In this edition:

- National Acoustic Laboratory Research
- Learning Needs Analysis Survey
- Developing sound skills
- for reading: Teaching phonological awareness

VDEI - Term 3 Newsletter 2015
A message about parking at VDEI

Deaf Children Australia recently sold the three small freehold parcels of its 597 St Kilda Road property, which means that visitor parking is now unavailable. We apologise for the inconvenience this may cause VDEI’s visitors.

Dr Jill Duncan
Director

The Victorian Government made a commitment to establish Victoria as the Education State where every Victorian has an equal right to the knowledge and skills to shape their lives. Part of this work is to promote inclusive practices in schools so they can better support all children and young people, including those with disabilities and special needs. The Special Needs Plan is part of this vision. VDEI is leading two Special Needs Plan initiatives; the Review of the Program for Students with Disabilities (PSD) and Inclusive Education Workforce Capability.

A review of the PSD has begun, which focuses on the transition from primary to secondary school and the specific needs of children and young people with autism and dyslexia. The PSD Review is informed by research, academic involvement, stakeholder engagement and a comprehensive analysis of the effectiveness of the program. It will ensure support and resourcing is sustainable and delivers improved learning and wellbeing outcomes for children and young people with disabilities.

As a result of VDEI’s work fulfilling the Special Needs Plan, the VDEI team has grown and now includes Oanh Vindurampulle, Helen Astarte, Siewn Chiunh Lai, and Ela Kloss. As VDEI’s Director, it is an honour and privilege to be leading this work. More information related to the Special Needs Plan can be found here.

In VDEI’s next newsletter, I will brief you on the Special Needs Plan Inclusive Education Workforce Capability Initiative.

VDEI’s core work continues with an outstanding assortment of professional learning opportunities which you can read about on our website, targeted research reported in this newsletter by Dr Paul Jacobs, and a C-Print trial and evaluation reported in this newsletter by Kaye Scott.

The VDEI Team also includes Shaun Goodwin and Sandra Lindsay.
National Acoustic Laboratory Research

In 2014, VDEI commissioned two studies recently completed by researchers from the National Acoustics Laboratory (NAL). Their findings provide interesting insights into Victorian children who are deaf or hard of hearing (DHH). Read more...

Learning Needs Analysis Survey

VDEI releases a Learning Needs Analysis (LNA) survey to the Victorian deaf education sector every year.

VDEI has adapted the Australian Council for Educational Research's LNA survey to gain feedback from the sector. This valuable input also helps us to develop our future professional learning programs for professionals working with children and young people who are deaf and hard of hearing.

The LNA will be launched in early Term 4. We look forward to consulting with you on your learning needs.

Developing sound skills for reading: Teaching phonological awareness to preschoolers with hearing loss

This article is a pertinent follow up from Dr Breda Carty's "Signing Deaf Children and Phonological Awareness" article published in the December 2014 VDEI newsletter. This article describes an intervention being run by the National Acoustics Laboratory (NAL), the research arm of Australian...
Hearing, designed to teach English-speaking preschoolers phonological awareness skills. The study is supported by the VDEI's annual competitive open sector research grant scheme. Read more...

C Print Update

C-Print is a captioning (speech-to-text) technology service developed at the National Technical Institute for the Deaf. It provides a text display of spoken information in real time which allows access to information during classes. The notes can also be used afterward for revision, review and as a focus for teaching. Read more...