

# Shining the light on principles, best practice and professional standards for learners with vision impairment in Australia, New Zealand and Pacific Island Countries

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**RIDBC Renwick Centre**  
For Research and Professional Education



Royal Institute for  
Deaf and Blind Children



THE UNIVERSITY OF  
**NEWCASTLE**  
AUSTRALIA

# Overview of presentation

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- Who and what is SPEVI?
- Principles and Practice position statement
  - Background, aims, propositions, themes
- Professional standards elaborations position statement
  - Background, aims, content, scenarios
- THE LAUNCH

# Who and what is SPEVI?

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- See <http://www.spevi.net/>
- Committee of Management and state Councillors
- Constitution and Code of Conduct
- Aims

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Guidelines for quality education of learners with vision impairment

# **SPEVI PRINCIPLES AND PRACTICE**

# Principles and Practice - Background

- 2004 launch of SPEVI Principles and Standards
- Global and national developments since 2004
  - Legislation
    - Australian Disability Standards for Education (2005)
    - Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities (2006)
    - Incheon Declaration and Framework for Action (2015)
    - Sustainable Development Goals (2015)
  - Advances in medicine and technology
  - Changing nature of VI service delivery in Australia

# Principles and Practice - Aims

- *Principles* underpinning the provision of inclusive, equitable, quality education courses, programs and support services
- *Principles* for setting objectives and establishing accountability measures within educational organisations and school systems
- *Best practice* guidelines for service providers to measure service delivery and performance

# Principles and Practice – Propositions

- All learners with vision impairment:
  - Have the capacity for inclusion in society, to the degree that is chosen by the individual
  - Have the right to access the services of a qualified specialist vision teacher and O&M instructor to meet identified needs
- Assessment, educational planning, and placement decisions must be driven by the individual needs of each learner
- Parents and educators form a vital partnership

# Principles and Practice - Themes

1. Identification and referral
2. Access to quality educational options
3. Partnerships: Family and professional collaboration
4. Assessment and goal setting
5. Professional training and employment
6. Access to information
7. Expanded core curriculum



For Specialist Teachers (Vision Impairment)

# **SPEVI PROFESSIONAL STANDARDS ELABORATIONS**

# Professional Standards Elaborations – Background

- Regulated school systems, laws, policies and standards
  - AITSL Professional standards for teachers (2010) used to measure performance of specialist vision teachers
  - Changing nature of specialist support in Australia
- What is a specialist vision teacher?
  - Widely known by education administrators, school leaders, teachers or parents?
  - Diversity across states/territories, geographical regions (urban and non-urban), and education sectors (public, private, faith-based)

# Professional Standards Elaborations - Aims

- Elaborate on Australian Professional Standards
- Make explicit elements of high-quality, effective specialist teaching
- Provide service providers with a framework for reflecting on recruitment, professional practice and improvement of specialist teachers
- Support professional learning and career progression for specialist vision teachers

# Professional Standards Elaborations

## – Let's explore the content...

Focus Areas •AITSL Standards •SPEVI Elaborations	Career Stage			
	Graduate	Proficient	Highly Accomplished	Lead
Professional knowledge (Standards 1 & 2)				
Professional Practice (Standards 3, 4 & 5)				
Professional engagement (Standards 6 & 7)				

# Scenarios to consider...

- Specialist vision teacher wanting seeking promotion
- Visit to Pacific Island Country and find a child with vision impairment out of school
- Parent who is unhappy with school services and programs
- Professional wanting to increase her number of hours with a student
- Technology developer or organisation wanting to promote a particular product
- Person wanting to lodge a DDA complaint

# Acknowledgements and where to from here...



**Thank  
You!!!**

[www.thebodytransformation.com](http://www.thebodytransformation.com)

# Launch of SPEVI publications!

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