

# HISTORY OF AATD



## ASSOCIATION'S NAME

Australian Association of Teachers of the Deaf - South Australian Branch AATD (SA)

## YEAR ASSOCIATION COMMENCED

The Australian Association of Teachers of the Deaf (South Australia), known as AATD(SA), has been a member of the National Association of Australian Teachers of the Deaf, known as NATTD, since 1935.

## KEY PURPOSE OF THE ASSOCIATION

We work with a common purpose to promote unity, diversity and understanding between members of the teaching profession, other professions and families in South Australia working with children and students who are Deaf/Hard of Hearing (D/HH).

## MAIN FOCUS AREAS

- To promote appropriate training of all teachers involved in the education of children and students who are D/HH and ensure that such teachers are suitably qualified for the positions they hold.
- To continue the ongoing development of Teachers of the Deaf through the planning and organisation of conferences, seminars and other meetings.
- To encourage the community to afford each child and student who is D/HH the dignity of the individual and his/her rights as stated in the United Nations Declaration of Human Rights.
- To act as an informed and responsible voice on the education of children and students who are D/HH and encourage governments to allocate appropriate resources to the education of children and students who are D/HH. Through the promotion of awareness of the educational needs and issues of concern to children and students who are D/HH among decision-makers in the community.

## **LEVELS OF CARE AND EDUCATION**

- Early Years
- Primary
- Secondary
- Tertiary

## **HISTORY**

The National Association of Teachers of the Deaf was first established as a national organisation in 1935, and state branches were created in the late 1950s.

The purpose of the association in the 1930s was similar to today's, with one major exception: the association developed curriculum to train Teachers of the Deaf, taught them in schools for the deaf to perform their jobs, and then nationally examined them.

Today, the training of Teachers of the Deaf is the responsibility of universities, and the national body conducts audits of the courses to ensure they meet the standards as defined in the elaboration of the professional standards of the teachers. While we no longer have an explicit role in training teachers, we still ensure that the qualifications people receive to become full members of the association and to be able to call themselves Teachers of the Deaf all have the same knowledge base. The curriculum for training teachers in 1935 is not the same as today, but you will still see similarities.

However, with advances in technology, sign language research, and our knowledge of language development, we see changes over time. Multitone hearing aids were first introduced into Townsend House School for the Deaf in the 1930s; they used mains power and certainly could not be used in the playground!

## **TIMELINE**

1935 – National Association established including the National Conference which has been held every 3 years since 1935. South Australia has run the conference 3 times in the last 90 years, the last being in 2018. The national association is affiliated with the International Congress for Educators of the Deaf the longest continually run international conference for teachers. 1999 it was agreed to dissolve the company AATD and become incorporated associations, each state incorporated as an association in their own state and the national became a incorporated body with states being members of the national association. Each state had 2 now 3 reps on the National Committee. The national committee coordinates work at a national level including:

- Development of Expanded Core Curriculum for Def Students
- Teacher of the Deaf Elaborations of the ATSIL Teacher Standards
- Publication of the Deafness and Education Journal with British Association Teachers of the Deaf

## **HISTORICAL ACHIEVEMENTS AND HIGHLIGHTS**

Hosting the National Conference here in SA held in 2018, 1997 and 1956

## **WE ARE EXCITED ABOUT THE FUTURE OF ASSOCIATIONS BECAUSE...**

We are excited about the future of our association because together we are creating a stronger, more inclusive world where every child who is Deaf or Hard of Hearing can thrive.

## **KEY EVENTS**

National Conference

## **AWARDS OR RECOGNITION RECEIVED**

EDSA Innovative Association of the Year State Finalist - 2023

## **LIFE MEMBERS**

Life Memberships have been awarded to:

- Cora Barclay
- Brian Verco
- Jean Roberts
- Nicola Capon
- Claire Loades
- Sue Herbert



### **GET IN TOUCH WITH US!**

[secretary@aatdsa.org.au](mailto:secretary@aatdsa.org.au)

<https://saati.com.au>