**SOUTH PACIFIC EDUCATORS IN VISION IMPAIRMENT**

**MINUTES LIVES Meeting, 14th January 2015**

**Venue:** Melbourne Conference and Training Center

**Time**: 4.40pm EDST

1. **Welcome and roll call**

**Present:** Frances Gentle, Julie Kirkness, Alison McWilliams, Sheila Klinger, Paul Pagliano, Carolyn Palmer, Leanne Smith, Debbie Webber, Phillipa Enright, Kerry Tait, Ann Crowley, Tricia d’Apice, Gillian Gale, Josie Howse, Louise Curtin, Deb Lewis, Trudy Smith, Laura Hunt, Sue Spooner, Karen Stobbs, Nicole Donaldson

**Apologies:**

1. **What’s the buzz in VI educational services around Australia, New Zealand and Pacific Island countries?**

LIVES members provided verbal updates of the activities of their respective organisations.

1. **Development of SPEVI Professional standards for specialist teachers (vision impairment)**
   1. Frances acknowledged the contributions of Trudy Smith of RIDBC Renwick Centre in initiating SPEVI’s work on creating the professional standards. Frances and Trudy are meeting with ATSIL on Friday after the SPEVI conference for 2 hours to discuss the NAATD (National Association of Teachers of the Deaf) standards and the draft SPEVI standards. AITSL staff has expressed a willingness to work with SPEVI and NATD on developing “elaborations” to the AITSL professional standards for class teachers. ATSIL is very positive about the process and has supported the ACARA in developing a set of TESOL “elaborations”.
   2. Query: Should SPEVI continue the work it started on revising the 2004 SPEVI principle and standards?
   * Problem with SPEVI is we only meet once a year.
   * Could continue with these. Need some political perspective – if there is an outcome to make it worthwhile.
   * Need clearly articulated vision.
2. **SPEVI Member Survey:**

Frances encouraged leaders to complete the member survey as it will inform the activities and priorities of the SPEVI Committee of Management over the next two years.

1. **Other Business**
   1. **NAATD membership model and complaints mechanism**

Trudy Smith was invited to present an overview of the NAATD membership model and complaints mechanism (Trudy is Chair of NAATD). She advised that the NAATD executive initiated changes to its membership and complaints mechanism in response to the requirements of the Australian Government Department of Social Services (DSS, formerly FaHCSIA) for Better Start funding – see <https://www.dss.gov.au/our-responsibilities/disability-and-carers/program-services/for-people-with-disability/early-intervention-services-for-children-with-disability> for more information. As a result of the changes implemented by NAATD, certain categories of NAATD members are eligible for registration under the DSS/FACHSIA Better Start program. These registered NAATD Teachers of the Deaf can provide services to families within the Better Start funding model. Trudy advised that the Department of Social Services is anticipating a similar approach by SPEVI, in particular (a) the establishment of a category of SPEVI membership that is linked with continuing professional education requirements, and (b) an online complaints mechanism. SPEVI members who register for the “CPE” membership category will be eligible to apply for registration with the DSS Better Start and NDIS program. It was noted that the Better Start program is being rolled into the NDIS program. Trudy recommended that SPEVI review the NAATD membership and online complaints mechanism as part of their deliberations. It was agreed that the issue will be tabled with the SPEVI Committee of Management for discussion.

**Meeting closed 1.30**

**Minutes recorded by Nicole Donaldson**