

Senses Foundation Hosts the Deafblind International Secretariat

In 2008, Senses Foundation was successful in its bid to manage the Deafblind International (DbI) Secretariat for four years from August 2008. Deafblind International is the world association promoting services for people who are deafblind, through international collaboration. Its purposes are:

- to promote and improve the 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 people who are deafblind and the equalisation 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 people who are deafblind and their families
- to enable interaction between people who are deafblind, families, professionals, organisations in the field and the wider community
- to promote and improve education and opportunities for development for people who are deafblind
- to encourage support and services for people who are deafblind that lead to self-determination and quality of life, and
- to promote and improve quality in services for people who are deafblind by encouraging research, staff development and training, policies that lead to good practice and the dissemination of information.

To manage the Secretariat, Senses Foundation has a Secretary responsible for the smooth and effective functioning of Deafblind International and a Manager to assist and support the Secretary. Senses also supports the Secretariat with IT expertise and services from our finance office.

The advantages to Senses Foundation of having such a considerable involvement in the international community of deafblindness are considerable. Being the “hub” around which the international community revolves allows Senses Foundation to know what was going on, participate where appropriate and communicate with all – thus furthering our vision to be known and respected locally, nationally and internationally as an innovative provider of disability services and for our unique services for people who are deafblind.

For further information about Deafblind International, visit the website at www.deafblindinternational.org