



Ending the isolation.

Media Release

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Living In Darkness and Silence

The luxury of being able to see and hear is something we all take for granted.

Our eyes and ears give us nearly all the information we need for us to understand our immediate environment. This feedback then allows us, subconsciously, to understand where we are in the world, how to move, and how and when to communicate with those around us.

As people live longer changes to our senses of hearing and sight impact our lifestyle and, if not treated appropriately, can have very detrimental effects.

Senses Foundation is the primary advocate and service provider for people in Western Australia who are deafblind or blind with additional disabilities. There are nearly 9000 people in this state who are deafblind, 4300 of whom are over the age of 60.

As the population grows older age related changes to our vision and hearing are set to become a significant health issue.

As part of Deafblind Awareness Week 2008 (June 23rd to 27th), Senses is hosting a seminar with Dr Ole Mortensen the Director of the Information Centre for Acquired Deafblindness in Denmark.

Dr Mortensen has conducted research and written several articles on the consequences of dual sensory loss, the impact it has on the everyday lives of older people and the problems they face.

He has also developed a tool for the identification of dual sensory impairment in the elderly, and has established services for this particular group of people through Denmark.

Dr Mortensen is speaking as part of Senses Foundations Deafblind Awareness Week 2008.

For more information visit www.senses.asn.au or contact Senses Foundation Media Liaison Officer Pip O'Connell on: 042 111 9645