



MEDIA RELEASE

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Driving for a good cause

If you enjoy the occasional game of golf then why not play your next round for a good cause?

Senses Foundation still has a few vacancies for teams of four at its annual AHG Charity Golf Day on Friday 1 May at the prestigious Lake Karrinyup Country Club. The Ambrose competition will run from 11.30am to 5.30pm and AHG is offering a car for the first player to achieve a hole-in-one on the fifth hole! From 6pm to 10pm players will be treated to a gourmet dinner and auction.

All funds raised from the day will help the Foundation start up a new specialist communication service for people who are deafblind or blind with additional disabilities, plus their families, carers and service providers, with a particular focus on the rural and remote regions of Western Australia.

Senses' CEO Debbie Karasinski says the Foundation's 2007 *"Unseen and Unheard"* study revealed that the true extent of deafblindness in WA was much higher than current estimates.

"Current estimates indicate that deafblindness in developed countries like Australia affects 20 people in every 100,000," explains Ms Karasinski.

"If this estimation is correct, in WA you could expect to find only 386 people with deafblindness. However, our study revealed that an incredible 8,800 people were living with the dual sensory disability of deafblindness. More than 2,200 of these are in rural and remote areas.

"A further 11,640 are living with vision impairment and additional disabilities and almost half of these are in rural and remote areas."

Ms Karasinski says the specialist communication service will provide education, training and resources in the form of group workshops and individual consultations.

Leading the charge will be Deafblind Consultant Angela Wills, who has been brought over from the United Kingdom specifically for this purpose.

"Deafblindness can be an incredibly isolating condition," says Ms Karasinski.

“If we can help people improve their communication skills we can in turn expect to increase their participation in home, school, employment and community.

“We also hope to raise awareness of available resources and information.”

Senses Foundation was formed when the Royal WA Institute for the Blind - one of WA's oldest charities - amalgamated with the WA Deafblind Association.

Senses Foundation is now WA's primary advocate and service provider for people who are deafblind or blind with additional disabilities, providing highly specialised programs and services to improve communication, socialisation, mobility and quality of life for both adults and children.

To register for the golf day visit www.senses.asn.au or telephone 9473 5400.

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