

# how to communicate with me

A resource for  
communicating  
with people who  
are deafblind



CITY OF MELBOURNE



DEAFBLIND  
VICTORIA



# How to use this booklet:

*This communication booklet is designed to be an introduction to the different ways deafblind people communicate.*

Deafblind Victorians are members of and participants in the Melbourne community. This book provides some information to give you an insight into how we communicate and how you can best communicate with us. If you would like to know any more please contact us at [deafblindadvocacy@gmail.com](mailto:deafblindadvocacy@gmail.com) or visit our website: [www.deafblindvictorians.com](http://www.deafblindvictorians.com)

I am

deafblind

*Each deafblind person is different*

No vision with  
no hearing



No vision with  
little hearing



Little vision  
with no  
hearing



Little vision  
and little  
hearing



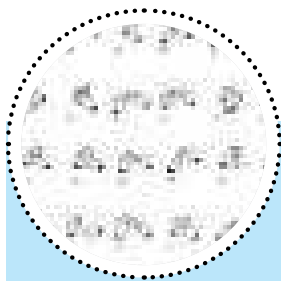
# Different ways to communicate:



Use my  
smartphone to  
communicate  
with me



Write a short  
message  
on paper in  
large letters



Use the card  
in the back of  
this booklet  
to finger-spell  
messages



Write  
capital letters  
and numbers  
on my palm  
slowly, one  
at a time

How  
to

# communicate with me:



Use tactile  
(touch)  
sign  
language



Speak  
clearly  
into my  
right  
or left ear



Hold your  
hands up in  
front of your  
chest so I  
can see them  
clearly

How  
to

# give me something:

*Let me know you are there!*



Touch me  
gently on  
the shoulder



Guide my  
hand to  
the item



**Don't** hold  
an item right  
in front of  
my face

How  
to

# guide me:



Allow me  
to take  
your elbow  
(upper arm)



Allow me to  
place my  
hand on your  
shoulder



Move your  
elbow behind  
you before  
going into a  
narrow space



Let me walk  
a pace  
behind you



Raise your  
shoulder  
before going  
up stairs



Lower your  
shoulder  
before going  
down stairs

# Auslan alphabet





# Auslan numbers



# Useful signs:



Hello



Danger

!  
This sign tells  
the deafblind  
person to follow  
you immediately  
no questions  
asked

Starting with  
your hand facing  
vertical, flatten  
out your hand  
and arm to  
waist level



Where



You



Going



Train



Good

# Useful signs:

Push your fist down at the wrist, using the same motion as nodding your head



**Yes**

Turn your fist side to side, using the same motion as shaking your head



**No**

With hands at waist height, move hands in a horizontal circle, using the same motion as turning a wheel



**Tram**



**Fingerspell  
T-A-X-I**



**Bus**



**Toilet**



**Bad**

# Acknowledgements:

*Thank you to City of Melbourne and  
Self Advocacy Resource Unit  
for funding and support.*



Deafblind Victoria

*[www.deafblindvictorians.com](http://www.deafblindvictorians.com)*

Learn AUSLAN

*Vicdeaf, Melbourne Polytechnic, CAE*

Contact us

*[deafblindadvocacy@gmail.com](mailto:deafblindadvocacy@gmail.com)*