



deaf access
Community Awareness & Education
Information & Advocacy



*enhancing abilities, supporting families,
strengthening communities*



Our Vision

To be a leader in quality aged and disability services enabling people to have meaningful connections to their communities.

South West Region



The Barwon South West Region Coordinator for deaf access provides support to nine local government areas:

Barwon Region

- Borough of Queenscliff
- Colac/Otway Shire
- Greater City of Geelong
- Surf Coast Shire

South West Region

- City of Warrnambool
- Corangamite Shire
- Glenelg Shire
- Moyne Shire
- Southern Grampians Shire

Mpower Inc. is accredited with the Quality Improvement Council on Australian Health & Community Service Standards





We provide a range of support services for those in our community who need understanding and support. We are a not for profit organisation focussing on the needs of our community.

deaf access supports rural and regional communities to plan and develop strategies that enable deaf and hard of hearing people to become more included in their local community. The program aims to produce real change within the Barwon South West Region that benefit deaf and hard of hearing people.

deaf access goals are:

- To mobilise and support people who are deaf and hard of hearing to optimise participation in the life of their local community.
- To build and strengthen the communities capacity to provide support to people who are deaf and hard of hearing and their families.
- To facilitate integrated local community planning which engages and involves people who are deaf and hard of hearing and their families, disability service providers and community organisations.
- To work with existing support providers to enhance their capacity to provide relevant and appropriate supports in the community.
- To improve access to information about relevant services and community activities available to people who are deaf and hard of hearing in their communities.

The deaf access Coordinator plans and develops projects in many areas including:

- Access and advocacy planning
- Communication
- Information and interpreting
- Community awareness
- Education and training
- Recreation and the arts
- Transport and tourism

deaf access can work for you in these ways:

- Inform families of deaf or hard of hearing children of available resources in the region such as early intervention services or the local parent support group.

- Consult with businesses over communication and access issues for deaf and hard of hearing people.
- Provide training to community organisations and services including aged care facilities or councils on hearing loss, assistive equipment and communication strategies.
- Have active input into community disability access plans developed by local councils advocating for increased access to facilities including public venues, tourism facilities and community activities.
- Provide hearing loss and deaf awareness training to adult education centres that conduct courses where students may be working with deaf or hard of hearing clients.
- Provide training and information to all organisations and businesses on how to work or communicate with deaf and hard of hearing clients or employees.
- Assist interested groups in establishing Australian Sign Language (Auslan) classes.
- Work with education facilities to improve education outcomes for deaf or hard of hearing students.
- Organise “Hearing Loss information Expo” to provide information and advice.
- Attend health and wellbeing expos run by other organisations.
- Provides details on booking and working with Auslan interpreters.
- Provide information to people on suitable organisations for support or case management.
- Work with organisers of festivals to improve participation of deaf and hard of hearing people.

The success of deaf access relies on input from the community. Please contact the coordinator with your ideas, suggestions, requests and enquiries (03) 5561 8111

