



# SPEVI

South Pacific Educators  
in Vision Impairment

## Australia

SHINING THE LIGHT ON VISION EDUCATION

# 2017 CONFERENCE

BRISBANE 8TH - 12TH JANUARY





# Assistive Technologies in the classroom – Outcomes for Primary School students of various ages

Ross Sims & Skye Jones

South Australian School for Vision Impaired (SASVI)



Australia

SHINING THE LIGHT ON VISION EDUCATION  
**2017 CONFERENCE**  
BRISBANE 8TH - 12TH JANUARY





# SASVI Background

- Townsend School
- Park Holme site
- 27 students – some part-time enrolments.
- 6/60 visual acuity or worse
- Large print and Braille
- Statewide Support Service
- VI Programs



Australia

SHINING THE LIGHT ON VISION EDUCATION  
**2017 CONFERENCE**  
BRISBANE 8TH - 12TH JANUARY





# Technology at SASVI

- National Partnerships project
- Assistive Technology Advisory Teacher
- Assessment
- Provision of equipment
- Training



Australia

SHINING THE LIGHT ON VISION EDUCATION  
**2017 CONFERENCE**  
BRISBANE 8TH - 12TH JANUARY





# Mainstream students supported by SASVI

- Huge range of vision impairments and acuities
  - Equipment on loan include:
    - BrailleNote, Perkins Brailier, SMART Brailier
    - Embossers
    - Blaze EZ, Victor Reader Stream
    - OCR devices
    - iPad
    - CCTV (desktop and handheld)



Australia

SHINING THE LIGHT ON VISION EDUCATION  
**2017 CONFERENCE**  
BRISBANE 8TH - 12TH JANUARY





# Shortcourses

- Various topics (ILS, PE, AT, O&M)
- Students, staff and families from around SA
- Targeted (BrailleNote, iPad)



Australia

SHINING THE LIGHT ON VISION EDUCATION  
**2017 CONFERENCE**  
BRISBANE 8TH - 12TH JANUARY





# Students at SASVI

- 6/60 visual acuity or worse
- Small class sizes
- Technology offered for independent access to the curriculum



Australia

SHINING THE LIGHT ON VISION EDUCATION  
**2017 CONFERENCE**  
BRISBANE 8TH - 12TH JANUARY





# Examples of technology in the classroom

- One task – many ways of accessing
- Class novel
  - Presented in Braille, Large print (sized to suit), electronically on BrailleNote, laptop and iPad and available to listen to on Blaze EZ or Victor Reader Stream



Australia

SHINING THE LIGHT ON VISION EDUCATION  
**2017 CONFERENCE**  
BRISBANE 8TH - 12TH JANUARY







SHINING THE LIGHT ON VISION EDUCATION  
**2017 CONFERENCE**  
BRISBANE 8TH - 12TH JANUARY

Australia





# Technology at a young age

- Year 1 students who use Braille
  - Access to technology early, after learning Braille
    - Perkins Braille
    - SMART Braille
    - BrailleNote
    - Embossing
    - Printing
  - Example of use: Spelling words recorded by teacher on Victor Reader, students listen and write on BrailleNote, emboss, then check on pre-Brailled list.





SHINING THE LIGHT ON VISION EDUCATION  
**2017 CONFERENCE**  
BRISBANE 8TH - 12TH JANUARY

Australia





# Access to worksheet

- Year 2 student – very low vision
  - Photo on iPad Pro 12.9” using JotNot Pro app
  - Transfer into Neu Annotate
  - Adjust size and make changes as required
  - Print to hand up



Australia

SHINING THE LIGHT ON VISION EDUCATION  
**2017 CONFERENCE**  
BRISBANE 8TH - 12TH JANUARY





SHINING THE LIGHT ON VISION EDUCATION  
**2017 CONFERENCE**  
BRISBANE 8TH - 12TH JANUARY

Australia





# Reference List

- Presley, I., & D'Andrea, F. M. (2009). *Assistive Technology for students who are blind or visually impaired: A guide to assessment*. American Foundation for the Blind.



South Pacific Educators  
in Vision Impairment

Australia

SHINING THE LIGHT ON VISION EDUCATION  
**2017 CONFERENCE**  
BRISBANE 8TH - 12TH JANUARY





# Contact Details

Ross Sims

[Ross.sims234@schools.sa.edu.au](mailto:Ross.sims234@schools.sa.edu.au)

1-B Duncan Ave Park Holme  
South Australia 5043

Skye Jones

[Skye.jones207@schools.sa.edu.au](mailto:Skye.jones207@schools.sa.edu.au)

1-B Duncan Ave Park Holme  
South Australia 5043



Australia

SHINING THE LIGHT ON VISION EDUCATION  
**2017 CONFERENCE**  
BRISBANE 8TH - 12TH JANUARY





# Let's have a try!

- Feedback sheet
  - BrailleNote
  - VR Stream/Blaze EZ
  - Laptop with JAWS
  - iPad with magnification
  - iPad with VoiceOver
  - Handheld Magnifier



Australia

SHINING THE LIGHT ON VISION EDUCATION  
**2017 CONFERENCE**  
BRISBANE 8TH - 12TH JANUARY

