



Welcome to our September Newsletter

Much has happened since our last newsletter. Project work has continued in the key areas of research, professional learning, technology and innovation.

The current research agenda covers the 0-18 age span and is inclusive of all communication/language preferences. Key pieces of research currently being undertaken include:

- strategies for strengthening post school transition pathways for deaf and hard of hearing students;
- strengthening individual learning, assessment and intervention strategies;
- improving classroom access and inclusion through captioning; and
- development of an Auslan assessment methodology and language benchmarking in the early years.

Project reference groups for each of these key pieces of research are currently being established.

July and August were busy months on the professional learning calendar with two International Speaker Seminars (ISS), both which were outstanding and provided terrific networking opportunities.

In the innovation and technology area, projects include:

- the development of a captioning centre;
- a pilot program trialling the use of video conferencing equipment in schools;
- the roll out of the second stage of our real time captioning in classrooms pilot;
- and a project exploring the concept of Centres of Excellence.

We welcome your feedback on our newsletter. For comprehensive information about all of our programs please visit the [VDEI website](#).

Development of Auslan Assessment tools

VDEI, in conjunction with La Trobe University, is developing an Auslan Assessment Tool and an Auslan Developmental Scale. Principle researcher, Dr Adam Schembri of La Trobe University has appointed two research assistants, Gabrielle Hodge and Ida Rogers, who will support him in the project. [Read more](#)

Save the Date!

Don't miss VDEI's last Masterclass for 2011

**DR LOUISE PAATSCH &
DR DIANNE TOE**

**Pragmatic skills of deaf and
hard of hearing children: how
they can be assessed and
strategies for intervention**

DATE: 14 October 2011

TIME: 1 for 1.30pm start – 5pm

LOCATION:

Room D2.211, Level 2
Deakin University
Geelong Waterfront Campus
1 Gheringap Street, Geelong

PRESENTERS:

Dr Louise Paatsch, PhD: Senior Lecturer and Researcher in language and literacy at the School of Education, Deakin University.

Dr Dianne Toe, PhD, Senior Lecturer and Researcher in the development of pragmatic language skills at the University of Melbourne.

To register:

RSVP by COB Friday 23 September 2011

**E: vdei@edumail.vic.gov.au or
P: Karyn Barrasso 03 9637 2083**

PUBLIC LECTURE: NO CHARGE

All VDEI Masterclasses are Auslan interpreted and live captioned.

Tracking and predicting educational achievements in children with congenital hearing loss

VDEI and Murdoch Children's Research Institute, Centre of Community Child Health are conducting a population based study analysing data from the CHIVOS project (Children with Hearing Impairment in Victoria Outcomes Study).

[Read more](#)

Auslan courses

In conjunction with Kangan institute, nine Auslan courses are currently being run by VDEI across the state. Courses are being taught at beginner, intermediate and advance levels for both professionals working in the field and parents of deaf and hard of hearing children. Two of these courses are being presented successfully via video relay to country areas.

[Read more](#)

Real time captioning in classrooms pilot

A second stage of the VDEI pilot project enabling the use of captioning in classrooms has involved three more secondary school facilities, Shepparton High School deaf facility, Mount Erin deaf education centre and Sunshine College deaf facility in terms 3 and 4.

[Read more](#)

Scholarships

VDEI continues to support the capacity building of educators, in collaboration with VDEN and other sector contacts. We have actively sought expressions of interest in scholarships to study at the University of Melbourne or the University of Newcastle RIDBC Renwick Centre. To date 100 expressions of interest have been received. Scholarships will be formally advertised early in term 4. Please check our website for updates.

Centres of Excellence 2011 – 2012

VDEI, in collaboration with facility coordinators and specialist schools for the deaf, will begin a project to explore the concept and requirements to establish centres of excellence in deaf education. Please contact Gene Reardon for more information.

Remote learning

VDEI is focused on improving outcomes and access for rural and regional students and families. A pilot program using video conferencing equipment will be trialled with rural deaf facilities and at some metropolitan locations. Videoconferencing units are already allowing students to participate in ways not previously viable and will continue to allow us to develop outreach programs and services in a variety of ways. Options being explored are: [Read more](#)

Missed an online session?

Please click on the recording playback link under each session to access the recordings.

Using hearing technology in the classroom - maximising the acoustic environment

DATE: 9 September 2011
TIME: 2.38pm - 5.09pm
PRESENTER: Ann-Marie Costabile, Australian Hearing

[CLICK HERE FOR RECORDING
PLAYBACK LINK](#)

Mathematic teaching techniques for working with deaf students in secondary schools

DATE: 27 June 2011
TIME: 4.00pm - 5.00pm
PRESENTER: Jeremy Brett, Victorian College for the Deaf
REPEAT SESSION. Using online learning resources such as MyMaths (UK) in the teaching and assessment of mathematics at secondary level with Deaf students, Jeremy will also cover how to use the DEECD On Demand testing.

[CLICK HERE FOR RECORDING
PLAYBACK LINK](#)

Not receiving our event alerts directly?

Email your direct email address to us at vdei@edumail.vic.gov.au

Contact VDEI

Email: vdei@edumail.vic.gov.au

Website:
<http://www.education.vic.gov.au/about/directions/vdei/default.htm>

Captioning Centre in regional Victoria

As a result of a number of applications for resource development grants earlier this year, VDEI has been assisting three schools in a project to develop a Captioning Centre in regional Victoria. This project aims to assist schools in accessing captioned content for use in schools and to assist in captioning materials.

[Read more](#)

Breadth of curriculum

A key role of the VDEI is to implement the reforms identified in the Deaf Review. One of the first projects undertaken by the Victorian Deaf Education Institute was a project to review the *Sustainability and the Breadth of Curriculum provision*, of services for students who are deaf or hard of hearing who receive specialist support in mainstream schools with or without specialist deaf facilities.

[Read more](#)

Professional learning activities

July and August were busy months on the VDEI professional learning calendar with two International Speakers Seminars (ISS) presented by Dr Andy Cornes (UK) on emotional and social wellbeing and Dr Teresa Caraway (USA) on working with parents and Theory of Mind. Both presentations were outstanding, very practical and facilitated terrific opportunities for networking. Read more below.

VDEI is currently planning for next year's innovative professional learning program to support Victorian education and allied health professionals working with deaf and hard of hearing students across a range of educational settings and will be introducing new forums for families and parents. We will make this available in October to assist with your planning for 2012.

Our recent International Speakers Seminars

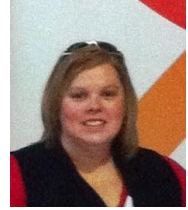
Dr Caraway's 'Theory of Mind' seminar

In collaboration with the RIDBC Renwick Centre, VDEI hosted a compelling two day workshop presented by Dr Teresa Caraway on 11-12 August entitled *Meet the parents – guiding and coaching parents in early intervention and facilitating Theory of Mind (ToM) development and conversational competency in children with hearing loss*.

[Read more](#)



Introducing staff member, Sally Martin



Sally Martin joins VDEI as the Virtual Learning Project Manager. Sally will be responsible for developing and overseeing the areas of technology and innovation for VDEI. These projects will be centred on providing access and support for regional, rural and remote students using video conferencing, mobile technologies, online content and the establishment of a virtual school program. Sally has also assisted with our Professional Learning Program with technical support. Sally previously worked as a Teacher of the Deaf in the Barwon South Western region and has a great deal of expertise with emerging technologies.

Introducing staff member, Shaun Goodwin



Shaun Goodwin joins the VDEI team on a part time basis as the IT Technician. Shaun currently works at the Victorian College for the Deaf and has been highly involved in the iPads for education trial as well as providing technical support for many of our Masterclass and International speaker programs. Shaun is involved in many of our technology projects and provides a fountain of technical knowledge and expertise to the VDEI team.

Dr Andy Cornes - Deconstructing, reconstructing and managing deaf child and adolescent behaviour to enhance social, emotional and psychological wellbeing

On 4 and 5 August 2011, Dr Andy Cornes held an engaging two day professional development workshop for 90 professionals at the Jasper Hotel & Conference Centre in Melbourne.



[Read more](#)

Staying on track with deaf education



The Victorian Deaf Education Institute was a major sponsor at the 26th Australian and New Zealand Conference for Educators of the Deaf (ANZCED) 2011 conference on 15 - 17 July 2011.

[Read more](#)

Hearing Awareness Week and the Geelong Deafness Expo

On Friday 26 August 2011 the Victorian Deaf Education Institute held a stand and presented at the Geelong Deafness Expo and Information Forum at the Geelong West Town Hall.

[Read more](#)



VDEI's move to the new location

Building of the new institute is planned to commence in term 4, 2011 with consultation completed and all design elements signed off by both site stakeholders, the Victorian College for the Deaf (VCD) and Deaf Children Australia (DCA).

The Institute will be located within VCD's Senior School building with new spaces adapted for the school's changing needs. A state of the art video conferencing centre incorporating shared learning spaces will enable VDEI to host much of its Professional Learning Program on site and make the space available for the college and educational purposes. Action research projects will also be facilitated from the site.

VDEI presentations

VDEI recently presented at the following events:

Deafness Foundation AGM, 28 July 2011, Taralye, Blackburn South

26th Australian and New Zealand Conference for Educators of the Deaf (ANZCED), 15 and 16 July 2011, Novotel, St Kilda, Melbourne

Geelong Deafness Expo and Information Forum, 26 August 2011, Geelong West Town Hall

If you would like us to speak at your next event, please email at Gene Reardon at

reardon.gene.g@edumail.vic.gov.au



Continuing consultations with deaf educators

As statewide project managers for VDEI, Kaye Scott and Helen Harrington-Johnson are continuing to visit services, schools and facilities throughout Victoria to develop an appreciation of the complexities of each setting and to develop appropriate support responses. This program of visits has assisted with ideas in relation to generating school based projects and the recent resource development projects.