# **­­­Blind Citizens Australia**

# **National Convention 2017**

# **Program (Draft as at August 2017)**

## Friday, 13 October - Optional Workshops: 1:00 – 5:00PM

1:00 Registration

1:30-3:00 Workshop 1: Getting Results: The Skills Used by Blind and Vision Impaired Students to Reach Their Potential

3:00-3:30 Afternoon tea

3:30-5:00 Concurrent Workshops:

Workshop 2A: Building self-confidence and communication skills

Workshop 2B: A Hands-on Introduction to Audio Editing: a small group of up to ten participants will learn the basics of audio editing.

7:00 – 8:15: BCA Annual General Meeting

8:15 – 10:00: Welcome dinner.

## Saturday, 14 October

## Session one: Setting the Scene

8:50: Call to Order and announcements

9:00 - 9:15: President's Welcome

Acknowledgement of country

9:15 - 9:30: Official opening

9:30 - 9:40: Roll call

9:40 – 10:15: Keynote address: Dr Frederick Schroeder, President, World Blind Union

Dr Schroeder is highly regarded in the United States and internationally as a strong and effective advocate for inclusive education and rehabilitation. He has a track record of implementing innovative rehabilitation programs and policies, including as the Commissioner of the rehabilitation services Administration in the US Department of Education. Dr Schroeder has also shown global leadership through his advocacy on the Marrakesh treaty and on the dangers of silent vehicles.

10:15 – 10:45: Morning-tea

## Session Two: The Information and Technology Revolution

10:45 – 11:15: Presentation by Vision Australia: (topic to be confirmed)

11:15 – 12:00: The changing face of information access:

A panel of speakers will consider recent opportunities and challenges in relation to how people who are blind or vision impaired access information from copyright, to touch screens and audio description.

12:00 – 1:00: Panel: Emerging Accessible technologies

Emerging technologies come in many forms and they are revolutionising the way we do things.  In this session we will learn about things like driverless cars and the story of the Bionic Eye.

1:00 – 2:00: Lunch

Youth Lunch: an opportunity for people of all ages to discuss strategies BCA could use to better engage young people.

## Session Three: Blindness and Navigating the Wider World

2:00 – 2:30: Report from Australians who attended the Enchanted Hills Summer Camp with support from BCNSW and BCA

2:30 – 3:40: Concurrent Sessions: Getting what you need in the new world of disability support

Session 3A: My Aged care

Session 3B: NDIS

3:40 – 4:00: Afternoon-tea

## Session Four: Concurrent Sessions

4:00 – 5:00: Concurrent sessions:

Session 4A: Blindness and emotional well-being

This session will look at the impact of blindness on emotional well-being and offer practical strategies for maintaining mental health.

Session 4B: BCA Conversations: one on one information and skill sharing. To register your interest in sharing information or a skill, or to tell us about what you’d like to learn, complete the expression of interest at: [www.surveymonkey.com/r/6D7NW2N](http://www.surveymonkey.com/r/6D7NW2N) or call 1800 033660

5:00 – 6:00: Concurrent Sessions:

Session 4C: Dog guide handlers discussion forum:

An open forum for discussion of topics of interest to dog guide handlers.

Session 4D: BCA Conversations: one on one information and skill sharing. To register your interest in sharing information or a skill, or to tell us about what you’d like to learn, complete the expression of interest at: [www.surveymonkey.com/r/6D7NW2N](http://www.surveymonkey.com/r/6D7NW2N) or call 1800 033660

**7:00 Convention Dinner**

## Sunday, 15 October

## Session Five: Getting “Life Ready”

8:50: Call to Order and announcements

9:00 – 9:10: Roll call

9:10 – 9:30: Special Guest: Frances Gentle: President, International Council for Education of People with Visual Impairment (ICEVI): Frances will provide an overview of the work of the ICEVI and plans for future projects.

9:30 – 10:30: Concurrent Sessions:

Session 5A: Womens Branch: Protection and Advocacy Against Violence and Abuse

Session 5B: We Live in the Country and We Like it That Way: an opportunity for people living in regional and remote areas to share experiences and find solutions to challenges which come with country living.

10:30 – 11:00: Morning-tea

11:00 – 12:00: Panel: Getting a Job: What Works?

A panel of people who are blind or vision impaired with recent experience of the job market will discuss innovative approaches to job seeking and employment, unusual employment stories and more.

12:00 – 12:45: Historical perspectives on blindness:

A panel of speakers will reflect on how the experience of blindness has changed over time in areas such as education, employment and blindness service provision.

12:45 – 1:45 Lunch

Women’s Branch AGM

## Session Six: BCA: what comes next?

1:45 – 3:00: Recommendations Session:

Members are invited to submit recommendations relating to the future direction of BCA to the national office by 8 September for discussion during this session. For further information, visit [www.bca.org.au](http://www.bca.org.au) or call the office on 1800 033660

3:00 – 3:30: Q&A and closing remarks with John Simpson, President and Emma Bennison, Executive Officer.

4:30: Post-convention film screening with audio description: “Defiant Lives”

For bookings and event details, visit: <https://tickets.demand.film/event/2038> or call the office on 1800 033 660. (Note that the audio description for this film is delivered through an app, so you will need an Apple or Android smart phone to access it.) The screening will only go ahead if sufficient tickets are sold, so booking is essential.