

VDEI NEWS 12/02/2018



## A Message from the VDEI Team

February 2018

Dear colleagues and friends of VDEI,

Welcome back to 2018. We launched our 2018 Professional Learning Program with a wonderful twilight presentation on 6 February from one of Australia's leading research Fellows at the Centre for Community Child Health here in Melbourne. Dr Tim Moore addressed the significance of the first thousand days of life on future health and developmental outcomes. This ground-breaking research, ['The First Thousand Days: An Evidence Paper'](#), published by Dr Moore and his colleagues at the Murdoch Children's Research Institute, charts the key scientific discoveries that unlock some of the mysteries surrounding the processes by which genes, experiences and environments interact to influence development.

The presentation was attended by a wide range of participants, many of whom accessed the event via videoconferencing and live-streaming from rural areas of Victoria, interstate and from as far afield as New Zealand. We thank all of those who attended our event to hear Dr Moore speak - if you wish to obtain a copy of the transcript and presentation notes, please contact [vdei@edumail.vic.gov.au](mailto:vdei@edumail.vic.gov.au)

We are confident that our 2018 Professional Learning Program will offer valuable opportunities for you to engage in collaborative conversations with your professional colleagues and with our presenters. Please read on to access the full suite of workshops, presentations and seminars that we will be hosting this year.





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## Launch of the Professional Learning Program 2018

The Victorian Deaf Education Institute's Professional Learning Program for 2018 is available as a full resource that can be downloaded from the VDEI web-site: [Professional Learning Program 2018](#)

Our world-class professional learning centre will host a range of high quality professional learning events aimed to address the needs of the deaf education sector. The events support practitioners to increase their expertise across a range of key areas that include the National Auslan Curriculum, Sign Bilingualism, early literacy, approaches to building phonological awareness, mentoring deaf and hard of hearing (DHH) students and Auslan interpreting in classroom settings. All of our events are closely aligned with the [Framework for Improving Student Outcomes \(FISO\)](#) and [The Australian Professional Standards for Teachers](#) and offer leadership teams the opportunity to plan their professional learning around their strategic goals for 2018.

Guided by the Victorian Government's Education State targets, VDEI aims to develop the skills of our teachers and educational leaders to provide an inclusive environment where every student can learn and achieve their full potential. VDEI, as part of this strategic direction in 2018, will draw on a broader perspective of best practice and leadership within inclusive education. To deliver on this promise, we are offering a range of professional learning events that address areas of need. These events include building the leadership and personal resilience skills of our working professionals, managing students' complex behaviours and identifying best practice in supporting children and young people who have multi-sensory impairments. We also seek to identify current research findings in the inclusive education field, both nationally and internationally. We are proud to offer a range of experts who will present on technology and communication, models of secondary and post-secondary education for DHH students, approaches to inclusion through the tiered funding model and strategies on how to build capacity in responsive schools that are now more diverse than ever before.

VDEI will continue to work hard to respond to our deaf education sector and hope to continue to add more learning events and programs to the 2018 calendar as the year progresses.

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## Welcome to Marg Tope, VDEI Consulting Deaf Education Practitioner

VDEI warmly welcomes Marg Tope, Assistant Principal at Kennington Primary School, Bendigo, who has been seconded to a part-time position as VDEI Consulting Deaf Education Practitioner. Marg will also continue part-time in her role as coordinator of Bendigo Deaf Facility. She comes to us with years of experience in deaf education both nationally and internationally and is also the current Chair of the Victorian Deaf Education Network (VDEN). Marg works tirelessly to improve outcomes for DHH students and to support the teachers who work with them.

Marg will be involved in a range of VDEI projects, including investigating leading practice in Victorian government deaf education programs and the National Framework for Building Phonological Awareness through Fingerspelling. This exciting VDEI project will pilot an Australian framework based on an innovative USA literacy program. The project will draw on the expertise of Michelle Baker and Professor Brenda Schick and the outcome of their collaboration will be showcased in [workshops](#) at VDEI on the 18th and 19th June.

Please join with us in welcoming Marg to the VDEI team.

## Enrolments closing soon: Strengthening Pathways: Post-secondary transition planning for students who are deaf or hard of hearing (DHH)

### **Cathy Clark**

*Manager, deafConnectEd  
Melbourne Polytechnic*

### **Twilight Event**

**Date:** Tuesday 20 February 2018

**Time:** 5:00pm - 7.00pm

**Cost:** No charge

This presentation draws on Cathy Clark's investigation into post-secondary pathways for deaf and hard of hearing (DHH) students. The twilight presentation will identify the key issues in transition for DHH students and will focus on advising participants on how to work with parents and students in the managing of the post-secondary journey. It will outline strategies that work towards assisting with issues around inclusion, participation and skill-building to prepare for transition. It identifies what services are available to assist students to make informed decisions around their post-school options and factor in the differences around decision-making for post-secondary pathways in regional Victoria.

[To register or learn more about the event, click here](#)

### **Presenter Biography**

Cathy has over 25 years' experience working with deaf young people and adults across employment, education, government and community sectors. With a Masters degree in Education and the Certificate IV in Training and Assessment, she is currently the Manager of deafConnectEd, an award winning strategic centre that is committed to the inclusion and successful participation of deaf people in tertiary education.



**Technology and communication: Improving pathways to language and literacy development**

One day showcase  
Presenter: Dr Phil Harper, Nari Jennings, Louise Dunne

Date: 14 March

**More Information**



**Building effective relationships with parents of children with disabilities**

One day seminar  
Presenter: Peter Cronin

Date: 19 March

**More Information**



**Building capacity in responsive schools**

Half day workshop  
Presenter: Professor Joanne Deppeler

Date: 19 April

**More Information**

**2018 Professional Learning Snapshot**

Want to see what's happening at VDEI in 2018?

[View and download our 2018 Professional Learning Program](#)



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