

Australian Deaf Elders Group Messenger

Powered by Expression Australia
in collaboration with ADE Group

ISSUE 3 MARCH 2023



Welcome to the third issue of the ADE Group Messenger

This newsletter is distributed to deaf elders in Australia quarterly with stories, activities, and important information.

Australian Deaf Elders Group collaborate together to develop content and connect deaf elders across Australia. We welcome input from all.

In this issue, we have:

- ADE's 2022 review
- ADE's advocating with Disability Royal Commission (DRC)
- What is CHSP and how to join?
- Fun puzzles

A Message From Australian Deaf Elders

Hoping your Xmas was Deaftastic! And New Year is blessing you all with health, love, and inclusion.

Firstly. Wanted to say farewell to Nicky Long.

Nicky Long, we will miss your inclusiveness. What a privilege to work with you the past 18 month, wish you all the best. Australian Deaf Elders Group Admin appreciate the work with us the past and your future with Guide Dogs.

Congratulations Rebecca Adam on your appointment of new CEO for Expression Australia. We look forward to have you on board.



Above: Rebecca Adam



Above: Nicky Long

Year in 2022

ADE team worked hard in 2022 and our last update was in May last year.

Here is our latest update from monthly admin team meetings on Zoom planning, discussing, achieving and connecting with you all, Deaf organisations and Government.

JUNE 2022 - we sent letter to Prime Minister asking to meet him about Deaf Pension idea

JULY 2022 - Prime Minister replied to our letter to say it was a very interesting suggestion please meet Department of Social Services (DSS) - Centrelink Minister

SEPT 2022 - ADE team met with Department of Social Services (DSS) Ministers representative and Centrelink Director on Zoom with suggestion of Deaf Pension tabled as solution for Deaf Elders over 65 for equity of "Independent Choice and Control, Self-Managed, Plan Managed, or DSS Managed" for NDIS Review Reporting.

We all had a very good discussion about how this could be possible.

OCT, DEC 2022 and JAN 2023 - We sent request to meet Prime Minister as a result of successful DSS Centrelink ADE Zoom meeting.

DECEMBER 2022 - We lodged Disability Royal Commission complaint submission number 3 on 31st Dec 2022

JAN 2023 - In the last week of January, on the 28th ADE team lobbying letter to Minister for Age Care with suggestions as discussed in DSS/Centrelink meeting with summaries of solution for Deaf Elders over 65 Deaf Pension equal to the Blind Pension for equity of "Independent Choice and Control, Self-Managed, Plan Managed, or DSS Managed". For consideration before the April 2023 review of the only one organisation tender of \$20 million contract.

Disability Royal Commission

ADE made some submissions to Disability Royal Commission (DRC) in 2022

For the last quarter of the year 2022 ADE wrote 3 separate submissions to the DRC.

We wrote initial submission of 24 pages length in 2020 as so many more abuse and neglect has happened since 2020. ADE hoped to be called as over 65 witnesses in the 30 Hearing held at Sydney September 2022.

We did not get called to be witnesses even though no other submission to DRC addressed/ represented the voices of over 65s.

We then followed suggestion by DRC to 2nd Submission apply for "Leave to Appear as Witnesses" at 30th hearing. DRC did not accept our "application for leave to appear as witnesses"

We wrote 3rd Submission of application for leave to appear as witnesses "with request to question Service Providers and Government Respondents. The DRC denied us to ask questions that other submission writers were able to do.

Last day of 2022 31st December at 4.55pm was the cut off deadline for last submissions into DRC ever, ADE wrote final appeal submission presenting why we believe that no voice of organisation representing over 65 Deaf People was allowed to be witness at the DRC 30th hearing.

We hoped to be called as witnesses for the upcoming 32nd Hearing in Brisbane March 17th to 23rd 2023.

Again we have received a reply from DRC and we were denied that wish by DRC that does not vote us to be witnesses.

The exhaustion is significant and real. Yet our team "carry on" appealing the best we can in the name of Equity for over 65s Deaf to independent choice and control funding packages, self-managed, plan managed or Agency Managed by their own choice or their families choice to use any organisation. They want to be able to pick any organisation or agencies instead of only having one organisation option due to the tender contract with Deaf Connect just like all other people who are under 65 with NDIS.



Jennifer's Story

Hi I am Jennifer Moore. I am an Australian Deaf Elders (ADE) Group Foundation Admin Member. This means I have been working hard at the admin team for 5 years.



How quickly the times has gone! How amazing are achievements as ADE Group.

When I began, I was uncertain of how we would all influence our government to allocate Auslan interpreting to the over 65 Auslan users. I had never volunteered for something like ADE before.

However, I found absolute welcoming respect from my team. Always supportive, understanding, listening, encouraging me. This made me so much more confident to share the work and the achievements with my Deaf friends and family.

I have always said on the team we need a newsletter to advertise the contact numbers to booking free over 65 interpreting. In particular for Elders isolated in the home or nursing homes from the Deaf community that miss out on Facebook etc... because they are not confident online.

Many Elders still use TTY, fax, and SMS to call family.

Many Elders don't have online skills let alone Video Remote Interpreter (VRI) online service skills to use it. My Admin team listened to me and supported me creating two very important goals of our work after we got the \$20 million dollars invested into the Deaf Community via Seniors Free interpreting.

We decided to Lobby the Government in October 2020 to April 2021 for VRI Roadshow face to face VRI training workshops around Australia for learn how to use VRI and book free interpreting. I am very proud of my team listening to my idea that we need VRI face to face in the training workshops and achieve it approved by Commonwealth in Home Support Department Health in April 2021!

My team then began working talking with Deaf Organisations of the importance of a Deaf Elders Newsletter. My 2nd idea was that my friends all said they want real paper newsletter and not online newsletter.

Expression Australia's CEO Nicky Long listened to me when Lorraine encourage the team to meet and speak our ideas to Nicky Long in Zoom meetings for this newsletter and it was born and published on 1 July 2022.

I am still gobsmacked at just how success our Australian Deaf Elders Group Admin is. It is such a privilege for me 2016 to 2022 and my husband Barry 2017 to 2019 working on the admin group with me and the team too.

Thank you Australian Government and Australian Deaf Elders my deaf peers for trusting our group to represent you so proudly.

ADE Group Messenger March 2023

Now I will share with you my 3rd idea presented to my team at our recent monthly team meeting. My team is working on ideas together now of how we can raise important awareness in nursing homes and hospitals around Visual stimulation for Deaf Elders.

EXAMPLE

"One deaf patient resided at Nursing home who advised us that he need his bed next to window for better communicate with friends or family during pandemic"

ADE Admin team agreed with me It's important for Deaf elder to have visual stimulation as well during the day and be able to see outside what is happening. Other patients can talk to each other across the room or use a telephone to call home.

My friend asked a hearing person in the bed next to them if they would let him swap beds so he could use the window in the room. Unfortunately he did not want to and my Deaf friend miss out on all the happenings outside the window.

ADE Admin Team are all visiting nursing homes where we can (we are elderly too and only volunteers) to try and raise awareness of visual simulation and that it is so important and to try and give Deaf elders preference a window bed wherever possible for mental health and wellbeing.

We explained them the double isolation once by being possibly the only signing person in the nursing home, and isolation from the Signing Deaf Community- their 'home'.

Thank you for reading my story,
Jennifer



Aged Care Services

Deaf / HoH Australians now have more choice and support to stay home as they age, rather than moving directly to nursing home care.

Aged Care in-home services are a growing area of support in Australia.

Expression Australia supports Deaf & HoH people as they age, to stay comfortable, safe & independent at home for longer.

What can Expression Australia Aged Care offer?

CHSP – Commonwealth Home Support Program

- For Seniors aged 65 years or over (50 years or older for Aboriginal or Torres Strait Islander peoples) and have functional limitations and need support.
- For people aged 50 years or older (45 years or older for Aboriginal or Torres Strait Islander peoples) and are on a low income, homeless, or at risk of being homeless.

Expression Aged Care services can offer safe, inclusive social support for individuals, such as:

- **In-home visits** with support workers who communicate in your language – Auslan / English – helping you feel connected, and supporting you to understand letters, services and appointments.
- **In-home care** – Cleaning, laundry, bedmaking, delivered meals, nurse visits (for health & managing personal alarms, medications), personal care (helping shower, dress, etc).
- Shopping with a list
- Escorted shopping
- Meal preparation at home
- Social Groups
- Transport to, appointments or events (Deaf groups, activities, celebrations).

Expression Audiology can offer support, such as

- Flashing light technology (smoke alarms, alarm clocks, 'doorbells')
- Hearing tests, assessment, aids, and management.

Expression Aged Care can also assist with connecting you to service providers for services, such as

- Allied health – Physio, Occupational Therapy (OT), Podiatry, Vision services.
- Advisory services – Dementia, Continence, Nutrition
- Respite – for when you or your carer need a break at or from home.

Is Aged Care funded by NDIS?

No, NDIS doesn't fund people aged over-65 (unless a person has had NDIS funding and 'opts in' / keeps it going when they turn 65).

When to connect to Aged Care services

- Notice change in what you can do or remember
- Have new medical condition or reduced mobility
- Have recent fall or go to hospital
- Have change in family care

Next steps

1. Contact My Aged Care (MAC) - NRS, online, or via interpreter. Phone via NRS: 1800 200 422 / Online: myagedcare.gov.au
2. Register (name, address, DOB, explain your needs) with MAC
3. Meet MAC assessor to understand your needs and work out best services for you

If you would like any support in contacting My Aged Care (MAC), please speak to someone you trust / Expression Australia / your local Deaf organisation.



Smoke Alarm Subsidy

The Victorian smoke alarm subsidy scheme is a Government funded subsidy providing specialised smoke alarms to Deaf and hard of hearing people living in Victoria.

The smoke alarm alerts users to fire hazard through sight (flashing light) and tactile (vibrating pad) to ensure safety within your home, particularly when asleep.

To be eligible you must be:

- Deaf or hard of hearing with a severe to profound loss or a severe high frequency hearing loss 70dB (2, 3 & 4kHz)
- A resident of Victoria
- Not eligible to other funding services that provide this package, eg NDIS, My Aged Care.

The smoke alarm pack retails at \$685. Those who are eligible will receive the pack for a \$50 out of pocket fee. The fee can be waived for those who hold a Pension Concession Card.

To apply for the subsidy, please visit www.expression.com.au/services/smoke-alarm-subsidy and complete the application form or contact our team via info@expression.com.au



Activity

EASY MODE

5		3					
2			3				
	4		7		1	2	3
		5	4			7	1
		4	2		1	8	
6	8				7	5	
1		7		6	9		3
					4		6
						9	5

MEDIUM MODE

	7			3			1
1	3	9		8	2		6
6							8
7		2					1
				9		4	
8							9
	8						5
	5			1	4		2
	1			9			3

Answers will be provided in next issue.

Tell us what you think about ADE Group Messenger! You can provide feedback, ideas or your own news to publish for the next Messenger issue. You can contact us through email or mail.

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