



142nd
Annual Report
Of
Deaf Children Australia

President and CEO's Report

Deaf Children Australia has a vision of a world where deafness is no barrier. It is clearly a challenging vision, but we believe it is attainable. We are using this vision not only to help drive our strategy and future directions, but to remind us that we must look for new methods of doing business and providing services.

We aim to build the organisation around our core purpose of responding to the needs of children and young people who are deaf or hearing impaired and their families by providing information, advocacy, support services and educational resources.

In each of these service areas we believe we have unique expertise enabling us to create and capitalize on opportunities to make our vision a reality.

What we have done over the past twelve months is to make significant changes across the organisation, from rebranding ourselves, to expanding the regions we serve, to changing our internal structures so we can better achieve opportunities that enrich the lives of deaf and hearing impaired children and their families.

In 2003 we refocused our vision to extend our service nationally. In order to achieve this we undertook a number of significant changes across the organisation. A Special General meeting held in November of last year saw the membership unanimously endorse a number of these pivotal changes: a name change from VSDC Inc to Deaf Children Australia, the acceptance of the new brand and substantial changes to our constitution enabling us to evolve from an incorporated association to a company.

These and other achievements have enhanced our ability to build our business and act on opportunities for growth both directly, and through relationships with other organisations.

In each business unit and across the organisation, we have pushed hard to deliver improved service outcomes. We have also sought out and developed external partnerships for growth opportunities. As demand for our services grows and resources available remain essentially static, partnerships and alliances become more important.

A partnership of great significance to us over this period is that which we have undertaken with Queensland Deaf Society. In 2002 Deaf Children Australia began exploring the potential to become a national provider in response to growing requests from families beyond the Victorian border. Following a study commissioned and undertaken in early 2003, we employed a Regional Officer in South East Queensland, whose position is supported by ourselves and the Queensland Deaf Society. This agreement also cemented the interest of both organisations to work collaboratively in other areas, including community education and fundraising.

Following the resignation of the Queensland Deaf Society Chief Executive in mid 2004, an approach was made to Deaf Children Australia for Damian Lacey to provide contracted CEO services to the Queensland Deaf Society for a six month period. This was put in place and has recently been extended by the two organisations.

As we look back over the past year we have made significant progress with the implementation of our national program and improved service provision strategies. We believed we had to change, and we have moved rapidly to make that change. Of course, we have not been alone.

This year's results could not have been delivered without an extraordinary effort from our employees. We would like to thank them for their continued support. Many of our staff are leaders in their field and our frontline workers do a remarkable job. The dedication and hard work of our staff is allowing us to embrace the changes we are facing and expand our vision. A sincere thanks also to every partner, volunteer and financial supporter, all of whom continue to help us make this a place where deafness is no barrier.

This year we are continuing the process of producing only a basic annual report in paper form to meet statutory requirements, with the report also being widely available on our web site. In times when we have to be good stewards of our funds, this makes good economic sense.

We continue to operate in a dynamic environment knowing that excellence in our field is a moving target. Nationally we need to do more to influence change at the highest level in education, community access and employment services, to see an increase in research and services funding, and to build a strong financially secure organisation with sound management and best practice specialist skills and knowledge.

Damian Lacey
CEO

Andrew Perry
Board President

Governance

Deaf Children Australia is governed by an elected Board whose job it is to represent stakeholders in determining and demanding appropriate organisational performance.

To guide its work, the Board has established Results Policies, Governance Process Policies, Board/CEO Linkage Policies and CEO Limitations Policies. These policies are reviewed throughout the year based on an annual agenda that includes a planning retreat in November.

This annual report is structured to assist all our stakeholders to hold us accountable for performance against our Results Policies.

The Board has established three committees to assist in its governance responsibilities - namely Policy, CEO Performance Review, and Finance & Investment.

Directors contribute to Deaf Children Australia a wealth of knowledge and experience which is greatly appreciated. Their work is entirely voluntary. Directors profiles and meeting attendance records can be found in the financial report.

Highlights - A Year of Flying Kites*

The following is a snapshot of the many successes achieved this year. These highlights demonstrate the dedication and commitment of our team to flying kites for deaf children.

- Launching a national Helpline; a free and confidential service available to families of deaf and hearing impaired kids and young adults, professionals in the field and the broader community.
- Rebranding the organisation as a national entity, working to support deaf and hearing impaired children and their families across Australia.
- Supporting 47 children nationally in achieving their dreams with our Youth Award scheme.
- Submitting a range of communications and white papers to government on issues of importance to those who are deaf or hearing impaired
 - o Better Centrelink assessment processes for deaf and hearing impaired job seekers,
 - o New-born hearing screening
 - o Carers allowance
 - o Captions on television
 - o Transportation arrangements to and from school
- Experiencing a significant increase in the level of media attention provided to deafness issues at a local, state and national level.
- Launching a new full colour version of the Dictionary of Auslan, including commonly used signs from across Australia.
- Presenting a series of workshops throughout Australia with Dr Christine Yoshinaga-Itano, a leading international expert on deafness and language development. Bringing together pediatricians, geneticists, ear, nose and throat specialists, audiologists, speech pathologists, government representatives, teachers, social workers and families to discuss the challenges and opportunities of newborn hearing screening.
- Partnership successfully undertaken with Queensland Deaf Society, enabling the two organisations to explore the potential to both increase the range and quality of services in Queensland and nationally.



* The kite featured in our brand represents freedom, vitality and limitless potential. The kite is also a symbol of our work. We strive to give individuals flight by helping them to realise their full potential.

Given the right support these children and young adults can fly.

Acknowledging those who help us fly kites

Deaf Children Australia rely on tax-deductible public donations, bequests, corporate support and fundraising activities to maintain our support services, advocacy, information and other programs.

Deaf Children Australia acknowledges with gratitude the many donations and bequests received during the 2003-2004 year, but can list here only donors of more than \$250.

Major donors

AAMI Ltd	Flair International
Deacons	Marrich Charitable Trust
Brighton Inter-Church Council Opportunity Shop	Joe White
Estate of Bery Cathering Doran	Lily Maude Payne Estate
Estate of Henry Herbert Yoffa	Perpetual Trustees Australia Limited
Frank and Sybil Richardson Charitable Fund	The Allen and Cecilia Tye Fund
Gladys Emma Eckersley Estate	The Marion and E H Flack Trust
J D Brook Trust	William Angliss (Victoria) Charitable Fund

Generous Donors

3 J D Enterprises Pty Ltd	Don Pepperoni Restaurant
99 Poultry	Dura (Australia) Constructions Pty Ltd
A Lewis & Co	Elite Appliances (Carlton) Pty Ltd
Aero Manufacturing Aust	Expeditors International Pty Ltd
Age Enterprises P/L	Explas Products
Air Liquide Australia	EZI Export & Import Services Pty Ltd
Albert House	Falkinger Andronas P/L
Alex Low Pty Ltd	FJ Marland Pty Ltd
Allom Lovell & Associates Pty Ltd	Footscray Engine Reconditioning
APC Logistics P/L	Fujitsu Ten (Aust) P/L
Arrow Taxi Services Ltd	G U D Holdings Ltd
Asian Pacific Building Corp.	Gandel Foundation
Atomic Concreting	GE Motors
Australian Computer Sales	H & H Jewellers
Australian Container Network	Haskell Dick Architects Pty Ltd
Australian Real Estate Conveyancing Services	Hawthorn Club
B & JG Hodge & Co Pty Ltd	Hayes Peile & Associates
Bambra Pty Ltd	Highpoint Auth. Newsagency,
Basecamp Productions	Hinds Blunden (Victoria) Pty Ltd
Bayside Chippery	Hume Caravan & Camping Accessories
Boorer-Harrison Constructions	Hunter Hearing Services
Boroondara City Lions Club	ICU Security Services
Carole Middleton	Independent Pharmaceutical Supplies
Cedro Cabinets	Innerwheel Club of Prahran
Chris MacGregor Freight Services	Intergraph Public Safety P/L
City Of Hume Mayoral Charity Committee	ITS Integrated Technical Software
Citywide Services Solutions P/L	J Gross & Co
Colour Co Panels	J Stefelic Computer Workshop
Comics World City Shop	Jagg Computing
Compuknit	Jaygee Seals
Conveyor Industries	John Douglas Group P/L
Craig L Wyllie	JW Ford & Co Pty Ltd

Cranbourne Family Medical Centre	Kay McKenzie
Cranbourne Sand Soil	KW Sharp & Associates
Cryovac Australia P/L	La Porchetta
Dandenong Pest Control	La Spaghetteria Ristorante
Darren Bartlett	Laceys Ply & Wood Products Pty Ltd
Dennis Woodlands Pharmacy	Lasslett Rubber & Plastics
Deronmont Pty Ltd	Lincast Australia Pty Ltd
DH Engineering	Lions Club of Mordialloc - Mentone
Distribution Solutions Pty Ltd	Lisa Walmsley
Dogma Productions	Marplex Australia Ltd (Personal)
McClellan Estate Agents	South East Asia Produce
Mercator Software Pty Ltd	Space Age Communications
Michael Green - Barristers & Solicitors	St Kilda Village Garage
Micro Boss	Staffordshire Bull Terrier Club of Vic
Moorside Document Storage	Supply & Demand
Nantak Pty Ltd	Susie Mathew
Nature© Secret Timber Furniture Co	Synergy Design
Netstar	Systematic Carpet Installations Pty Ltd
New Millennium	Telstra Corporation Ltd
NGK Spark Plugs Aust Pty Ltd	Tered Pty Ltd
Organic Wholesalers Pty Ltd	The Dennis Family Corporation Pty Ltd
P & J Constructions	The Film Business
P & M Harbig (Holdings) Pty Ltd	The Packaging Company
Parallel Paving & Landscaping	(previously Visy Plastics)
PJB Electronics	The Palms©
Plastic Sales & Distribution	Thermo Electron
Primex Solutions	Timbertruss Geelong
Programmed Maintenance Services	Toll Logistics
Publishing Solutions P/L	Trade Truss Pty Ltd
RCR International Pty Ltd	Tru-Bilt Fabrications P/L
Reliable Reboring Services	Twigg Group
Richard DeLautour	Tyrepower Sunshine
Riviera Hotel Pty Ltd	Valerie Allan
RJ Gilbertson Pty Ltd	Vic Aluminium
RMS Natural Stone & Ceramics	Vic May Asphalt Pty Ltd
Roblec Vic Pty Ltd	Victory Used Trucks
Rosjo Pty Ltd	Vivienne Kennedy
Rotary Club of Sandringham	Ward McKenzie Pty Ltd
RSL Reservoir	Whitehorse Truck Centre Pty Ltd
Silk Bros	Worthington Di Marzio Pty Ltd
Smoke Zone:Mentone	Yarra Trail Pty Ltd

Financial support received from donations, trusts and bequests help us respond to the needs of deaf and hearing impaired kids and their families.

Over the past twelve months the generous financial support we have received has enabled us to:

- Support 47 deaf and hearing impaired youths in achieving their dreams through our Youth Awards program
- Start building our 'home away from home' accommodation for regionally-based families that need to come to Melbourne for support services
- Expansion of our deaf history museum to enable better accessibility for deaf and hearing people
- Enable financially disadvantaged families to participate in recreation programs
- Provide Auslan tuition for families of deaf and hearing impaired children
- Re-brand from VSDC to Deaf Children Australia with in-kind support from a graphic design agency.

Performance Against Results Policies

1. INFORMATION AND ADVOCACY: Services will be provided within Australia		
1.1) Families and young people have the knowledge and skills to successfully manage their own needs.		
INDICATORS	OUTCOMES	CHALLENGES
a. Information provided is accessible, balanced and impartial.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Victorian surveys conducted of family information needs and concerns. - Website established and promoted with more than 10,000 separate visitors in the first few months. - Preparation of fact sheets on key topics of interest. - Workshops and training opportunities are offered. - Establishment of national Helpline. - The republished Auslan Dictionary includes state sign variations. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Undertake a needs survey across Australia. - Ensuring information provided is timely relevant and balanced.
b. Learning opportunities are offered to families and young people.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - New initiatives included workshops for fathers in partnership with Monnington Early Intervention Centre, an adolescent program, and a Who's The Boss parenting program with Furlong Park School for the Deaf. - Youth Awards granted to 47 deaf and hearing impaired youth (\$38,146) across the areas of personal development, deaf culture, leadership and education. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Exploring mechanisms to develop appropriate learning opportunities for parents given the in day to day demands and commitments.
c. Family networks are encouraged and supported.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - 10 parent groups supported. - 300 families attended interpreted theatre performances. - 108 families attended 36 separate recreation activities. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Replicating our Victorian successes nationally, given that in Victoria recreation funding has facilitated these programs.

1.2) Deaf children and their families have access to an equitable and understandable system of education and support.		
INDICATORS	OUTCOMES	CHALLENGES
a. Deaf Children Australia contributes to the development of consistent educational policy in each state.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Our South West Victoria needs analysis resulted in \$100,000 of additional funding to employ a coordinator position for Deaf Services in the Barwon South West region . - Regular meetings are held with the senior education department officer responsible for deaf services in Victoria. - Projects undertaken in partnership with others have included preparation of a booklet for main stream teachers working with deaf children, and identifying issues for students studying VET and VCAL. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Ensuring ongoing funding in the Barwon South West region for the coordinator position. - Develop positive relationships with senior education department officials in each state.
b. The role of Deaf Children Australia is clearly defined, and does not assume the responsibilities of others.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Our role is to provide information and advocacy support to families. We are not direct providers of education services. Our educational advocacy has included supporting families in two states to use the legal system to address their concerns in regards to their children's lack of access to appropriate educational opportunities. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Engaging in constructive dialogue with education departments to negate the need for last resort legal actions to be taken.

2. COMMUNITY AWARENESS: Focus to be national		
2.1) Our views, priorities and issues are heard and respected by the community.		
INDICATORS	OUTCOMES	CHALLENGES
a. Deaf Children Australia actively promotes awareness of its work.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Successful launch of new corporate name and brand identity. - Provision of 3 newsletters. - 18 community education presentations - 68 media mentions. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Financing the continuing needs of deaf children and our work throughout the community.
b. There is a balanced portrayal of deafness in the media.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Media monitoring service implemented and media issues being responded to. We actively sought to respond in 17 instances to address imbalances. 	
c. Grants and sponsorships are used strategically.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - \$45,000 was provided for new learning opportunities and financial assistance to disadvantaged families. 	
2.2) There is greater understanding in the wider community of the varying needs of deaf and hearing-impaired children and young people.		
a. Families report receiving balanced and sensitive advice from medical and other professionals.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Newborn hearing screening policy development throughout Australia has become a key priority. We have researched best practice for a parent centered approach resulting in our sponsorship of an internationally renowned expert who toured Qld, WA and Vic in August 2004. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Gaining representation for ourselves and parents on all new born hearing screening state committees. - Creating an effective national parent support and mentoring program, with a focus on families with newly diagnosed children.
b. Young deaf people are affirmed as valued members of a diverse community.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Through our Youth Award, Recreation, and Young Ambassador programs we promote opportunities for a positive attitude amongst all deaf and hearing impaired people. 	
c. Government demonstrates a greater appreciation of the unique and varying needs of deaf children and young people.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - We have developed constructive relationships with Education Department regional personal and are respected for our firm advocacy (even legal advocacy) in regard to the failure of current systems to adequately resource the individual and varying needs of children. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Recognition as a key stakeholder representing families, particularly with regard to education and health policy in all states.

3. EDUCATION RESOURCES: Services will be provided within Victoria		
3.1) Quality options in the provision of education services, are provided in partnership with the Victorian Ministry of Education and/or independently.		
INDICATORS	OUTCOMES	CHALLENGES
a. The Funding and Service Agreement between Deaf Children Australia and the Victorian Department of Education and Training is maintained.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Funding and service agreement in place to provide advice to schools, school and communities, and a range of school services including audiology, psychology, physiotherapy, speech pathology, occupational therapy, counseling and Auslan. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Advocating for a planned and consistent system of support service provision.
b. The agreement between Deaf Children Australia and the Department of Education and Training for the support of the Victorian College for the Deaf (VCD), as a Victoria wide K-12 educational option, is maintained.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Deaf Children Australia continues to provide the facilities of the Victorian College of the Deaf to the Department of Education at no charge. - To date, our investment in the College has been in excess of \$4 million. - Our plans for the future development of the rear of the site will require re-negotiation of the agreement. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Successfully renegotiate the agreement between Deaf Children Australia and the Department of Education and Training.
3.2) Accommodation Support Services are provided for Victorian country students and families choosing to access Melbourne based programs.		
a. Accommodation for school days is provided in Deaf Children Australia group homes to students of the Victorian College of the Deaf at a cost not greater than the Isolated Children® Allowance.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - 6 students of Victorian College of the Deaf received accommodation services throughout the year. - Numbers have declined with only 3 students currently enrolled. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - The very low numbers threaten the viability of the service.
b. Accommodation services for families and their children attending preschool programs in Melbourne will be provided.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - 4 flats are provided within the Princess Elizabeth Junior School campus in Burwood, with additional provision at a local motel. These facilities have catered for the needs of 6 families during the year. - A pilot project has provided motel accommodation for 3 families requiring access to the Furlong Park School for Deaf Children's pre-school program. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - The Burwood flats become unavailable from the end of the 2004 school year. Our new housing project is unlikely to be completed before mid 2005. The cost of interim accommodation in local motels for up to 8 families each week night will be in the vicinity of \$40,000 for six months and will funded by Deaf Children Australia in the absence of government support.
c. Metropolitan accommodation for primary school aged children from rural Victoria is lacking and will be reviewed.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - A needs survey was planned but unable to be undertaken during the year. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Completing a review of accommodation needs in light of an overall review of educational access for children across Vic.

4. FAMILY SUPPORT SERVICES: Service provision will be throughout Victoria and elsewhere as funding becomes available		
4.1) Support Services are provided within a service philosophy based on deafness as a life to be lived rather than a problem to be fixed.		
INDICATORS	OUTCOMES	CHALLENGES
a. Users experience positive outcomes and renewed confidence in their abilities.	- Typically our program evaluations reflect a high level of service satisfaction.	- Continuing to refine mechanisms to elicit qualitative feedback from families to determine the impact of the service and inform program development.
b. Users are empowered within and by service intervention.	- A review of our service delivery model resulted in a re-focusing on our capacity building approach to both individuals and communities. - The decision to change our philosophy was informed by our new national focus, and desire to create sustainable programs which can be replicated in all states.	- Realising the opportunities presented through community capacity building.
c. Role Models, peer support and networking opportunities are available.	- In partnership with Victoria Police. New initiatives included a number of workshops focusing on fathers in partnership with Monnington Early Intervention Centre, an adolescence program, a Who's The Boss parenting program with Furlong Park School for the Deaf, and a camp for young people.	- Reviewing and revitalising the Deaf Support Register. - Identifying and implementing targeted opportunities for parent education and networking.
4.2) The needs of children and young people and their families are known and met through appropriate and effective programs.		
a. Staff resources are deployed by teams of highly skilled specialists and represent a diversity of professional and community perspectives.	- We draw on the expertise of a multi disciplinary team including parents, deaf people and other professionals. - Our Queensland presence is now well established with both local and Melbourne based support. - To better serve the needs of Northern Victorian clients a full time family and community worker position was relocated to Shepparton.	- Being an employer of first choice within our sector.
b. Families at risk, including those of high socio-economic need, non-English speaking background and from rural areas are identified and supported.	- Typically 30% of our clients are rural families, 20% are from non English speaking backgrounds, and 30% are financially disadvantaged.	- Improving the knowledge and skill base in relation to the needs of this demographic internally and within local communities.

c. Children and young people with disabilities receive additional levels of support.	- Approximately 20% of clients have additional needs.	- Responding to the respite needs of families is a key priority.
4.3) Service users are assured of consistency of service at an agreed level.		
a. The Funding and Service Agreement between Deaf Children Australia and the Victorian Department of Human Services is maintained.	- Funding and service agreement in place to provide case management, information, recreation and independent living skills programs. DHS funding for our accommodation program ceased in December 2003.	- Responding to the respite needs of families. - Developing an improved youth strategy. - Strengthening our capacity to deliver services in regional areas.
b. Users are fully informed about the services available and all relevant changes in services and service levels.	- Our strategies include dissemination of print and electronic communications, face to face discussions between staff and families and regular internal briefings.	- Providing information to families about services in a timely and effective manner, continues to be a priority. - Being proactive in addressing the information needs of disengaged or disempowered families.
c. Users are assured of the highest standards of professional ethics applied by staff.	- Staff supervision and mentoring programs well established. - Agency training plan informed by a training needs analysis. Annual investment in skills development is in the order of \$60,000.	- Developing and promoting a code of ethics.
d. Service access is based on an assessment to determine priority within available resources.	- Manager of client services is responsible for allocation of work, following initial assessment. - All requests for service were met within 14 days as per our service response standard.	
e. Persons deemed ineligible for services are referred to the most appropriate service provider.	- Our services are promoted as being specifically available to deaf and hearing impaired children, young people and their families. Few referrals are received where we are not an appropriate provider.	

5. SUSTAINABILITY AND HERITAGE: Focus to be national		
5.1) Partnerships are established and fostered amongst all parties interested in addressing issues associated with deafness.		
INDICATORS	OUTCOMES	CHALLENGES
a. Deaf Children Australia will not present itself as a total solution provider, and will engage in and foster community partnerships with for-profit, not-for-profit and Government sectors to provide the best solution possible for the individual.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - We continue to partner in an empowering manner with individuals and networks of parents. - A key service delivery strategy is the development of service provider partnerships around individual client needs. - Interagency partnerships include the Rural Worker Alliance, Hearing Awareness Week, Deafness Foundation, NMIT, Deafness Forum, Kangan Batman Institute of TAFE and VCOD. - Continued membership of ACROD, Deafness Forum, the Association of Children with Disability, the National Employment Services Association, Jobs Australia and VCOSS. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Sustaining existing and developing new Australia-wide partnerships.
b. Deaf Children Australia will share information and learning with the network of providers.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Providing information and support to professionals from other organisations is a key strategy across all operational levels. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Rolling out strategy equitably with a national focus. - Refining self sustaining models of support and partnerships.
c. Partnerships and alliances are explored and implemented where efficiencies can deliver improved service.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - We have built on the key partnership with the Queensland Deaf Society, including the development of joint fundraising and executive level services that will deliver major efficiencies. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Communicating this partnership to other national service providers and stakeholders as a major paradigm shift and opportunity for the sector.
5.2) Sufficient resources are available to meet our program objectives for quality services and initiatives for deaf children and young people, and their families.		
a. The JobNet Employment contract is a profit making enterprise.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - 419 job seekers served of whom 193 were long term unemployed. - Service has sustained its rating as an excellent service provider. - Commenced partnering with QDS Employment services giving us knowledge across both commonwealth funding programs. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Creating the mechanisms to leverage partnerships to provide policy leadership.

b. Opportunities to develop profitable businesses and new fundraising activities are explored.	- Rental of underutilized space has been secured. Retail operations has been taken in by front reception to achieve efficiencies.	- Securing the Auslan dictionary as the base for launching our other deafness resources products.
c. Regional Officers are appointed in all states as funding becomes available.	- As a first step to nationalisation we decided to fund and support a National Research and Strategy manager to better coordinate our planned development of national services.	- Ensuring additional funds to establish other regional projects.
d. Standards of service provision are enhanced.	- Investment income is a key contributor to our ability to innovate and add quality to funded services. - The sale of two house properties has added to our invested funds.	
e. Resources are available for innovative endeavours.	- 43 submissions for corporate funds and trusts resulted in 11 successful outcomes.	- Deciding between competing priorities for resources in a national context.
5.3) As a major custodian of the heritage and history of Deaf Australians, we will continue to invest in the preservation of historic buildings and records.		
a. The property at 597 St Kilda Road Melbourne is developed in keeping with appropriate preservation standards, while not limiting its development for current and future use.	- The Board commissioned a feasibility study for the development of the rear of the site to ensure long term sustainable growth and raise \$3 million for the preservation of the site. - Given the institutional zoning, Wesley College has been invited to consider the proposal.	- Ensuring our capacity to meet the occupancy and maintenance costs of a large historic site without compromising our capacity to respond to service demand.
b. "597" is acknowledged as an important international centre of deaf culture and receives widespread community support.	- Use of the site by a broad range of community groups including VCOD, AAD, ASLIA, Deaf TV and key education groups has increased substantially over the past 12 months.	
c. Historical and cultural information will be preserved and made available to the public.	- The focus of our history volunteers has been in preparation for welcoming the large international contingent expected to visit our site for the Deaflympics in January 2005.	- Making information accessible and of interest to both deaf and hearing communities.