



Media Release

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Senses Foundation to Host the Deafblind International Secretariat.

The Senses Foundation Inc has won the right to host the Deafblind International Secretariat (DbI) for the next four years.

DbI is the world association promoting services for deafblind people through international collaboration.

The attainment of the DbI for Senses Foundation is a considerable achievement. It will place the Foundation at the centre of the international community involved in the treatment and advocacy of deafblind clients.

The Senses Foundation began life as the Royal WA Institute for the Blind, one of the oldest charities in this state, but in 2001 it amalgamated with the WA Deafblind Association to form Senses Foundation.

Senses Foundation is the primary advocate and service provider for people who are deafblind or blind with significant other disabilities.

The DbI Secretariat works to achieve the following:

- To promote and improve recognition and awareness of deafblindness as a unique congenital or acquired disability that affects children, adults and elderly people
- To support the civil rights of deafblind people and the equalization of opportunities in all aspects of life
- To encourage the development of networks and opportunities for association and learning for professionals and to the benefit of deafblind people and their families
- To enable interaction between deafblind people, families, professionals, organisations in the field and the wider community
- To promote and improve education and opportunities for development for deafblind people
- To encourage support and services for deafblind people that lead to self determination and quality of life and
- To promote and improve quality in service for deafblind people by encouraging research, staff development and training, policies that lead to good practice and dissemination of information.

Having the DbI under its care and control will increase Senses Foundations profile across Western Australia and raise its profile on the world stage.

For more information contact Senses Foundations Media Liaison Officer Pip O'Connell on 9473 5450 or 042 111 9645.