

Be seen and be heard

Your support for the work of Senses Foundation helps us to enhance and enrich lives in many ways.

Your generosity enables us to provide the services and support that have a profoundly positive impact on the quality of life for Western Australians who are isolated by deafblindness.

How you can help

- Corporate Giving: via your organisation's social investment program.
- Sponsorships: become an event, corporate or service program sponsor.
- Workplace/Payroll Giving: a nominated, regular tax-deductible pay deduction.
- Donate Now: by credit card, via the telephone or our secure online facility, or via fax or post.
- Automatic Donations: regular donations provide ongoing support.
- Memorial Giving/ Gifts in Lieu: a meaningful alternative to flowers or gifts.
- Bequests: leaving a gift in your Will ensures you're always part of the future.
- Gift Donations: gifts in kind are tax deductible.
- Volunteering: volunteer your time and skills to help us in a wide range of areas.

Please help Senses Foundation help those who are deafblind to realise their human worth and live lives of meaning and value.

Contact Senses Foundation today to discuss the opportunities for support and sponsorship.



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Deafblind Awareness Week



Ending the isolation.

Rural and Remote Program

Deafblindness – the isolation

Deafblindness is a particularly isolating disability that has a significant effect on communication, socialisation, mobility and daily living.

Human beings are creatures of communication. We use our primary senses of vision and hearing to make sense of our surroundings, to form and nurture our most precious relationships, and to carve out our place in the world. Without our primary tools of communication, we are isolated.

For those who are deafblind, or blind with additional disabilities, ordinary daily living can be a struggle filled with uncertainty, frustration, loneliness and even fear.

Senses – a light in dark worlds

Senses Foundation is Western Australia's primary advocate and service provider for people who are deafblind or blind with additional disabilities.

Our programs work towards enabling a life of meaning and purpose for our clients. We provide services to children and adults alike, and focus on helping them reach personal goals and maintain the best possible quality of life as valued members of their communities.

Senses Foundation was formed in 2001 through the amalgamation of The Royal WA Institute for the Blind (1895) and the WA Deafblind Association.

We are partially funded by the Western Australian Government through the Disability Services Commission, but we rely heavily on our own fundraising activities to be able to reach and respond to those who need our services.

Deafblind Awareness Week

Deafblind Awareness Week is commemorated internationally each year to coincide with the birthday of Helen Keller (1880-1968) the world's best known and most inspirational deafblind author, activist and educator.

***"Once I knew only darkness and stillness. My life was without past or future. But a little word from the fingers of another fell into my hand that clutched at emptiness and my heart leaped to the rapture of living."
– Helen Keller***

During Deafblind Awareness Week in 2008, Senses Foundation is focusing its attention on Western Australia's rural and remote communities.

Senses Foundation – programs and services

Senses Foundation provides a wide range of highly specialised programs and services to improve the communication, socialisation, mobility and quality of life for people who are deafblind or blind with additional disabilities.

From Specialist Communication and Therapy programs, Respite and Family Support programs and Sibling and Ushers' Support programs, our services go through to Specialised Accommodation facilities, the training of support workers, providing Alternatives to Employment and running Recreation programs.

You can read more about the full scope of our important community programs and services on our website: www.senses.asn.au

Tackling the double isolation

The 2007 Senses Foundation research report, Unseen & Unheard*, discovered that approximately 14,000 people who live in Western Australia's rural, remote and country communities are deafblind or vision impaired with additional disabilities. Further investigation showed that these children and adults live each day without receiving any formal assistance for their disability.

Senses Foundation is determined to address this group's double isolation – through disability and geography - by extending our much-needed services and programs into these communities.

Rural and Remote Program

Senses Foundation is bound by its mission, values and primary advocacy role to reach out to all West Australians who are deafblind or blind with additional disabilities, and who need our help.

As a basic human service and our first level of assistance, we currently provide Specialist Communication and Therapy programs for deafblind clients throughout Metropolitan WA.

Our Rural and Remote Program is based on the extension of these fundamental services into regional townships and remote areas. This will take place through training programs to equip health care providers and families of the deafblind with the skills required to provide much-needed assistance.

Senses Foundation's Specialist Communication and Therapy programs are designed to improve and enhance the mobility, socialisation and quality of life of those who are deafblind or blind with additional disabilities.

For more information about how you can help support Senses Foundation's Rural and Remote Program, please contact our commercial services department on 08 9473 5472.

*Unseen & Unheard. The identification of people who are deafblind and people who are vision impaired with additional disabilities in Western Australia. By Senses Foundation Inc. August 2007. This study was funded from Senses Foundation's reserves and through a grant from the Ian Potter Foundation.