

**Good morning**

***I would like to show my respect and acknowledge the Traditional Custodians of the Land, of Elders past and present, on which this meeting takes place.***

- **Expanding submission of 14Th November 2016, will share with you key points from several of the videos of Australian Deaf seniors unable to be here today.**
- **Deaf Elders over 65 have not been represented by any organisation to date.**
- **I will summarise Deaf Elders voices that are captioned Deaf video voices on the USB I shall provide to you and suggest recommendations.**
- **Our human story of a invisible Gap for Deaf Signing Elders.**
- **I again address the Inquiries Terms of Reference specifically:**
- **Hearing health and wellbeing should be considered as the next National Health Priority for Australia.**
- **Equitable access to..... support, Auslan language services to over 65s**
- **Equitable access support and cost of hearing health care for vulnerable populations, including: culturally and linguistically diverse people, the elderly, Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islanders and people living in rural and regional areas;**

## **Video Summaries and recommendations**

**1. Gaye Prudence Lyons QLD (70) .....We need a national plan to include addressing the lack of 'Auslan Language Services' (communication barriers) in place to "access",**

**2. Urgent inclusion of our Signing Deaf Elders, equal to those of Signing Deaf people under 65 years and the wider Australian hearing constituents. Not what it is currently offered to high functioning Deaf Elders via ineligibility to NDIS and/or Myagedcare/ACAT Schemes.**

**1st Recommendation = NDIS should provide a national plan urgently addressing the invisible gap of "access" to short term transition from nothing currently for over 65, to ACAT (eligible only for the elderly ill and frail, not high functions signing Deaf)**

**In addition both schemes should provide equivalent Auslan Interpreting packages to all over 65s, as provided to NDIS Deaf Auslan consumers under 65.**

**Having drawn your attention to this significant invisible gap for Deaf Signing Elders we would like to offer recommendations:**

**Barry John Moore NSW (67) ....**

**3. Access to Auslan interpreter funding, including and not limited to elderly living preparations.**

**2nd Recommendation = our above 1st recommendation would give us "access" to better health and lifestyle**

**forums, accessible now to the under 65 NDIS consumers and that hearing elders can often take for granted :**

- **Superannuation,**
- **banking,**
- **downsizing/selling your home,**
- **funerals,**
- **caring for an ageing hearing child/grandchild,**

**or relative, who lives with a disability,**

- **preparing for independent aged Care Life plans.**

**These issues have to do with Aged Care it's "access" to the community opportunities via Auslan Interpreting.**

**Liz Karn Wollongong NSW (68)**

**4.Impacts of Depression due to language barriers in place in the wider community and unfunded NDIS transitioning to ACAT creating community isolation for over 65 Deaf signing people**

- **Imagine you are a "baby boomer" living your entire life until 2004, without independently accessing a Private health practitioner?**
- **John Howards NABS funding 2004 provided access for the first time.**
- **The entire Deaf Community experienced free Auslan Interpreting with our Dr.**
- **Now NDIS provides Auslan Interpreting for Deaf under 65 consumers to attend events 'reasonable and necessary ' to our disability Deafness in their daily goals of living.**

- **This is not provided to fit, active, working, tax paying Deaf over 65 we are too "fit" .**

**3rd Recommendation = our above 1st recommendation would give us "access" to better mental and physical health.**

- **Deaf Elders wish to access healthy, mind and body living forums/ activities 'reasonable and necessary' to our disability in the transition from currently nothing to ACAT at a later date when we become frail and aged.**

**Marcia Girke-Boyle VIC (71)**

- 5. Auslan interpreter funding, including and not limited to elderly living life styles.**

**4th Recommendation = our above 1st recommendation would give us "access" to better health and wellbeing lifestyle in Retirement Villages offering to better health and lifestyle forums, accessible now to the under 65 NDIS consumers and that hearing elders, living in retirement villages.**

- **We worked hard with disability with no interpreters all our lives ,**
- **achieved for our lives,**
- **prepared as well as possible**
- **heavily burdening our children to interpret**
- **retirement living forums,**
- **advisor,**
- **brokers,**
- **now we are living in retirement village.**



- **No access via NDIS for 'reasonable and necessary ' Interpreter funding in transitioning to a retirement living.**
- **We miss all strata,**
- **planning,**
- **budget,**
- **fitness,**
- **information,**
- **social meetings yet we are tenants of the retirement village.**

## **SUMMARY**

- **It is not good enough to say it's NDIS problem or it's an Myagedcare /ACAT problem**
- **With organisations referring us to the ACAT scheme to find we are too fit and so in eligible.**
- **Nor is it polite to advertise in Government Website for "Commonwealth Continuity of Support Services (Cos)" Aged Care Translation Services Paragraph 3 :**

**" please note : Auslan Interpreting is not available" to us over 64s**

**[https://agedcare.health.gov.au/programs/commonwealth-continuity-of support-programme/cos-translating-and-interpreting-services](https://agedcare.health.gov.au/programs/commonwealth-continuity-of-support-programme/cos-translating-and-interpreting-services)**

- **A National Plan is pivotal to supporting our recommendations not what is currently offered deaf Signing over 65s.**

- **We are Australians who want a better future and would be ready to work in a Secretariat capacity with governments and our consumer organisations to make real life improving reforms for our group and future generations.**
- **I ask today that one of you would raise at parliamentary question time to the Minister for Health and ageing Hon. Ken Wyatt AM, MP**
  - **" can he explain why Deaf signers over 65 do not have Auslan Interpreter Packages in NDIS OR Aged Care System**
  - **if they are 'self funded retirees,**
  - **pensioners OR**
  - **assessed ineligible for AGED CARE assessment team support funding".**

**I leave with you today a USB with videos captioned voices \human stories of a number of Deaf Elders highly respected in the Australian Deaf Community including the voice of the current Sydney Deaf Seniors President.**

**These are the tip of the iceberg who have provided the Deaf voices of their regions**

**Please take the time to watch,we have in collating an captioning with no organisation support just our own time and energy.**

**Thank you**

