



Hands On News

Dear Deaf Community,

There is a lot of information in this issue of *Hands On News*, including:

- Interpreting
- Centrelink services
- A new Telstra service
- Deaf Society consultations with Mullauna Village residents

Also...

Email:

Would you like to get *Hands On News* (and other info) by email? If yes, please email Community Education at communityeducation@deafsociety.com and we will email your newsletters from now on!

Alternative formats:

Are you **Deafblind** or do you have a **vision impairment**? Or do you know someone who is Deafblind or has a vision impairment? Would you or your friend like to receive *Hands On News* in an alternative format? We can send you a copy:

- By email, for you to read or print out the way you like it
- In large print (tell us which font and size)
- Braille

Contact Dani Fried on TTY 8833 3650 or email communityeducation@deafsociety.com and tell us how you would like to receive *Hands On News*!



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Workshops in June and July 2004

Elections, voting, politics and Parliament

Did you know that there will be a Federal election this year?
All Australians need to understand how our political system works.
Politics is interesting when you understand it!

WORKSHOP: Elections and voting – Thursday 17 June, 2–4 pm

- How does voting work?
- What is the difference between local, State and Federal elections?
- How do I vote correctly?
- How do I decide who to vote for?



WHERE? Deaf Society of NSW, Thursday 17 June, 2-4pm. FREE!

TOUR: NSW Parliament – Tuesday 20 July, 2-4pm



Visit NSW Parliament House!

Learn about our state government!

How does it work?

How are laws made?

Why do politicians argue with each other?

What are the two 'houses' of parliament?

Who is the 'speaker of the house'?

*Meet at Parliament House inside gate, Macquarie St, City
(near Martin Place), 1:45pm Tuesday 20 July. FREE!*

To attend the workshop and/or tour,
you must let us know at least one week before:

TTY Nicole on 9893 8858 or email communityeducation@deafsociety.com

REMINDER!!!

Art Gallery of NSW

Don't forget that the Art Gallery has free interpreted tours and performances for adults and children on some Sundays. TTY 9225 1808 or fax 9221 5129.

30 May -	1:30 tour:	Chinese and Japanese art
	2:30 performance:	mime and art
27 June -	1:30 tour:	paintings of kings and queens
	2:30 performance:	Aboriginal stories
25 July -	1:30 tour:	thinking and feeling
	2:30 performance:	mime and movement stories

PLUS: 7 July
6:30pm Celebrity speaker in conjunction with 2004 Biennale of Sydney
7:30pm Guided tour of the 2004 Biennale of Sydney

Interpreters

On 8 March 2004, the Deaf Society ran a workshop about interpreters. The workshop focused on rules which interpreters must follow. The rules are called the **Code of Ethics**. The Code of Ethics says that:

- Interpreters must keep information from their interpreting work secret. This rule is called **confidentiality**. Interpreters are not allowed to tell other people about what they find out in their interpreting work.
- Interpreters should not do work which is too hard for them. This is called **competence**.
- Interpreters must behave **professionally**. They should dress, speak, sign and behave appropriately, and should be on time. If the Deaf or Hearing person does not understand the interpreter's role, then the interpreter should explain.
- Interpreters should be **objective**. Interpreters should not give their opinion or take sides. The interpreter cannot help you decide what to do. (But the interpreter *can* give their opinion about interpreting or communication. For example, the interpreter might have ideas about where everyone should sit so that you and the interpreter can see each other well.)
- **Professional development** means that interpreters should always keep learning and improving. Interpreters should do courses, go to workshops, practise, and read books about interpreting.

What is NAATI?

NAATI is a government agency which accredits interpreters (gives interpreters a qualification). If someone wants to be an interpreter, they must pass a NAATI test or course. NAATI accredits in Auslan and all the other languages used in Australia (e.g. Italian, French, Vietnamese, etc).

There are two levels of NAATI accreditation in Auslan:

- Paraprofessional (Level 2)
- Interpreter (Level 3)

Please only use interpreters who have NAATI accreditation. If an interpreter does *not* have NAATI accreditation, they do not have to follow the Code of Ethics, and their skills might not be very good. If you know interpreters who do not have NAATI accreditation yet, please ask them to do the NAATI test.

What is ASLIA?

ASLIA is the Australian Sign Language Interpreters Association. ASLIA has a Code of Ethics, and does workshops for interpreters. ASLIA (NSW) also works with NSWAD and the Deaf Society to try to improve interpreting services for Deaf people.

ASLIA has a complaints procedure. That means that if you are not happy with an interpreter, you can make a complaint to ASLIA. But you can only talk to ASLIA about interpreters who are ASLIA members. Interpreters do not have to join ASLIA.

Joining ASLIA is one way that an interpreter shows that they are a professional.
You can ask your interpreter if they are an ASLIA member.

Deaf people are welcome to come to ASLIA meetings or even join ASLIA.
Go to www.deafsocietynsw.org.au/asliansw for information about ASLIA and meeting dates.

HOW DO I BOOK AN INTERPRETER?



- Usually, the person or organisation who will pay for the interpreter needs to book the interpreter. For example, if you are doing training at work, then your company needs to book the interpreter. If you are going to a bank, etc, tell the bank you need an interpreter. They can phone the Deaf Society on 8833 3611 (v) and we will arrange an interpreter.
- If you are going to a PUBLIC HOSPITAL, the hospital must book the interpreter. The Deaf Society cannot give you an interpreter in a public hospital. Tell the doctor or nurse to book an Auslan interpreter through the Health Care Interpreter Service.
- If you are going to a PRIVATE HOSPITAL, SPECIALIST, FAMILY DOCTOR (GP) or PRIVATE LAWYER, then you can book the interpreter yourself. (You won't have to pay.) You must tell us:

1. Your name
2. Your fax number and/or email address (or TTY or SMS number if you don't have a fax or email)
3. What kind of appointment (e.g. GP, heart doctor, gynaecologist, counsellor, lawyer etc)
4. Date of appointment
5. What time appointment starts
6. What time appointment finishes
7. Name of doctor/lawyer/counsellor etc
8. Phone number of the doctor/lawyer/counsellor etc
9. Address of the appointment (where is appointment)
10. Any other information – for example, if you want a particular interpreter, or if you have special needs (e.g. a physical disability or if you are Deafblind)

Fax the information to Peter Webster, Interpreter Services Clerk,
9893 8333 or 1800 893 333 (outside Sydney), or email him at interpreting@deafsociety.com

Please give two weeks notice if possible. There are not enough interpreters,
so we need plenty of time to find an interpreter for you.

Please try not to cancel your appointment,
because the Deaf Society will still have to pay the interpreter.

Teaching jobs

Would you like to teach Deafness Awareness Training
or Deaf Deaf World Training to hearing people?

You must have good Auslan and must understand how to teach hearing people about Deafness.
The work is casual and most classes are during the day.

Interested? Contact Dani Fried at dfried@deafsociety.com or fax 9893 8333.



On 6 April, 2004, the Deaf Society ran a workshop about Centrelink. The presenter was Ms Komal Adarkar, the Disability Officer from Parramatta Centrelink.

Over 20 people came to the workshop. Komal talked about pensions and other ways that Centrelink can help people financially.

The Disability Support Pension (DSP)

You can get the DSP if you:

- Are over 16
- Are under old-age pension age
- Cannot work, because of your disability
- Are permanently blind, or you have a disability that is at least 20 points (Centrelink can explain to you what the points mean. Centrelink includes deafness as a disability.)

You must be an Australian resident for 10 years to get the DSP. (But some people don't have to have lived here for 10 years – ask Centrelink if you are not sure.)

If you are from overseas, you must have been an Australian resident when you became disabled.

If you are old enough to get the old-age pension, you cannot start getting the DSP.

The DSP and the old-age pension pay the same but the old-age pension does not pay you extra money if you are studying.

Not all Deaf people can get the DSP – it depends on your situation. Centrelink will assess you and make a decision.

**See page 6 for info about
FREE
Centrelink seminars!**

Allowances and supplements

The **mobility allowance** covers the cost of transport for people with disabilities who can't use public transport (buses, trains, etc) without a lot of help.

- A doctor must say that you can't use public transport
- You must be:
 - Working (voluntary or paid), OR
 - Looking for work, OR
 - Doing training to get work
- You must be doing these for at least 32 hours over 4 weeks
- You must be an Australian resident
- You must be at least 16 years old
- Centrelink can pay you each fortnight, or Centrelink can pay you one big amount once per year.

The **pensioner education supplement** is extra money to help you when you are studying. It is not taxed. It is not asset-tested. It is not income-tested.

- You must be studying at least 25% of full-time.
- It is paid fortnightly - \$62.40 if full-time study; \$31.20 if part-time study.
- You *must* pass the course!
- You are only paid during course time, not during university or TAFE holidays
- You must be studying an accredited course for at least 32 hours over 4 weeks
- You must be at least 16 years old, or old enough to leave school .

For more information about pensions, redundancy pay-outs, retirement etc, you can make an appointment to see a **Financial Services Officer** at Centrelink. They can help you and give you advice. It is **free**. *Anyone can make an appointment – you don't need to be on a pension.* Just contact Centrelink on TTY 1800 810 586 and ask for an appointment (don't forget to ask for an Auslan interpreter too!)

WHAT'S ON...

CHRISTIAN FAMILY RELATIONSHIP CONFERENCE

May 14-16

The Liverpool Christian Life Centre is a Protestant church. They are having a Family Relationship conference May 14 – 16. There will be interpreters there. The cost is \$7 for one person or \$10 for a couple. For more information, or to register, fax 9826 0389, go to www.clcliverpool.com.au or email FRC@clcliverpool.com.au

THEATRE PERFORMANCE WITH INTERPRETERS Saturday 22 May

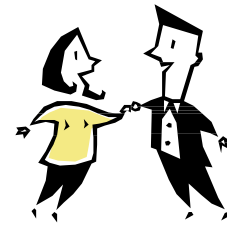
The Sydney Theatre Company has a play called 'Amigos'. It's by a famous Australian called David Williamson. There will be Auslan interpreters on Saturday 22 May at 2pm. It's at the Drama Theatre at the Sydney Opera House. **You must book before Friday 14 May** so be quick!! Contact Australian Theatre of the Deaf at atod@mpx.com.au, fax 9318 2835 or TTY 9310 1205.

SYDNEY DEAF SOCIAL CLUB Friday 14 May and Friday 11 June

Email Sydneydeafsocialclub@yahoo.com.au

Come and join other Deaf people at the Sydney Deaf Social Club, NSW Bowlers' Club, 95 – 99 York St in the city.

From 7pm to 1am.



DEAF TOUR GUIDES

Australia now has a new tour guide service for the 70 million worldwide deaf and hard of hearing community wanting to visit the sunburnt country, including the 2005 Deaflympics in Melbourne.

All the tour guides can sign. To find out more, go to www.deafaussietours.com.



DEAF CHILDREN AROUND THE WORLD

What is it like to be a Deaf kid in Armenia or Uganda? Are you interested in learning about Deaf children who live overseas?



You can learn about Deaf children all over the world! You can find out about organisations in your area, interstate or overseas! Just go to <http://www.idcs.info>. You can even ask them to include your group or organisation in their directory, so that Deaf people from interstate and overseas can contact you!

Mullauna Village

Mullauna Village is a hostel for old people. Some Deaf and Deafblind people live there. In March 2004, Stephen Nicholson and Rebecca Ladd from the Deaf Society went to Mullauna Village to talk to the Deaf and Deafblind residents. Stephen and Rebecca asked what people liked and did not like at Mullauna.

Overall, the residents said they were very happy at Mullauna. They liked their rooms and the food. The residents had a few complaints - for example, they said they would like to eat rice

sometimes instead of mashed potato. The residents also thought the staff should learn to sign better.

If you would like to visit the Deaf residents, or if you or a relative are interested in living at Mullauna Village, please contact the Deaf Liaison Officer, Sue Atherton, on TTY/voice 9831 6022 or fax



9831 6022 or fax

Free Centrelink seminars!

Centrelink has free seminars on different topics about money.

The next seminar is **19 May** from 6:30 to 8pm at Parramatta Leagues Club. The topic is 'Wealth Creation'. Come and learn about how to make money! If you want to come, you must RSVP on TTY 1800 810 586 and ask for an Auslan interpreter.

For information on **other seminars**, contact your local Centrelink office.

TV CAPTIONS

Do you like to watch TV? Do you watch TV with captions?
Are the captions always good quality?

Did you know that some TV stations, especially in country areas, are making their own captions? Some of these captions are not very good! The spelling is wrong, or they miss information, or the timing is wrong.

This isn't fair to Deaf people in the country. All Deaf people should be able to watch good, high-quality captions.

How can you help?

Deafness Forum wants the government to change the law so that all captions must be good and high-quality. You can help by **signing the petition** at <http://www.ipetitions.com/campaigns/CaptioningQuality/>.

SUPPORT DEAF CHILDREN

Thomas Pattison School (TPS) is a school for deaf children who use Auslan. The school is at the Royal Institute for Deaf and Blind Children at North Rocks.



TPS has a Parents and Friends Association (P&F).
They want YOU to get involved!

Why? Because the students at TPS need to meet more deaf people to have good role models for their future. TPS wants to have more deaf people come to the school to help the children, teachers and parents.

Some of the ways that a P&F can help are:

- Organising fundraising activities
- Arranging social events for parents and/or staff
- Providing a way to improve communication between the school and families and the community

Come to the meeting on **Wednesday 5th May at 7pm!**

Where: TPS Assembly Hall, 361 North Rocks Rd, North Rocks (opposite Westfield)
Free parking!

For more information (or if you can't come to the meeting but you want to help) please contact the Principal, Maree Madden, on 9872 0360 (TTY) or 9872 0221 (fax) or 0412 099 334 (SMS).

LEARN FIRST AID – BUT BE QUICK!

Would you like to **learn First Aid**? Macquarie Fields TAFE will have a Senior First Aid course starting in mid-May. It is for people who are Deaf or Hearing-impaired. It will probably be at night. The course will be for six weeks. It is FREE.

If you are interested in doing this course,
contact Kerry Grant by **9 May**.

TTY: 9825 7396

Fax: 9607 5931

Email: kerry.grant@tafensw.edu.au



Kerry hopes to run **more first aid courses** for Deaf people, maybe in the daytime. If you miss this course, maybe you can do another course in future. Contact Kerry for more information.

Calling the New England Deaf Community!

There are young Deaf people in your area who need positive Deaf role models and people who are good Auslan users to work with them. Local community organisations in Tamworth need casual workers who are Deaf and/or are fluent in Auslan.

Why? To work with young Deaf people and their families who need support and contact with the Deaf community.

What kind of work? Different kinds of **casual work** is available; you might be interested in one or all of the below

- ◆ **Respite care:** giving the family and young person a break and a chance to have social, fun time with responsible Deaf adults
- ◆ **Mentoring:** helping a young Deaf person learn how to be a successful Deaf adult
- ◆ **Support with school work and Sign Language**

For more information please contact Sandra Carroll at the Deaf Society;

Email: scarroll@deafsociety.com

Phone: (02) 8833 3626 or 1800 893 855

Fax: (02) 9893 8333 or 1800 898 333

TTY (02) 9893 8858 or 1800 893 885

SMS can talk!!

Wow! Technology changes all the time!

Now, your SMS messages can talk! It's called **Talking Text**. If you have a Telstra Mobile phone, you can send messages to hearing people on their landline (non-mobile) Telstra home or business phone. You just type a text message and a computer voice reads out your message to the hearing person!



How does it work?

You type your text message. Then send it to the regular phone number. Don't forget to include the area code! The hearing person will pick up their phone and hear your message!

Why is this good for Deaf people?

Now, you can send messages to your kids or boss or to anyone else, even if they don't have a mobile phone. But their landline phone at home or work must be a Telstra phone, and you need to use a Telstra mobile phone. Your kids, boss or friends will hear a voice telling them your message. They can answer, and their message will be sent to you as an SMS! And it costs the same as other SMS messages.

Talking Text is not available with Optus, Vodaphone or other phone companies yet but we hope that soon, everybody will be able to use this service! For more information, go to www.telstra.com.au/talkingtext.

Would you like to work with children? JOB VACANCY

The Royal Institute for Deaf and Blind Children is looking for an enthusiastic person to work at the Roberta Reid Centre as an **untrained assistant**. The Roberta Reid Centre is a Bilingual/Bicultural Early Childhood program at the Royal Institute for Deaf and Blind Children in North Rocks. (Bilingual/Bicultural means that the children learn Auslan and English, and about Deaf and Hearing ways.) The Roberta Reid Centre looks after Deaf and Hearing children.

The job will be on a contract with a 3-month probationary period and if satisfactory, this will be extended until the end of the year. To get the job, you must:

- be a native Auslan user or have very good Auslan skills
- be enthusiastic and energetic
- be able to work with supervision, but not need to be told what to do all the time
- enjoy working with young children
- understand that there are regulations (rules) about running an early childhood centre
- be willing to learn about and follow these rules
- be willing and able to do some housekeeping work too

This job would be perfect for someone who is thinking about becoming a qualified childcare worker. This job would give you some practical experience before you start your TAFE childcare studies.

**For more information, contact the Director on TTY 9872 0306,
fax 9872 0349 or email marcelle.pettigrew@ridbc.org.au**

BE CAREFUL!!!



Sometimes you might get a letter or email from someone you don't know, asking you to send them money. They might say that you have won a prize or that they can help you get rich. **DO NOT SEND THEM MONEY AND DO NOT GIVE THEM PRIVATE INFORMATION**, like your bank account details. These people are probably not telling the truth. They are probably trying to steal your money!

If you get a letter or email from someone you don't know, asking you for money, do not answer.

The Department of Fair Trading can help you if you have problems with letters or emails like this.

The Department of Fair Trading can also help you with other problems to do with buying, selling, banking or shopping. If someone has tried to cheat you, or has not done business in a fair way, you can contact the Department for help.

You can contact the Department on TTY 9388 4943 or go to http://www.fairtrading.nsw.gov.au/icms/resolveraddition/resolver_complainhandling.html . For more information about your rights when shopping, buying or banking, go to their website: <http://www.fairtrading.nsw.gov.au/default.html>.



COMMUNITY CONSULTATION

**The next Deaf Society Community Consultation will be at Woodstock, Burwood
on SATURDAY 9TH OCTOBER 2004
from 11am until 3pm.
There will be a BBQ so don't forget to put this in your diary!**

*We hope you enjoyed reading this edition of Hands On News!
Do you have a friend who would like to read Hands On News?
All they need to do is put their name on the community education database.*

Community Education: **TTY:** **02 9893 8858 or 1800 893 885**
 FAX: **02 9893 8333 or 1800 898 333**
 TEL: **02 9893 8555 or 1800 893 855**
 Email: **communityeducation@deafsociety.com**
 POST: **PO BOX 1060 PARRAMATTA NSW 2124.**

We will need to know the following:

Name: _____
Address: _____

TTY: _____ Fax: _____ Email: _____