

# **Terms of Reference SPEVI Community of Practice (Dec 2020)**

## **Purpose**

The SPEVI Community of Practice (CoP) was created as a response to a call from keynote speaker Professor Mike McLinden at the SPEVI conference in January 2020. Mike called upon Specialist Teachers (Vision Impairment) to be regularly meeting, discussing and advocating for equitable quality education for students with vision impairment. CoP meetings aim to incorporate the priorities and pressing needs of SPEVI members, and to serve as a community to discuss issues surrounding the education of students who are blind or vision impaired.

## **Members**

SPEVI members Australia, New Zealand and the Pacific Islands. Led by Vice-President, Melissa Fanshawe.

## **Timeframe**

The first meeting was held in April 2020, with subsequent meetings held once per school term.

## **Key Deliverables**

The first meeting was held just as Australia and New Zealand were experiencing lockdown due to the COVID-19 pandemic. As a result, the first three meetings focused on building online learning into our pedagogy. Through the Community of Practice online meetings, SPEVI hopes to deliver the following:

1. Meetings to be used as a mechanism to strengthen connections at all levels of SPEVI.
2. Meetings to include topics addressing technology and devices for students with VI.
3. The possibility of NESA accreditation (if required) for members’ attendance at Community of Practice sessions.

CoP meeting recordings will be shared with SPEVI members who were not in attendance (upon request).

## **Description of Outputs from the CoP meetings**

### **Format**

Realtime discussions, recordings (shared upon request), professional learnings, collaborative discussions of topics steered by members:

### **Target Audience**

all SPEVI members

### **Goals**

To address the following aims of SPEVI:

* Aim 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.
* Aim 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.
* Aim 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.
* Aim 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.