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## Greetings from the General Manager

In what is shaping up to a busy 12 months the Deaf Sports Australia Board of Directors at it's Meeting on the 7th February commenced a review of the current Strategic Plan. The updated document will be approved at the March 14 meeting with the following points being high on the strategic outcomes over the next one to two years:

- \* Increase corporate alliances and Government connections
- \* Increase funding opportunities that will consolidate and improve the business model and services
- \* Increase staffing numbers
- \* Increase capacity, reach and capability of our social media channels
- \* Increase DSA's profile and services with members and stakeholders

With the 2016 Australian Deaf Games now only 11 months away, the opening of the ADG website and online registration system has provided an impetus to the increased awareness of the event. Plans are well under way to accommodate 1000 participants who will be involved in 16 sports supported by 200 volunteers. The Adelaide High School will be the Games Hub which will be the central location for many activities - [www.austdeafgames.org.au](http://www.austdeafgames.org.au)

In the coming months the National basketball (Men), swimming and lawn bowls teams will be competing in World Championships culminating with the Asia Pacific Deaf Games in Taiwan. DSA will be sending a team of 50 to 60 people to these Games where we will compete in Athletics, Badminton, Basketball, Cycling, Football, Futsal, Swimming and Tennis. Click [here](#) to see the Calendar of Events.

Deaf Sports Australia is proud that it has come to an agreement with **AFL Sports Ready** (SR) to run a Certificate IV in Sport and Recreation course for five women via an online system. There will be a nil cost to the successful applicants. The course attendees will be supported SR trainers with DSA also providing mentors. At the completion of the course DSA will conduct a weekend in house workshop for the students - dates for this are to be confirmed. In addition one selected student will also attend a weekend Australian Sports Commission workshop. Click [here](#) for more details and on how to apply for the course.

Garry West-Bail, General Manager

## New Chef de Mission Announced

Deaf Sports Australia is pleased to announce Bryn Davies as the Chef de Mission for the Australian team that will be competing at the upcoming Asia Pacific Deaf Games. The competition will occur in Taoyuan, Chinese Taipei from 1 - 11 October 2015.

He brings to the role over 10 years experience in sport administration, events and team management with his professional qualifications covering business administration and accounting. Bryn played a key administration role at the 2012 Australian Deaf Games and has been involved with Deaf Sports Recreation Victoria and Deaf Basketball at State and National level.



Bryn will be responsible for 50 to 70 team members covering the following sports – Athletics, Badminton, Basketball (Men), Cycling, Futsal (Men), Football (Men), Swimming and Tennis. He will oversee all logistical issues covering team travel and accommodation, team management which includes supporting and working with the various sport managers, medical staff and interpreters, oversee the team budget and finances, communication link with all team members, liaise with all event officials and oversee the purchase of the team uniforms.

Final team numbers will be confirmed by May 2015 after a number of sports have completed their trials and selection programs.

We wish Bryn and the Australian Deaf Sports Team all the best for the upcoming Asia Pacific Deaf Games.

## All Abilities Cricket Championships

As part of the All Abilities Cricket Championships event, a Deaf Cricket Exhibition Match will be held on Monday 16th March 2015 which is being hosted by Cricket Australia.

A Deaf team will be playing against a team consisting of staff from Cricket Australia, Cricket Victoria and corporate sponsors. The opposing team will be wearing earplugs to experience what it feels like playing cricket in complete silence.

The Deaf match will be played in a T20 Blast format (16 overs instead of 20, and the rules are a bit different - each participant has a bat, and has their chance to shine.

The playing time will be 10.00am - 12:00pm.

Afterwards, there will be a Come and Try session for deaf and hard of hearing children from 12.30pm until 1.00pm.

Playing grounds have not been confirmed yet - hopefully within the next week.

Auslan interpreters will be provided on the day.

The Opening Ceremony for All Abilities Cricket Championships will be held later during the evening at Melbourne Cricket Ground (MCG). The Deaf team will be attending alongside with representatives from Deaf Cricket Australia.

We are currently seeking more players for our Deaf team, so if you are available on Monday 16th March then contact us at: [info@cricket.com.au](mailto:info@cricket.com.au) or SMS us at 0423 304 710.



## Australian Deaf Rugby - Get Behind It



As like most things in life, communication in whatever form is just so important, and that is no different for Australian Deaf Rugby.

So well before the players are out on the training paddock for the first training session, and the Captain is announced, the most important person in the Australian Deaf Rugby setup is selected – the Auslan sign interpreter.

Hearing loss in this set up varies from mild to the profoundly deaf. For those with substantial loss, this automatically means relying greatly on the interpreter to understand what the coach is saying, right through to if the team attends an after game function, or on a team outing while on tour where a tour guide is speaking. The players with a mild hearing loss can get by and speak normally.

To read the rest of the article, please click [here](#).

*\*Article written by Hugh Adams*

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