck!

Turn to page 10 for information about the Deaflympics.

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### How's the weather?

The weather affects all of us. Bad weather can damage your house or car. Bad weather could even hurt you or your family. Inside, there is an envelope and a **survey**. The survey is from the Bureau of Meteorology (the government's weather department). The Bureau wants to make sure that deaf people get enough information about bad

weather so that deaf people can be safe during storms, floods or fires. **Please help – answer the questions and send the survey back to the Bureau. (It's free!)**

#### When a storm is coming:

- Put your car under cover (e.g. in the garage)
- Tie down things which are outside
- Go inside. Don't go near the windows.

#### During and after a storm:

- Be very careful if you are driving
- Watch out for fallen trees and power lines
- Don't use the phone, TTY or fax during the storm
- If your house is damaged, contact the State Emergency Service *after the storm*. They don't have a TTY or fax yet, so call the National Relay Service on TTY 133 677 and ask them to call 132 500.

# Violence against women – Australia says NO



The Australian Government has a new campaign to make sure everyone knows: **violence against women is wrong**. Violence can include:

- Hitting
- Rape or sexual assault
- Kicking
- Scaring
- Making threats
- Stalking (following someone, spying on them)

A bad relationship **could** lead to violence. It's not good if your husband/boyfriend:

- Is too jealous
- Controls you too much (e.g. won't let you go out without him; won't let you have your own money)
- Is nasty or puts you down
- Threatens to do bad things to you or your family
- Humiliates you (embarrasses you)

## No excuses

It's **never** ok for a man to be violent to a woman.

If your husband/boyfriend says sorry afterwards...that doesn't make it ok!

If he promises never to do it again...that still doesn't make it ok!

If he says it was your fault, that's not ok!

**Women do not have to put up with violence from men.**

**Men who hurt women can get help to change their behaviour.**

It's not OK for **anyone** to hurt you! Sometimes, a woman might hurt another woman. This isn't OK either! The Domestic Violence Helpline can help you if another woman is hurting you too.

## Getting help

If you are worried or scared about violence, tell someone you trust. You could tell your mum or dad, your sister or aunt, your doctor, teacher or priest.

There is also a special phone number called the Helpline. You can talk to someone who will help you.

### Who can call the Helpline?

- **Women** whose husband/partner is hurting them
- **Men** who are hurting their

wife/partner/children

- **Anyone** who is worried about violence against women.

The Helpline is **free**. You can ask to talk to a male counsellor or a female counsellor. The counsellor will keep everything confidential (secret).

**To contact the Helpline**, phone the NRS on 1800 555 677 and tell them to ring **1800 200 526**.

### Important TTY numbers

- Domestic Violence Helpline: 1800 200 526 (voice-call NRS)
- Police emergency: 106
- Domestic Violence Advocacy Service (Legal advice about domestic violence): 1800 626 267
- Rape Crisis Centre: 9181 4349
- Domestic Violence Line: 1800 671 442
- Dympna House (Incest and sexual violence counselling): 9716 5100

*"You can get help!"*



### What is an AVO?

An AVO is an apprehended violence order. It is an order from a judge. If someone is hurting you, the judge can tell them they must stop hurting you, or they are not allowed to contact you, or they are not allowed to come near you. You can ask the judge for an AVO if someone is hurting you or if you are scared of someone. Also, the police can ask the judge for an AVO if they think someone is hurting you or might hurt you.

If the person does not do what the AVO says, they could get a criminal record (get in serious trouble with the police).

#### How do I get an AVO?

- 1.. Contact the Domestic Violence Advocacy Line on TTY - 1800 626 267, or
2. Go to your local police station. Ask for an interpreter! Tell them you want an AVO, or
3. Go to your local court. Ask for an interpreter! Tell the **chamber magistrate** you want an AVO.

## Courses for Deaf people at TAFE

### First Aid

What would you do if your friend or family was hurt? Would you know how to help?

This First Aid course could help you save a person's life!

The course is at **Meadowbank TAFE**. It is **free**.

It is on Saturday mornings for six weeks, starting 23 October.

To enrol, or for more information, contact Peter Cipollone:  
 peter.cipollone@tafensw.edu.au  
 TTY: 9942 3172  
 Fax: 9942 3520



### Mentoring in the Community

This course will teach you how to help other Deaf people.

The course is at **Granville TAFE**.

It is on Tuesdays from 4pm to 7pm, starting **August 31**, so **hurry!** The course goes for 12 weeks.

To enrol, or for more information, contact Julie Ford:  
 julie.ford@det.nsw.edu.au  
 TTY: 9637 3549  
 Voice: 9682 0265  
 Fax: 9682 0380

**Granville TAFE** has courses specially for mature Deaf people.

There are two courses:

1. **Computers**
2. **Literacy** (reading and writing)

They are both on Fridays from 9am to 1:30pm.

To enrol, or for more information, contact Julie Ford:  
 9682 0265 (v)  
 9682 0380 (fax)  
 9637 3549 (TTY)  
 julie.ford@det.nsw.edu.au

**Granville TAFE** also has two other FREE course available to mature, unemployed (no job) Deaf people:

1. A 13-week course in **painting and decorating**.
2. A 12-week course in **metal fabrication**.

Both courses are full-time.

To enrol, or for more information, contact Kerrie Poyner:

Fax: 9682 0396  
 Voice: 9682 0455  
 Email: kerrie.poyner@det.nsw.edu.au

## Thinking about university study?

Whether you are a school-leaver or a mature-age person, if you are thinking about university study, have you considered Macquarie University?

Macquarie University provides interpreters and notetakers for Deaf students. The Coordinator, Deaf Student Services, is an interpreter. She can talk to lecturers to make sure that assignments and exams are fair for Deaf students.

For more information, contact Gerry Smith on:

**Email:** [gerry.smith@ucls.mq.edu.au](mailto:gerry.smith@ucls.mq.edu.au)

**TTY:** 02 9850 6493

**SMS:** 0416 211 146

# THE DEAF SOCIETY PAGE

## News from the Deaf Society of NSW



The Deaf Society has said goodbye to Marilyn Shaw (Coordinator, Community Access and Information Service) and to Daniel Johnston (Community Access Worker).

We welcome our new staff:

- Mr Terry Houguet-Pincham, Manager, Client and Community Services
- Ms Jenny Bruton, Community Access Worker
- Ms Sarah Dearlove, Community Worker

### News from Newcastle

There have been some changes in our Newcastle office. Stephen Nicholson is now the person who works in Newcastle.

The Drop In Day will now be **Thursdays**. The Drop In hours are from 10:00am to 3:00pm.

You don't need to make an appointment for Drop In on Thursdays. But you can also make an appointment to see Stephen on a Tuesday if you want. (The Deaf Society's

Newcastle office is closed on Mondays, Wednesdays and Fridays.)

To make an appointment with Stephen, contact him:

TTY: 02 9893 8858  
 FAX: 02 9893 8333 or  
 02 4929 1404  
 EMAIL: [snicholson@deafsociety.com](mailto:snicholson@deafsociety.com)

## National Week of Deaf People: 9 – 15 October 2004

*Between 9 and 15 October, we are celebrating Deaf people, Deaf culture, Deaf language, Deaf history!*

*The Deaf Society is proud to be involved in these celebrations. You can get involved too! Come along to our events!*

### Saturday 9 October

What do you think of the Deaf Society? Come and have your say! Tell us what you like and what you don't like.

#### **Families are welcome!**

#### Time?

10am to 3pm. Includes **free BBQ!**

#### Where?

Woodstock Community Centre  
 Fitzroy St, Burwood.

Please **RSVP** 9893 8858 (TTY), 9893 8333 (fax) or [deafsoc@ihug.com.au](mailto:deafsoc@ihug.com.au)

*(Also see p7 for info about our Lis-  
 more community consultation!)*

### Sunday 10 October

**Visit Fort Denison in beautiful Sydney Harbour!** Eat a lovely buffet breakfast, then go for a tour.

**Cost:** \$50 (includes breakfast, ferry and tour)

**RSVP:** Wednesday 1 September. You *must* RSVP – get in quick! TTY – 9893 8858

Fax – 9893 8333 or email [khingerty@deafsociety.com](mailto:khingerty@deafsociety.com)

**Meet at Cadmans Cottage, 110 George St, the Rocks at 8:30am**

### Thursday 14 October

Come to the Deaf Society's **Open Day!** Learn how to book interpreters, how to use the TTY and relay service, and how the Deaf Society works. It's **free!** School groups welcome!

To RSVP, contact Stephen Nicholson:

TTY: 9893 8858  
 Fax: 9893 8333 or email [snicholson@deafsociety.com](mailto:snicholson@deafsociety.com)

## Tour of Parliament House

On July 20, the Deaf Society organised a tour of NSW Parliament House. Almost 30 Deaf people came. Our guides, Peter and Maurice, told us a lot about how the NSW Government works.

The NSW Parliament (government) has two 'houses' (parts):

1. The Upper House
2. The Lower House

### How do politicians make new laws?

The Parliament's main job is to make new laws for NSW. Both houses work together to make new laws. Usually, a politician from the Lower House decides they want to make a new law. The politician (with help from his or her staff) writes a paper called a **bill**. The bill is the politician's idea for the new law. Then all the politicians in the Lower House discuss the bill. They might decide to make changes. Or they might decide to reject (say no to) the bill. But if they agree to the bill, they give it to the Upper House. Then the politicians in the Upper House discuss the bill. They can make changes or they can reject it. But if they agree with it, then the bill becomes a new law.



On the steps of NSW Parliament House, with our guide, Peter Tuziak (left)

## More Deaf Society news!

### FREE workshops at the Deaf Society



#### Tenancy rights

What are your rights and responsibilities when you are renting your home? What can you do if the owner charges too much rent? How can you get your bond back? Are you allowed to stop paying rent?

Find out at our FREE workshop at the Deaf Society on **Tuesday September 28**, 10am to 12 noon.

**RSVP** Thursday 23 September.

#### Tax help

Filling in your tax return can be hard! But don't worry – you can get FREE help! An officer from the Australian Tax Office will be at the **Sydney and Newcastle** Deaf Societies to help you. This isn't really a workshop - you make an appointment, and then you talk to the officer privately for up to 45 minutes. You **MUST** make an appointment. Hurry - appointments are filling up fast!

*See the flyer for more info.*



#### Women's health

A workshop for women and girls only! (Sorry, guys!)

Come along and learn about osteoporosis, sexual health, menopause, heart health, breast health, mental health, menstruation, fertility and lots more!

The workshop is at the Deaf Society of NSW on **Tuesday 9 November, 10am to 12 noon.**

**RSVP** 2 November. *Please let us know your age group so we will talk about things interesting to you.*



**To come to any of these workshops, you MUST RSVP! Contact Nicole:**  
**TTY: 9893 8858      Fax: 9893 8333      Email: deafsoc@ihug.com.au**

## Get involved in the Deaf Society!

### Would you like to be a Deaf Society board member?

We need Deaf people to represent the Deaf Community on the Deaf Society's Board of Directors.

Board members are responsible for making sure the Society meets its legal and financial obligations and achieves the goals

set out in our mission statement.

Members of the Board have different skills and experiences which help them to manage the business on the Deaf Society.

You have to be a member of the Deaf Society before you can be nominated to a position on the Board.

If you would like more information about becoming a Board member, please contact either Rebecca Ladd or Sharon Everson:

rladd@deafsociety.com or  
 severson@deafsociety.com  
 TTY: (02) 9893 8858

### Deaf Society Annual General Meeting

The AGM for the Deaf Society will be on **Saturday 27 November** from 2pm to 4pm at Woodstock Community Centre, Fitzroy St, Burwood. **Everyone is welcome** to come along! (But only members are allowed to vote.) Please RSVP to Nicole at deafsoc@ihug.com.au, TTY 9893 8858 or fax 9893 8333.



## Looking for a job?

### EMPLOYMENT CONSULTANT FOR THE DEAF

**Nova Employment**  
Campbelltown

NOVA Employment in Campbelltown is a specialist employment service that provides placement and support for people who are Deaf or hearing impaired to obtain and retain open employment.

#### Criteria:

#### Essential:

1. Must be fluent in Auslan (Sign Language),
2. Capable of interpreting for support,
3. Understand the needs of the Deaf community,
4. Result oriented,
5. Mature & self confident,
6. Capable of marketing and maintaining accurate records.
7. Current drivers licence, own car and good driving record.

#### Desirable:

- Basic computer skills and experience in a variety of vocational occupations.

This position involves working with children/young people.

The position commences on the **20<sup>th</sup> September, 2004.**

Please contact **Cara on 9833 2500** by August 25<sup>th</sup> to obtain an application package.

Visit our Website: [www.novaemployment.com.au](http://www.novaemployment.com.au)



### DEAF SUPPORT WORKER – RESIDENTIAL CARE

**Deaf Society of NSW**  
Out-of-Home Care Service  
Casual/6-month contract  
(Re-advertised)

Includes afternoon and/or evening shifts and on weekends.

The Deaf Support Worker Residential Care Out-of-Home Care Service is a specialist job that works within and supports Deaf young people in an out-of-home care placement. The job is at a residential care facility in the Western Sydney Region provided by the Department of Community Services.

This job makes sure that the out-of-home care placement is stable and nurturing, recognising the needs of Deaf children, promoting the use and development of sign language and supporting the young people in further learning and development of life skills.

#### Essential:

- ◆ Qualifications in Residential Care/Youth Work/Social Sciences or commitment to commence training and education relevant to residential care within a specified timeframe;
- ◆ Experience working with children/young people and ability to manage challenging behaviours;
- ◆ Excellent communication skills, including Auslan, written English and ability to use an interpreter;
- ◆ Understanding of the Deaf community, its language and culture;
- ◆ Willingness to undertake work out of hours;
- ◆ Knowledge and/or awareness of child protection issues
- ◆ Current drivers licence and comprehensively insured vehicle;
- ◆ Ability to design and implement a life skills program relevant to the needs of Deaf children.

#### **Selection criteria must be addressed in all applications.**

To obtain an application package, please contact Nicole Harris at the Deaf Society of NSW on phone 02 9893 8555 TTY 9893 8858 or email: [deafsoc@ihug.com.au](mailto:deafsoc@ihug.com.au)

For further information about the position, please contact Lisa Mulcahy on phone 02 8833 3627 TTY 9893 8858 or email: [lmulcahy@deafsociety.com](mailto:lmulcahy@deafsociety.com)

## Job opportunity in Lismore

An opportunity exists to join the Deaf Society of NSW as the **Rural Services Coordinator – Northern NSW**, a position for 30 hrs per week based in Lismore.

The Rural Services Co-ordinator – Northern NSW will have responsibility for providing an information and advocacy, and community support service to people who are Deaf, hearing-and speech-impaired, their families and carers in the Lismore Local Government Area and for rural and regional development, relevant to deafness, in the northern areas of NSW.

Interviews will be held in Lismore on **Saturday 4 Sept 04.**

**Contact the Deaf Society to get the selection criteria before applying.**

Applications close 5pm Tuesday 31 August.

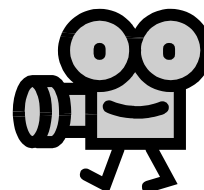
Please contact Nicole Harris for an application package or Terry Houguet-Pincham for further information Ph. (02) 9893 8555 or (02) 9893 8858 (TTY).



# Deaf Movie Night

Australian Association of the Deaf is having a Deaf movie night. Come along and watch some wonderful movies—you'll have a great night, plus you'll be supporting your association.

**When?** Friday 10 September, 7:30pm  
**Where?** Burwood RSL, 96 Shaftsbury Rd, Burwood  
**Cost?** AAD members \$8, non-members \$10



## Community consultation—Lismore

The Deaf Society of NSW invites you to an information and consultation session.



**When?** Friday 3 September 2004  
**Time?** 5.00pm – 6.30pm  
**Where?** Lismore Workers Club, 231 Keen St Lismore

Auslan interpreters will be provided.  
 Join us for light refreshments from 5pm.

To **RSVP** or for more information, contact Sandra Carroll at the Deaf Society of NSW;  
 Phone: (02) 8833 3626 or 1800 893 855  
 Fax: (02) 9893 8333 or 1800 898 333  
 TTY: (02) 9893 8858 or 1800 893 885  
 Email: [scarroll@deafsociety.com](mailto:scarroll@deafsociety.com)

## Deaf Fun Camp

The Breaking Silence Youth Group is having a camp for students from grade 6 to grade 12, and other young people the same age.

**When:** 4th to 8th October  
**Cost:** \$200 (includes meals)  
**Activities:** Table tennis, pool tables, bowls, abseiling, canoeing and many more!  
**RSVP:** 5th September (must pay \$50 deposit)  
 9871 3026 (TTY)  
 9871 3192 (fax)  
 9871 3049 (voice)  
 Email: [Breaking\\_silence\\_youth@yahoo.com.au](mailto:Breaking_silence_youth@yahoo.com.au)

## Have your say about interpreters!

Dr Jemina Napier is an Auslan interpreter, interpreter trainer and researcher. Jemina is researching what Deaf people think of interpreters. **You can help.**

If you:

- Use Auslan interpreters regularly?
- Find some interpreters easier to understand than others?

ier to understand than others?

- Talk about your experiences with interpreters with other Deaf people?
- Want to see Auslan interpreting improve?
- Are over 18?

Then please help with the research!

Jemina will ask you to write a diary for four weeks about your experiences with interpreters. Jemina will give you the diary—you just need to fill it in.

If you would like to help, contact Jemina at [jemina.napier@ling.mq.edu.au](mailto:jemina.napier@ling.mq.edu.au) or fax 9850 9199.



# It's election time!

**T**he Federal election is on soon.

In this election, all Australian adults vote to decide who will be our Government in Canberra. The Federal Government is responsible for all of Australia!

The Federal Government has two parts:

1. The House of Representatives ('the Lower House')
2. The Senate ('the Upper House')

You have to vote for **both** parts.

When you vote in the **House of Representatives**, you are voting for a person to represent your area when they go to Canberra. The voting paper for the House of Representatives is small and green. **You have to write a number in every box.**

When you vote in the **Senate**, you are voting for a person to represent NSW when they go to Canberra. The voting paper for the Senate is large and white. There are two ways of voting in the Senate: you can **write a number in every box** or you can **write a number in the boxes at the top of the page only.**

The different political parties (groups) will give you 'how-to-vote' cards. The cards tell you how to vote for that party. You can copy the cards if you like but you don't have to. You can vote however you like! No-body is allowed to force you to vote for a particular party or group. **If you need help**, ask an official from the Australian Electoral Office – they are the people who tick off your name the electoral roll (list) on voting day.

Your vote is confidential (private). No-one in the government knows who you voted for. And you don't have to tell anyone who you voted for.

It can be hard to decide who to vote for. Think about the **candidate** (person who wants your vote).

- Do you agree with their policies? (**Policies** are the candidate's ideas about how to run

	<b>Deaf education</b>
<b>Australian Labor Party (ALP)</b> <a href="http://www.alp.org.au">www.alp.org.au</a>	Will work with State Governments to make sure schools follow Disability Standards for Education Agrees government should share responsibility to provide support for students with disabilities, following needs-based funding principles
<b>Liberal Party of Australia (Lib)</b> <a href="http://www.liberal.org.au">www.liberal.org.au</a>	Developed Disability Standards for Education Supports small changes to Disability Discrimination Act to make sure educational organisations follow the Standards.
<b>Australian Democrats (Dem)</b> <a href="http://www.democrats.org.au">www.democrats.org.au</a>	Supports training of Deaf advocates Supports Disability Discrimination Act Believes government should recognise knowledge and skills of Deaf people
<b>Australian Greens (Greens)</b> <a href="http://www.greens.org.au">www.greens.org.au</a>	Supports right of Deaf people to use sign language Support helping Deaf people get access to education and training
<b>Federal National Party (Nat)</b> <a href="http://www.nationals.org.au">www.nationals.org.au</a>	Developed Disability Standards for Education to make sure students with disabilities have equal rights

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 ☆ **All Australian citizens over 18 must vote.** If ☆  
 ☆ you are not on the electoral roll (list), just fill in ☆  
 ☆ an enrolment form! You can get the forms from ☆  
 ☆ post offices or online at [www.aec.gov.au](http://www.aec.gov.au). It's ☆  
 ☆ easy! ☆  
 ☆ If you can't vote on election day (because you ☆  
 ☆ are sick or overseas, for example), you can vote ☆  
 ☆ by post. Get a special form from any post of- ☆  
 ☆ fice, or online at [www.aec.gov.au](http://www.aec.gov.au). ☆  
 ☆ If you don't vote, you could get a fine! ☆  
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# How do I decide who to vote for?

the government?

- Do you like the person's **party** (political group)?

We asked the big political parties about their policies. This will help you decide how to vote. You are probably interested in knowing the parties' policies about health, immigration and other issues. You can check each party's website for more information.

Interpreting	Genetic research	Welfare	Deaf employment
Committed to interpreting services Particularly interested in developing and funding of services which are flexible enough for different people and their families	<i>Did not respond to question</i>	Will work with people who are starting the Disability Support Pension to stay on DSP for less time	Believes Deaf people have same rights as other Australians, but need more help to get jobs Will support early intervention, rehabilitation and work subsidies to help people on DSP get jobs
Has announced will give \$18.4 million over four years for national medical interpreting service	Knows that Deaf community is getting smaller and this might affect future demand for interpreting services	Through the Commonwealth State Disability Agreement, strives to improve life for people with disabilities	Supports Disability Support Pension for people whose disability prevent them working full-time
Supports interpreters to help Deaf people participate in employment Will provide interpreters on request if Deaf people want to meet with Democrat Senators	Supports research on deafness Will not allow this research to marginalise Deaf community	Wants to have Disability Allowance (extra money for all people with disabilities) Supports exemption from GST for disability-related equipment Supported laws to improve TV captioning	Supports Disability Support Pension for people who can't work because of disability Wants to make sure Job Network is accessible for Deaf people Wants disability employment services to stay under Commonwealth control
<i>Did not respond to question</i>	<i>Did not respond to question</i>	Wants to make sure that activities requirements for people who get benefits are voluntary, not forced Supports exemption from GST for disability-related equipment	Will work to increase funding for carers Support helping Deaf people get access to employment
With the Liberals, announced \$18.4 million over four years for national medical interpreting service	Knows that Deaf community is getting smaller and this might affect future demand for interpreting services	Through the Commonwealth State Disability Agreement, strives to improve life for people with disabilities	Supports Disability Support Pension for people whose disability prevent them working full-time

# Technology



## Would you like a computer but can't afford it?

Work Ventures can sell you a good second-hand computer for only \$299. You must have a Health Care card or get Centrelink benefits.

Work Ventures can even give you free training!

For more information, call 1800 112 205 (voice) or go to [www.workventures.com.au/connectit](http://www.workventures.com.au/connectit)

Happy computing!

## Get email and SMS in the same device!

Would you like to be able to get email on your mobile phone? Then you might want to buy a new device called a Blackberry. It is a hand-held computer, the same size as a mobile phone.

You can send SMSes on the Blackberry, just like a mobile phone. But the best thing is that you can get continuous email too! You don't need to 'dial up' - your email just comes through automatically.



The Blackberry is new technology, and so it is not cheap. But it is very useful for Deaf people who use email and SMS, especially people who are 'out and about' (not in an office) a lot of the time.

Max Robertson owns a Telstra shop. He is very happy to give you more information about the Blackberry. You can contact Max at his shop in Paddington - email [max@tshoppaddo.com](mailto:max@tshoppaddo.com) or fax 9360 0920. You can also go to [www.telstra.com.au](http://www.telstra.com.au) and search "blackberry".

# The Deaflympics are coming!

From January 5 to 16, 2005, Melbourne will host the Deaflympics. Thousands of Deaf people from around the world will visit Australia. For tickets and information, visit [www.2005deaflympics.com](http://www.2005deaflympics.com).

## PM Unveils Deaflympic Torch and Becomes a Patron

In a function held on July 14 hosted by William Buck and ANZ at the National Gallery of Victoria, the Prime Minister of Australia, The Hon. John Howard MP and the Premier of Victoria, the Hon. Steve Bracks unveiled the Torch that will unite athletes and supporters in January 2005 as they gather in Melbourne from around the globe.

It was also announced during the ceremony that Mr Howard has signed up as an official Patron of the Games,

joining other Games Patron's The Premier of Victoria, the Hon. Steve Bracks, Deaflympian Cindy Lu Fitzpatrick and tennis legend John Newcombe.

"The Australian Government has already shown its commitment by providing \$4 million towards the costs of staging the Games," Mr Howard said in Melbourne this evening.

"At a personal level, it gives me enormous pleasure to be a patron and to show my support for the Deaf and Hard of Hearing in our community."

An avid sports follower, Mr Howard noted that the Deaflympics would showcase some of the world's most

remarkable athletes.

"The Games will also highlight the importance of participation and equity in sport," Mr Howard said.

The Torch, designed by Greville Studios, emphasizes light and color. The color of the torch is silver, with deep indigo (blue/purple).

The torch features orange rings which represent the 'celebrate' rings prominent on the games website. These rings become illuminated and spin around upon holding the torch creating a circle of light. These rings are also the Australian Sign Language symbol for 'Celebrate'.

By Michael Gonsalves (Reprinted with permission)



PM John Howard, Carolyn McKnight and Victorian Premier Steve Bracks display the Deaflympic Torch



