BCA’s 50 Years, Many Moments

1. Increased pedestrian safety and independence by successfully leading the campaign to implement audible/tactile traffic signals.
2. Enhancing pedestrian wayfinding and hazard identification by collaborating with others to advocate for the adoption of tactile ground surface indicators into the Building Code of Australia.
3. Improving pedestrian wayfinding by advocating for the introduction of tactile and braille street signage in major Australian cities.
4. Improving independent navigation in buildings for people who are blind or vision impaired by successfully influencing the review of the Australian Building Standards to implement accessible features such as tactile button indicators and audible announcements in lifts.
5. Successful engagement with telephone providers to enable access to directory assistance services.
6. In striving for equity access to information for people who are blind or vision impaired, BCA successfully influenced lifting the ban on television and radio coverage in the period preceding Federal and State elections.
7. On behalf of the Federal Department of Community Services and Health, conducted disability service reviews into Orientation and Mobility and Print Disability services.
8. Contributed to the inclusion of blindness specific requirements into the Education, Transport and Accessible Premises Standards, which was proclaimed under the Disability Discrimination Act.
9. Strengthened the ‘Guidance Notes’ developed by the Humans Rights Commission relating to DDA compliance.
10. Helping people who are blind or vision impaired identify medications by supporting the introduction of tactile symbols and increased font sizes on pharmaceutical containers and packaging.
11. Supporting government, commercial and community organisations to provide accessible formats for billing and corporate information to consumers.
12. Leadership in the development of the Radio for the Print Handicapped network, giving millions of Australians with a print disability greater access to information.
13. Implementation by the home entertainment DVD industry of a protocol to maximise the availability of Audio Description on mass distribution DVDs
14. Successfully influenced the conduct of ABC Australia’s first trial of Audio Description on Broadcast Television.
15. Commitment from the major cinema operators, in association with the Australian Government, to introduce Audio Description as part of their conversion to digital projection.
16. The introduction of the DAISY structured audio system by specialist library providers in Australia to facilitate the navigation of their content.
17. Active participation in discussions that lead to the rationalisation and merger of various blindness service agencies.
18. Decisions by the Reserve Bank of Australia to include high contrast numbering, distinct colours and tactile markings as design features of Australia’s banknotes.
19. Provision by the Reserve Bank of the “Bank Note Measure”, a simple tactile device to differentiate the various note denominations.
20. Inclusion of tactile design features when Australia introduced the $1 and $2 coins.
21. Promoting pedestrian safety by advocating for the adoption of local laws that reduce hazards such as overhanging foliage in public areas, the placement of street furniture and signage, and the inadequate use of protective barriers around work sites.
22. Encouraging the reciprocal use of state and territory-based taxi and public transport concessions.
23. Facilitating independent written communication by assisting with the Australian development of early computer-based technologies, such as the Mountbatten Brailler and Eureka A4 computer.
24. Raising awareness to government, organisations, website developers and operators of their responsibility to comply with W3C accessibility guidelines, which outline global standards that ensure web content is more inclusive.
25. Provided an option for formal photo identification through the introduction of the BCA Identity Card.
26. Working with the Australian Electoral Commission (AEC) to ensure information is available in accessible formats in the lead up to Federal Elections.
27. The development and availability of independent and anonymous accessible voting systems in most Australian jurisdictions.
28. Enhance access to census material by obtaining commitment from the Bureau of Statistics to provide householder information in alternative formats.
29. Enhancing access to ATMs by obtaining agreement from major banks to include audible and tactile features on their machines.
30. Contributing to the design of an accessible database, known as *The Employment Information Service*, which contained the voluntary employment profiles of people who are blind or vision impaired across Australia in the 1990’s.
31. Input into the design, accessibility and refinement of various smart devices and apps to ensure they are user-friendly for people who are blind or vision impaired.
32. Supporting the continued availability and expansion of audible announcements on public transport, rail stations, tram and bus stops, and more.
33. Facilitating identification of taxis by successfully advocating for the use of tactile markings.
34. Played a leading role in the successful campaign for the Australian Government to supply talking set-top boxes to eligible consumers at no cost as part of the switch over to digital television.
35. Continuing to inform and educate people who are blind and vision impaired, as well as the general public, on rights and responsibilities under the *Disability Discrimination Act*.
36. Offering continuous advocacy that supports the right of dog guide handlers to access restaurants, taxis and other public facilities.
37. Working to secure the adoption of Unified English Braille Code by collaborating in association with the Australian Braille Authority.
38. Enhancing communication with our members and educating the wider community by producing a weekly radio program that has aired nationally for 30-plus years, and more than 20 years on RPH, community radio outlets and the internet.
39. Embracing the early adoption of internet streaming to connect more members to BCA events.
40. Supporting the ban of blinding laser weapons via a United Nations General Assembly by leading the campaign on behalf of people who are blind or vision impaired.
41. Improving travel and safety for dog guide handlers by successfully advocating for adequate under seat space for their dogs on trains.
42. Consulting with public broadcasters to permanently include Audio Description services either on-demand or via Broadcast Television.
43. Engaging with government to mandate that all free-to-air television and on-demand streaming platforms permanently include Audio Description.
44. In the establishment of the NDIS, BCA effectively collaborated with the disability sector and government.
45. Supporting NDIS participants by offering ongoing advocacy and working with the wider disability sector to improve participant outcomes.
46. Working with the Australian airline industry to remove barriers that impact a satisfactory passenger experience.
47. Collaborating with the banking industry with the development of accessible tools and processes.
48. Improving access to public transport vehicles, infrastructure and premises by assisting with the development and continuous review of *Disability Standards for Accessible Public Transport* (DSPAT).
49. Supporting MyAgedCare clients by offering ongoing advocacy support.
50. Running several initiatives that foster connection and facilitate the self-development of members, such as Peer Connect Groups, Audio Production Training, the Executive Leadership Program, and aspects of An Eye to the Future.