Deafblind Victoria

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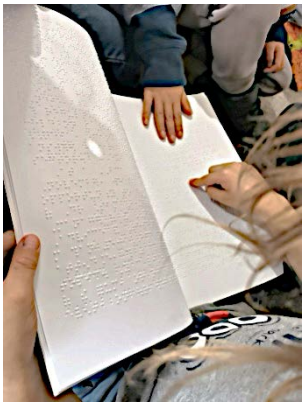
Annual Report 2024

(15 Nov 2023 – 20 Nov 2024)

Our mission

Deafblind Victoria aims to support the Victorian Deafblind community, and to relieve distress and disadvantage experienced as a result of social and communication isolation. This is achieved through Deafblind community activities that provide connection and strengthen our unique language and culture, and by raising awareness in the wider community.







CONTENTS

Our mission	1
Section 1 – An overview of Deafblind Victoria	
About us	2
Our people	2
Section 2 – Governance	
CEO's report	3
President's report	4
Section 3 – Our Finances	
Treasurer's summary	5
Auditor's statement	5
Financial statements	6
Section 4 – Photo gallery	
Images	7

SECTION 1 AN OVERVIEW OF DEAFBLIND VICTORIA

ABOUT US

Deafblind Victoria is a self-advocacy group run by and for Deafblind people in Victoria. We are based in Ross House, Melbourne.

DBV works to build a supportive and empowered Deafblind community, and to make the wider community more accessible and inclusive for us. To achieve these goals, we offer:

1. Deafblind community:
    a. Peer support, mentoring and training
    b. Group activities (Deafblind Café, DBV Connect, Craft group and Recreation program)
    c. Resources for Deafblind people
2. Wider community:
    a. Awareness raising (Deafblind World workshops and presentations)
    b. Advising and consulting
    c. Information about deafblindness

OUR PEOPLE

Committee of Management
President: Alex Sar
Treasurer: Heather Lawson
Secretary: Michelle Stevens
Ordinary Committee members:
- Jasper Cleland
- Rodney Baskett

Former Committee member: Trudy Ryall (Inactive from 8/2/2024; removed 5/6/2024)

Staff
Executive Officer: Ntennis Davi
Program Coordinators:
- Heather Lawson
- Michelle Stevens
- Alex Sar
- Mark Sandon

Accounting/HR manager: Rosalie Kassulke
Project Officers:
- Rodney Baskett
- Jael Espinal-McCoskey
- Jackie Sciberras
- Ruth Schmidtke
- Jenny Gibson
- Jasper Cleland

Project workers (casual):
- Andrew Howard
- Robert Lokmer

Volunteers
Meredith Bartlett
Rodney Baskett
Jayendra Birchall
Anthony Brooks
Janine Downey
Jael Espinal-McCoskey
Sherri Foster
Jenny Gibson
Leo Guler
Dee Hira-Whittaker
Robert Lokmer
Lee Papworth
Mallory Royal
Greg Ruddick
Ruth Schmidtke
Jackie Sciberras
KJ Macfarlane
Mariam Guirgist
Anthony Mckay
Kayla Paterson
Tara Rankine
Liam Shambrook
Lloyd Saunders
Shanaya Valmas
Jessi Wong

Access professionals
93 interpreters, notetakers and commguides!

STRUCTURE & MANAGEMENT

Deafblind Victoria is registered with the Australian Charities and Not-for-profits Commission (ACNC) and has Deductible Gift Recipient (DGR) status. We are an incorporated association governed by a Committee of Management, which is elected each year by our members at the AGM and meets on the first Wednesday every month. All members of the Committee are Deafblind, and all were also employed to work on projects.







CEO'S REPORT – Ntennis Davi

The last 12 months have been the biggest in DBV's history. We saw remarkable achievements and survived unprecedented challenges, thanks to the determination and resilience of the Deafblind individuals on our Committee of Management, and to the culture of mutual support created by staff and members.

Two large projects were successfully completed:

1. *Deafblind Community: Growing Together* (2020 - 2024) strengthened the Deafblind community through group activities, developed DBV's capacity as an organisation, and provided skills and employment to Deafblind Victorians.
2. *Deafblind Connect* (2021 – 2024) was a weekly drop-in program where participants received support, digital & social connection, and gained confidence and self-esteem from sharing their skills with others.

Both were funded by the Department of Social Services. Two smaller projects were also delivered:

1. *Deafblind Retreat* (2023): three days in Ballarat with deafblind-led activities, funded by a Lendlease Community Grant and a Guide Dogs Connected Together grant.
2. *QAT* (2023 – 2024): transgender, non-binary and queer people met monthly to practice deafblind communication and make friends, funded by a peer-support grant from Transgender Victoria.

Deafblind World continues to grow, with a record 13 sessions delivered. Deafblind presenters raised awareness with students at primary schools, secondary schools and TAFE, and with mainstream services, professionals, and the Deaf community.

In 2024, we secured funding for four new projects and underwent a re-structure. A recruitment process resulted in 12 permanent part-time and 2 casual employees. Some had previously worked or volunteered on DBV projects, while others joined us for the first time. Over 65% of employees are Deafblind, which we believe makes us Australia's

largest employer of Deafblind people. We feel strongly about providing a model of Deafblind employment, challenging attitudes and barriers that exclude many from the workforce.

The new projects include three that are funded by DSS - *Deafblind Community Hub*, *Peer Support Network*, *How to Claim your Human Rights* (with B-HART) - and one funded by the Public Records Office of Victoria, *Deafblind Community History*.

Volunteers are essential to DBV's operations. Volunteering Victoria recognised DBV with a nomination for an "Inclusive Volunteering" award in early 2024. I also want to acknowledge the support DBV received from organisations such as Ross House, SARU, Deaf Victoria, Expression Australia and Able Australia. We are profoundly grateful to members of the CFMEU whose collective generosity raised another $17,000.

DBV's two-year strategic plan reaches its completion this year. All targets have been met or exceeded, and a new plan will be written in December. I look forward to what lies ahead for this unique organisation that is so important to the lives of Deafblind people in Victoria.







PRESIDENT'S REPORT – Alex Sar

2024 has been a difficult year for the Deafblind Victoria Committee. We faced internal challenges with an unfortunate situation which took up most of the Committee's time and resources. The Committee did our best to keep the organisation functioning. I was really impressed with how we supported each other. I am proud to say that we are still standing strong! We learned a lot of hard lessons and gained many skills from the experience.

This year, we appointed Deafblind Victoria's first Chief Executive Officer Ntennis Davi. Ntennis has been performing the role for several years now under the title "Project Manager", but as our organisation grew, we found that we need an Executive Officer to deal effectively with funding bodies and regulators. We are working towards having a Deafblind CEO in the future, and we have set up pathways and support for Deafblind staff to gain management experience.

Two highlights for the year were when our Secretary Michelle Stevens attended the CHARGE Syndrome Australasia Conference in Sydney and used this opportunity to connect with Victorians who may not know about DBV, and when Committee-member Rodney Baskett worked with Vision Australia, Able Australia, Usher Kids Australia and CHARGE Syndrome Australasia to spread awareness of Deafblindness at the State Parliament of Victoria for Deafblind Awareness Week.

On behalf of DBV Committee, a huge thanks goes out to our DBV members, staff, volunteers, partner organisations and especially to our CEO Ntennis Davi. We look forward to a bigger and better year in 2025!

TREASURER'S SUMMARY

2023-2024 financial year (July 2023 to June 2024):

Balances

Account 1 (savings)

- Opening (1/7/2023): $70,260.47
- Closing (30/6/2024): $106,917.26

Account 2 (projects)

- Opening (1/7/2023): $338,941.14
- Closing (30/6/2024): $43,586.12

Income

Donations: $17,882
Interpreting tactile table sales: $5724
Deafblind World workshops: $10,395
Grants: $433,098

Expenses

Salaries, super, leave, WorkCover: $352,644
Rent: $20,808
Other (events, insurance, etc.): $94,166







AUDITOR'S STATEMENT

REVIEWERS'S INDEPENDENCE DECLARATION UNDER 60-40 OF THE AUSTRALIAN CHARITIES AND NOT-FOR-PROFITS COMMISSION ACT 2012

DEAFBLIND VICTORIA INCORPORATED ABN 22 865 736 294

As auditor for Deafblind Victoria Incorporated. for the year ended 30 June 2024, I declare that, to the best of my knowledge and belief, there have been:

(i) no contraventions of auditor independence requirements of the Australian Charities and Not- for-profits Commission Act 2012 in relation to the audit; and

(ii) no contraventions of any applicable code of professional conduct in relation to the audit.

Frederik R. L. Eksteen
Collins & Co Audit Pty Ltd 127 Paisley Street Footscray VIC 3011

FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

Note: this is a one-page extract of the audited financial report. The full 16-page report is available by request.

STATEMENT OF PROFIT OR LOSS FOR THE YEAR ENDED 30 JUNE 2024

	2024 $	2023 $
INCOME		
Grant & Program Funding Income	433,098	61,148
Other Income	36,488	39,886
TOTAL INCOME	**469,586**	**101,034**
EXPENDITURE		
Administrative Expenses	73,355	13,145
Employee Related Expenses	352,645	49,817
TOTAL EXPENDITURE	**426,000**	**62,962**
NET SURPLUS/(DEFICIT) FOR THE YEAR	**43,586**	**38,072**

STATEMENT OF COMPREHENSIVE INCOME FOR THE YEAR ENDED 30 JUNE 2024

	2024 $	2023 $
NET SURPLUS/(DEFICIT) FOR THE YEAR	**43,586**	**38,072**
Other Comprehensive Income for the Year	-	-
NET SURPLUS/(DEFICIT) ATTRIBUTABLE TO THE ASSOCIATION	**43,586**	**38,072**

STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL POSITION AS AT 30 JUNE 2024

	2024 $	2023 $
CURRENT ASSETS		
Cash and Cash Equivalents	150,503	409,201
Trade and Other Receivables	12,079	4,100
TOTAL CURRENT ASSETS	162,582	413,301
TOTAL ASSETS	**162,582**	**413,301**
CURRENT LIABILITIES		
Trade and Other Payable	24,413	35,989
Income Received in Advance	3,130	285,880
Employment Entitlement Provisions	13,882	13,861
TOTAL CURRENT LIABILITIES	41,425	335,730
TOTAL LIABILITIES	**41,425**	**335,730**
NET ASSETS	**121,157**	**77,571**
EQUITY		
Accumulated funds	121,157	77,571
	121,157	**77,571**

SECTION 4 PHOTO GALLERY







