

Victorian Deaf Education Institute e-newsletter

Issue #2 | June 2011



Welcome to our June Newsletter

We are well into Term 2 of the school year and much has happened since our first newsletter. We continue to work on the key reform areas identified in the Victorian Deaf Education Review, with particular focus on access and equity, workforce capacity building and strengthening educational provision.

VDEI's research agenda has commenced and will include several commissioned pieces of work. Examples include a research project to identify the key factors and interventions that lead to successful educational outcomes with students who are deaf or hard of hearing; a study on the breadth of curriculum provision in secondary deaf facilities; and an action research project to strengthen students' transition to post school options. Please read on for more about the VDEI's emerging research agenda.

The professional learning strategy continues with full attendance at Master classes, a range of online classes on offer, and an international speakers program commencing in August.

VDEI launched its technology and innovation strategy in May with real time captioning in classrooms at the Victorian College for the Deaf and Forest Hill Secondary College. More secondary deaf facilities will be invited to join this project from July 2011.

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

Real time captioning in classrooms pilot

A key strategy of VDEI is to enable improved classroom inclusion and curriculum access through the deployment of appropriate technologies.

VDEI is undertaking a real-time captioning in classrooms pilot. The aim is to improve secondary deaf students' access to learning material, classroom dialogue and activities, thereby promoting full inclusion and enhancing student outcomes. [Read more](#)

Save the Date! VDEI's must-see June Masterclass

**DR MELISSA WAKE &
DR ZEFFIE POULAKIS**

How are Victoria's deaf and hard of hearing children doing in the 21st century? Learnings from the SCOUT, CHIVOS and HISS studies

DATE: 29 June 2011

TIME: 6pm – 8pm

LOCATION: Monash Conference Centre, Level 7, 30 Collins Street, Melbourne

PRESENTERS: Dr Melissa Wake, Director of Research and Associate Director, Centre for Community Child Health, Royal Children's Hospital & Dr Zeffie Poulakis, Director of the Victorian Infant Hearing Screening Program, Centre for Community Child Health, Royal Children's Hospital.

**To register:
RSVP by COB Wed 15 June 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.



Classroom Acoustics Project Grants

The Victorian Deaf Education Review highlighted the benefits of providing optimal acoustic environments for hard of hearing students. In May, VDEI encouraged deaf facilities in primary and secondary schools, as well as specialist schools for the deaf, to apply for funding for projects that will develop and test innovative approaches to enhancing classroom acoustic environments. Many schools will be fitted with portable soundfield units.

[Read more](#)

Resource Development Project Grants

The Victorian Deaf Education Review highlighted the importance of the provision of high quality educational services and access for deaf and hard of hearing students. VDEI sought expressions of interest to undertake innovative resource development projects that will lead to knowledge sharing across the deaf education workforce and/or that develop teaching and learning resources for direct use with deaf and hard of hearing students. Projects range from developing literacy tools to establishing a captioning resource centre.

[Read more](#)

Mapping learning outcomes

The work to map all Victorian children with a hearing loss is now well under way. VDEI has been working with both Australian Hearing and other DEECD departments to gather data that will enable us to map the location and outcomes of deaf and hard of hearing children in Victoria. Of great interest is NAPLAN participation rates and outcomes.

[Read more](#)

Professional learning strategy

Since February 2011 VDEI has offered an innovative professional learning program to Victorian education professionals supporting deaf and hard of hearing students across a range of educational settings. Simply click the links to past and/or up and coming sessions in the right hand columns of this newsletter. For more information on our professional learning calendar and teaching scholarships [click here](#)

Join our online sessions!

NEXT ONLINE LEARNING:

Using hearing technology in the classroom - maximising the acoustic environment

DATE: 23 June 2011

TIME: 4.00 - 5.00pm

PRESENTER: Ann-Marie Costabile,
Australian Hearing

DEECD staff register:

<http://guidetoinnovation.ning.com/events/using-hearing-technology-in>

Join this session on the day:

Please find the Elluminate session link below for all to participate in. When prompted, enter your full name (eg. John Smith) and press "Login". Elluminate will load and connect you to the session up to 30 minutes before it is scheduled to begin:

<https://sas.illuminate.com/m.jnlp?sid=2007026&password=M.94725BE8FDF24A669C9E36B7B8D4CE>

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

By demand this is a 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.

DEECD staff register:

<http://guidetoinnovation.ning.com/events/mathematic-teaching-techniques-1>

Join this session on the day:

Please find the Elluminate session link below for all to participate in. When prompted, enter your full name (eg. John Smith) and press "Login". Elluminate will load and connect you to the session up to 30 minutes before it is scheduled to begin:

<https://sas.illuminate.com/m.jnlp?sid=2007026&password=M.1AE5643DF81EB24E6040DB357BC9CC>

Term 3 and 4 online sessions will soon be listed on our website



University of Melbourne literature review

In partnership with VDEI, the University of Melbourne undertook a comprehensive review of the literature in relation to assessment and intervention strategies for language and literacy in children and students with hearing loss in December 2010. This review has now been finalised.

[Read more](#)

Auslan Assessment research project

In April 2011, VDEI sought submissions from organisations to undertake an Auslan Assessment research project which aims to develop and trial the implementation of an Auslan assessment tool in consultation with key linguistic experts. La Trobe University has been successful in securing the undertaking of this project.

[Read more](#)

Strengthening outcomes and post school transition pathways for deaf students

VDEI has commissioned The Centre of Excellence for Students who are Deaf and Hard of Hearing at the Northern Metropolitan Institute of TAFE (NMIT) to undertake a research study entitled "Strengthening Outcomes and Post School Transition Pathways".

[Read more](#)

Secondary deaf facilities project – access to breadth of curriculum

The Deaf Education Review identified breadth of curriculum as an area for attention in relation to secondary deaf facilities. In order to increase curriculum options for secondary deaf students, a study is being undertaken into the breadth of curriculum offered at secondary deaf facilities in Victoria.

[Read more](#)

Missed an online session?

Please click any of these links and you will be taken to the Online Recordings PDF on our website to access the recordings.

[Challenges faced by deaf students in post secondary education](#) with

Cathy Clarke, NMIT.

2 February 2011

[Reading For Meaning Using Australian Sign Language \(Auslan\) Part 2. \(a follow-up session from 2010\)](#) with Janelle Giffen, Guthrie St Deaf Facility.

2 February 2011 and

10 May 2011

[Using a validated diary technique to monitor early language milestones in young children with severe-profound hearing loss](#) with Pauline

Nott, Manager Research, Assessment and Education, Taralye.

2 February 2011

Masterclass series

Our Masterclass series is aimed at early childhood professionals, teachers, educational professionals and allied health professionals supporting deaf and hard of hearing children across the full breadth of educational settings.

[Read more](#)

Our recent Masterclasses:

The benefits and mastery of using mobile devices in education for students with special needs

Jonathan Nalder from Queensland's Department of Education presented this highly interactive one day conference to visiting teachers and other professionals supporting deaf and hard of hearing students in mainstream settings on the first of this month.

The conference, which enjoyed full attendance at the Victorian College for the Deaf in St Kilda Road, took attendees on an amazing journey of how mobile technology can transform learning.

Due to demand this conference will be run again. More dates will be supplied soon.

The first relationship: parental adjustment to infant hearing loss

In March 2011 Professor Field Rickards, Dean, Melbourne Graduate School of Education from the University of Melbourne launched VDEI's first Masterclass. Associate Professor Margaret Brown from the University of Melbourne presented to more than 150 professionals in deaf education on Thursday evening, 17 March 2011 at Taralye in Blackburn.

[Read more](#)



Associate Professor Margaret Brown, University of Melbourne, (left) with Gene Reardon, Executive Director of the Victorian Deaf Education Institute

Don't miss our international speakers

DR ANDY CORNES

Deconstructing, reconstructing and managing deaf child and adolescent behaviour to enhance social, emotional and psychological well-being

DATE: 4 & 5 August 2011, 8:30am-4.00pm

LOCATION: Jasper Hotel & Conference Centre, 489 Elizabeth Street, Melbourne

PRESENTER: Dr Andy Cornes, UK, Visiting Fellow University of Melbourne
This event is a collaboration between the Victorian Deaf Education Institute and the University of Melbourne.

To register:

RSVP by COB Friday 15 July 2011.

E: vdei@edumail.vic.gov.au or

P: Karyn Barrasso 03 9637 2083

DR TERESA CARAWAY

Meet the parents - guiding and coaching parents in early intervention and facilitating theory of mind development and conversational competency in children with hearing loss

DATE: 11 & 12 August 2011, 8:30am-4.00pm

LOCATION: Jasper Hotel & Conference Centre, 489 Elizabeth Street, Melbourne

PRESENTER: Dr Teresa Caraway, USA, Ph.D, CCC-SLP, LSLS Cert AVT
This event is a collaboration between the Victorian Deaf Education Institute and the RIDBC Renwick Centre.

RSVP by COB Friday 22 July 2011

Regisiter:

http://www.ridbc.org.au/renwick/courses/cpe_register.php?ID=78

ph: Trudy Smith 02 9872 0302

All other event queries

E: vdei@edumail.vic.gov.au or

P: Karyn Barrasso 03 9637 2083

Consultations with deaf facilities

Over the past several months our Statewide Program Managers, Helen Harrington-Johnson and Kaye Scott have been visiting deaf facilities across Victoria and 19 more school visits are scheduled for this month.

Visits to the facilities have provided an opportunity to explore connections between the priorities of the Institute and work currently being undertaken in other organisations, and to commence effective planning processes.

Themes emerging from these conversations are informing the Institute's strategic plan moving forward. Thank you to those organisations who contributed their ideas. If you have any more feedback, please contact us at the emails below.

Introducing new staff member, Kaye Scott



VDEI is pleased to announce the recent appointment of Kaye Scott, our new Statewide Program Manager for VDEI. Kaye will be responsible for developing and overseeing the research agenda as well as contributing to the development of the professional learning calendar. In collaboration with key stakeholders, Kaye will also have a key role in generating innovative projects, and managing policy analysis and review. [Read more](#)

VDEI staff

Gene Reardon
Executive Director
reardon.gene.g@edumail.vic.gov.au

Helen Harrington-Johnson
Statewide Program Manager
harrington-johnson.helen.h@edumail.vic.gov.au

Kaye Scott
Statewide Program Manager
scott.kaye.m@edumail.vic.gov.au

Karyn Barrasso
Communications & Program Coordinator
barrasso.karyn.k@edumail.vic.gov.au

Julie Postance
Communications Coordinator
postance.julie.i@edumail.vic.gov.au

Esperanza Torres
Research Officer
torres.esperanza.e@edumail.vic.gov.au

Contact VDEI

Email:
vdei@edumail.vic.gov.au

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

VDEI presentations

VDEI has been invited to give presentations at the following events:

South Australian Teachers Conference, 26 March 2011.

Deaf Australia National Conference & 25th Anniversary Celebration, Hobart, 13 to 15 May 2011.

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

If you would like us to speak at your next event, please email at Gene Reardon at reardon.gene.g@edumail.vic.gov.au



ANZCED 2011 is hosting an excellent 3 day program at the Novotel Hotel, St Kilda from 15 – 17 July. The conference will feature many excellent national and international presenters and will provide teachers of the deaf with valuable opportunities to meet and learn together. There are still places available. Just go to the ANZCED website www.anzced.com.au and either register on-line or fax/post your registration to the conference committee.