# SPEVI Logo

# South Pacific Educators in Vision Impairment (SPEVI Inc.)

# Strategic Plan

## For the period of August 2020 to August 2024

## Endorsed by the SPEVI Inc. Committee of Management, 9th October 2020.

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# Introduction

The South Pacific Educators in Vision Impairment (SPEVI) Inc. is the major professional association for educators of students with vision impairments in Australia, New Zealand and the South Pacific region. SPEVI acts as the professional body in matters pertaining to the education and support of persons who are blind, have low vision, deaf-blindness, or additional disabilities. SPEVI membership is open to educators, professionals and parent groups who support and promote education for persons with vision impairment.

SPEVI Inc. is an Association incorporated under the laws of NSW, Australia – Registration number INC9889733.

## SPEVI Vision

To promote educational systems in Australia, New Zealand and the South Pacific in which diversity is valued and disability is not viewed as a characteristic by which to judge a person’s worth.

## SPEVI Mission

To stimulate professional and public debate and action on vision impairment issues and change which affect, or have the potential to affect the daily lives of persons who are vision impaired, while emphasising concepts of inclusive, responsive educational communities and interdependence between learners and families within those communities where all people are valued.

## SPEVI Aims

1. To be recognised as the professional body of educators whose specialty is in matters pertaining to the education of persons with vision impairment in Australia, New Zealand, and Pacific Island Countries.
2. To advocate on behalf of members, persons with vision impairment and parents/carers for equitable education access and participation, in accordance with international and national disability anti-discrimination legislation.
3. To encourage the highest standards in the educators of persons with vision impairment by promoting research and professional training for general and specialist teachers.
4. To promote and facilitate the interchange of information and collaboration among educators, professionals, parent groups and the broader community concerning education and equal opportunity for persons with vision impairment.
5. To encourage the use of appropriate mainstream and assistive technologies, resources and optical and non-optical aids, in the education of persons with vision impairment, and to promote teacher education programs in the use and care of existing and new techniques and technology.

## SPEVI Structure

SPEVI operates at two levels:

* National level, by means of the Committee of Management;
* In Australia at local level (state/territory), by means of a Branch comprising SPEVI Councillors and members who reside in the location.

## SPEVI Code of Ethics

* All members of SPEVI will:
* Work for the good of SPEVI and actively support and promote its Aims as defined in the SPEVI Constitution;
* Act honestly and with respect and integrity at all times;
* Provide leadership for all members of SPEVI to foster high ethical standards;
* Act to enhance public awareness of SPEVI’s objects; and
* Maintain transparency of decision-making within SPEVI.

## Committees of Management

SPEVI is managed at the national level in Australia and New Zealand by Committees of Management. The national Committees are subject to SPEVI’s Constitution and to any resolution passed by SPEVI in a general meeting. The Committees are responsible for the governance and management of the activities of the Association and its members. Pacific Island members may choose to join SPEVI in Australia or New Zealand.

## The Committee of Management of SPEVI Inc. (Australia) as at August 2020:

* Co-Presidents: Phia Damsma, Frances Gentle - Emails: [phia@sonokids.com](mailto:phia@sonokids.com); [frances.gentle@ridbc.org.au](mailto:frances.gentle@ridbc.org.au)
* Vice-President: Melissa Fanshawe - Email: [Melissa.fanshawe@usq.edu.au](mailto:Melissa.fanshawe@usq.edu.au)
* Immediate Past President: Carly Turnbull - Email: [carly.turnball.spevi@gmail.com](mailto:carly.turnball.spevi@gmail.com)
* Secretary: Melissa Fanshawe - Email: [Melissa.fanshawe@usq.edu.au](mailto:Melissa.fanshawe@usq.edu.au)
* Membership Secretary: Ben Clare - Email: [bwclare@gmail.com](mailto:bwclare@gmail.com)
* Treasurer: David Rice - Email: [SPEVI.treasurer@gmail.com](mailto:SPEVI.treasurer@gmail.com)
* Public Officer: Sue Silveira - Email: [sue.silveira@ridbc.org.au](mailto:sue.silveira@ridbc.org.au)
* Access Coordinator, Web and List Administrator: Phia Damsma - Email: [phia@sonokids.com](mailto:phia@sonokids.com)
* JSPEVI Convening Editor: Bronwen Scott - Email: [bronscott@iinet.net.au](mailto:bronscott@iinet.net.au)
* Co-Editor, SPEVI FaceBook page: Ben Clare - Email: [bwclare@gmail.com](mailto:bwclare@gmail.com)
* Moderator, SPEVI Facebook page for Educators Supporting Students with VI in Mathematics: Pranitha Moodley – Email [Pranitha.moodley@ridbc.org.au](mailto:Pranitha.moodley@ridbc.org.au)
* Representative, International Council for Education of People with Visual Impairment: Ben Clare - Email: [bwclare@gmail.com](mailto:bwclare@gmail.com)
* Representative, Round Table on Information Access for People with Print Disabilities: Phia Damsma. Email: [phia@sonokids.com](mailto:phia@sonokids.com)
* COM Lead, SPEVI Conferences: Ben Clare - Email: [bwclare@gmail.com](mailto:bwclare@gmail.com)
* Moderator, SPEVI Community of Practice: Melissa Fanshawe - Email: [Melissa.fanshawe@usq.edu.au](mailto:Melissa.fanshawe@usq.edu.au)
* COM Representative on SPEVI VI-NDIS Working Group: Phia Damsma. Email: [phia@sonokids.com](mailto:phia@sonokids.com)
* Director: Paul Pagliano - Email: [paul.pagliano@jcu.edu.au](mailto:paul.pagliano@jcu.edu.au)
* Director: Pranitha Moodley – Email [Pranitha.moodley@ridbc.org.au](mailto:Pranitha.moodley@ridbc.org.au)

**For a list of members of the SPEVI New Zealand Committee of Management or SPEVI Councillors in each Australian state and territory, please visit the SPEVI website:** <https://spevi.net>

# SPEVI Inc. Strategic Priorities and Actions, August 2020 – August 2024

The following table presents the SPEVI Inc. priorities and actions for 2020-2024. The first draft was created by Committee of Management (COM) during its meeting on 7th August 2020, with full endorsement by the Committee on 9th October 2020.

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| **Priorities** | **Actions** | **COM lead person** | **When** |
| **Aim 1** | | | |
| **Priority 1.1 Biennial conference** for members and other stakeholders in the field of vision impairment education.  (Conference to rotate to different locations, including New Zealand) | 1.1.1 For conferences in Australia, SPEVI Conference Lead to work closely with event manager and represent COM on local conference organising committee (LOC). | SPEVI Conference Lead | Conference schedule |
| 1.1.2 Conference Organising Committee manages conference theme, call for papers, program development, etc. | SPEVI Conference Lead | Conference schedule |
| 1.1.3 Conference contracts, sponsorship, finances and acquittal processes addressed responsibly. | President/s and Treasurer | Conference schedule |
| **Priority 1.2 Community of Practice** (CoP), offered on a regular basis to members, with member input on topics and speakers. | 1.2.1 The possibility of NESA accreditation for members’ attendance at Community of Practice sessions explored. | CoP Moderator | By end 2020 |
| 1.2.2 CoP topics and speakers identified, online meetings organised, and meeting recordings shared with SPEVI members who were not in attendance (upon request). | CoP Moderator | Once a term (approx.) |

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| **Priorities** | **Actions** | **COM lead** | **When** |
| **Priority 1.3 SPEVI VI-NDIS Working Group** to promote best practice in services and programs (VI) within the context of NDIS. | 1.3.1 The Working Group to respond to parliamentary inquiries, surveys, etc., that relate to the NDIS. | To be determined | As per need |
| 1.3.2 The relevance of this working group be monitored, as NDIS no longer requires VI specialisation to become an NDIS provider for students with VI. | To be determined | Ongoing |
| **Priority 1.4 Respond to disability and education reviews** that are or relevance to SPEVI as a professional association. | 1.4.1 SPEVI input into disability and education reviews and surveys to be decided on a case-by-case basis. | President/s oversight | As required |
| 1.4.2 SPEVI to respond to 2020 review of Disability Standards for Education. | President/s & Secretary | By end 2020 |
| **Aim 2** | | | |
| **Priority 2.1** Strengthen connections between COM, branch councillors and members. | 2.1.1 Community of Practice (CoP) online meetings to be used as a mechanism to strengthen connections at all levels of SPEVI. | CoP Moderator | Ongoing |
| 2.1.2 Communication on a regular basis with branch councillors about their roles, activities and state/territory priorities. | President/s & Secretary | Once a term |

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| **Priorities** | **Actions** | **COM lead** | **When** |
| **Priority 2.2 Strengthen LIVES group** (Leaders in Vision Education Services) | 2.2.1 Identify current VI leaders in SPEVI membership and more broadly in Australia. | President/s | By end 2020 |
| 2.2.2 Survey VI leaders to identify how SPEVI can support their priorities. | Secretary | Annually |
| 2.2.3 Offer regular opportunities for LIVES to meet, e.g. during SPEVI conferences and related events | President/s | Twice a year |
| **Priority 2.3 Respond to member priorities,** including priorities of sub-groups of members, i.e., Specialist Teachers (VI), parents, and O&M and technology specialists | 2.3.1 The SPEVI members’ list and the SPEVI general list to be monitored, and significant priorities or needs raised with the COM. | Secretary & SPEVI List Administrator | Ongoing |
| 2.3.2 Survey members once a year to identify member priorities. | President/s & Secretary | Annually |
| 2.3.3 Establish committees or working groups (if required), in response to member priorities. | COM members | Ongoing |
| 2.3.4 Actively monitor and lead the SPEVI Mathematics FaceBook Group, and provide regular updates to COM. | Moderator, Facebook for Maths | Ongoing |

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| **Priorities** | **Actions** | **COM lead** | **When** |
| **Priority 2.4 Support parents of children with VI** | 2.4.1 Create new position on the COM for a parent representative (and develop role description). | President/s | By end 2020 |
| 2.4.2 Offer discounted parent/carer registration for SPEVI conferences, together with parent-focussed sessions and speakers. | COM Lead, SPEVI Conferences | Conference cycle |
| 2.4.3 Compile list of issues and priorities of parents through member surveys, conference presentations, or Community of Practice discussions – and advocate on behalf of parents. | President/s, Secretary | Twice annually |
| 2.4.4 Consult with parents and carers to identify Community of Practice topics that are relevant to parents of children with VI. | Moderator, CoP | Ongoing |
| **Priority 2.5** Advocate on behalf of children with deafblindness or VI and additional disabilities and their families. | 2.5.1 Seek input from members on issues and priorities that SPEVI could support. | President/s & Secretary | Ongoing |
| 2.5.2 Raise awareness and share information through SPEVI publications or website, responses to surveys, or increased support or collaboration with other agencies | President/s & Secretary | Ongoing |

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| **Priorities** | **Actions** | **COM lead** | **When** |
| **Priority 2.6** Advocate on behalf of children with VI and their parents and educators in Pacific Island Countries. | 2.6.1 Promote SPEVI membership in Pacific region | ICEVI Rep | Annually |
| 2.6.2 Offer webinars, presentations or workshops in the region, in response to identified priorities and project submissions (approved by COM). | President/s and ICEVI Rep | Annually |
| 1.6.3 Increase collaboration with Pacific Disability Forum, Fiji School for the Blind, and other Pacific agencies. | President/s and ICEVI Rep | Annually |
| **Aim 3** | | | |
| **Priority 3.1** Use JSPEVIas a vehicle for informing researchers, administrators and educators about current research, issues and policies and their implications for practice in Australia, New Zealand and the Pacific Region. | 3.1.1 Convening Editor to collaborate with the Editorial Committee and Editorial Advisory Panel to ensure the current “blind peer review” system meets international standards. | Convening Editor | Annually |
| 3.1.2 Secure JSPEVI registration as a refereed publication that meets tertiary requirements for publication. | Convening Editor | By mid-2021 |
| 3.1.3 Ensure that each volume of the journal is produced in an accessible digital format | Convening Editor | Annually |

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| **Priorities** | **Actions** | **COM lead** | **When** |
| **Priority 3.2** Offer Project fundingto encourage high standards in VI education and to support members addressing the Vision, Mission and Aims of SPEVI. | 3.2.1 Ensure effective financial management through the project application, approval and acquittal processes. | President/s and Treasurer | Ongoing |
| 3.2.2 In consultation with the Committee of Management, determine the number and type of projects to be funded annually. | President/s and Treasurer | By end 2020 |
| 3.2.3 Ensure regular reporting by successful applicants to COM and via the SPEVI journal or conferences. | President/s and Treasurer | Ongoing |
| 3.2.4 In consultation with SPEVI Representative for ICEVI, promote project applications from Pacific Island members, including identified Fiji training priorities of early childhood education, O&M, technology and braille literacy | President/s and Treasurer | Ongoing |
| **Priority 3.3** Promote qualifications in vision impairment. | 3.3.1 Using SPEVI publications, webinars and presentations, promote the importance of higher education qualifications in vision impairment for Australian Specialist Teachers (VI). | COM members | Ongoing |
| 3.3.2 Confirm academic transcripts before approving applications for the membership Category 2 – “Qualified Specialist Teacher (VI) plus Professional Learning”. | SPEVI Membership Secretary | Ongoing |

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| **Priorities** | **Actions** | **COM lead** | **When** |
| **Priority 3.4** Promote high standards through SPEVI publications and website**.** | 3.4.1 In consultation with SPEVI members, monitor the need to update the 2016 publications “Professional Standards Elaborations for Specialist Teachers (VI)” and SPEVI Principles and Practice”. | President/s & Secretary | Annually |
| 3.4.2 In consultation with SPEVI members, monitor the need for additional SPEVI publications that address research or professional qualifications for Specialist Teachers (VI). | President/s & Secretary | Annually |
| 3.4.3 Publicise professional learning opportunities in VI education through the website and email list. | SPEVI Web and List Administrator | Ongoing |
| **Priority 3.5** Promote high standards in the educators of children with VIin thePacific Region**.** | 3.5.1 Collaborate with Pacific members and relevant Pacific-based organisations to identify and support professional learning opportunities for educators of children with VI, and to present at disability conferences, etc. | ICEVI Representative | Annually |
| 3.5.2 Use ICEVI-SPEVI email list to share information on professional learning opportunities for Pacific Islanders | ICEVI Representative | Ongoing |

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| **Priorities** | **Actions** | **COM lead person** | **When** |
| **Aim 4** | | | |
| **Priority 4.1** Collaboration and information sharing with office bearers and members. | 4.1.1 Regular teleconferences for Committee of Management members. | President/s & Secretary | Twice yearly |
| 4.1.2 Australian and New Zealand SPEVI Presidents to meet by teleconference on a regular basis. | President/s & Secretary | Once a term |
| 4.1.3 Regular teleconferences for members of the Australian and New Zealand COMs | President/s & Secretary | Annually |
| 4.1.4 Approved COM meeting minutes shared with SPEVI members (in Australia) and the SPEVI NZ COM. | President/s & Secretary | Once a term |
| **Priority 4.2** Collaboration and information sharing with other organisationsin the fields of disability, education, and vision impairment. | 4.2.1 Identify potential areas of synergy and collaboration with such organisations as Blind Citizens Australia, Pacific Disability Forum, Usher Kids, Able Australia. | President/s, with COM support | 2020-2021 |
| 4.2.2 Encourage general SPEVI members to contribute their expertise to parent and DPO organisations supporting children with VI, children with deafblindness, or children with VI and additional disabilities. | President/s, with COM support | Ongoing |

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| **Priorities** | **Actions** | **COM lead person** | **When** |
| **Priority 4.3** Information sharing through SPEVI website, FaceBook page and email lists**.** | 4.3.1 Information shown on the SPEVI website refreshed on a regular basis. | Web and List Administrator | Ongoing |
| 4.3.2 Information and messages shared via the FaceBook page on a regular basis. | FaceBook Editor | Ongoing |
| 4.3.3 Information and messages shared with members via the members email list on a regular basis. | Secretary | Ongoing |
| **Aim 5** | | | |
| **Activity 5.1** SPEVI financial support for Monash University ARC 3D printing project**.** | 5.1.1 SPEVI COM to contribute AU$5000 each year for three years to the Monash University Australian Research Council (ARC) 3D printing project (via Round Table on Information Access to People with Print Disabilities) | President/s & Treasurer | Annually for 3 years |
| **Activity 5.2** Promote development and use of technology, resources and optical aids for persons with VI. | 5.2.1 SPEVI Community of Practice online meetings to include topics addressing technology and devices for students with VI. | Moderator, CoP | Ongoing |
| 5.2.2 Development and uptake of accessible digital technologies and resources promoted via the SPEVI website and FaceBook page. | Web Administrator & FB Editor | Ongoing |

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| **Priorities** | **Actions** | **COM lead person** | **When** |
| **Activity 5.3** Promote enrolment in STEM subjects. | 5.3.1 Through the efforts of all COM members, support and promote enrolment in STEM subjects by students with VI | Moderator, FB for Maths (VI) | Ongoing |
| 5.3.2 Provide funding support for STEM-related research projects | President/s & Treasurer | 2020-2021 |