South Pacific Educators in Vision Impairment (SPEVI) 

SPEVI 2025 Conference Program

### Theme: Em*POWER*ment through connection, inclusion and education

Our conference theme centres on empowering our students, parents, educators, and other members of the SPEVI community through connection, inclusion, and education. Connection involves gathering in person or online to exchange ideas, network, and learn together. Inclusion focuses on creating a positive environment for everyone, while education aspires to provide learning opportunities for all, especially those with vision impairment and additional disabilities. These elements will be highlighted through various activities planned to celebrate the 200th anniversary of Braille and the 70th year of SPEVI’s first iteration.

### Conference Dates: Monday 13th to Wednesday 15th January 2025

### Conference Venue:

University of Southern Queensland (UniSQ Brisbane),

293 Queen Street, Brisbane Queensland 4000

**Date of Program: 18 December 2024. Please note:** The conference program may be subject to change without notice.

### Special thanks to our sponsors:

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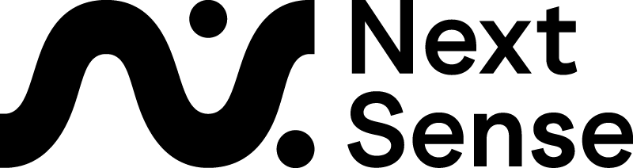
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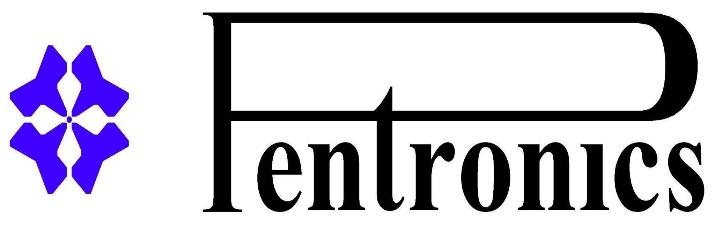
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### EXHIBITORS – please visit our generous exhibitors





Exhibitors are located on the ground floor just outside the Plenary Room

Please visit our exhibitors and take part in the SPEVI Bear Quiz.

Conference Master of Ceremonies: Associate Professor Melissa Cain

Monday 13th January 2025 (Day 1)

#### 8:15am – 9:00am Registration

#### 9:00am – 11:00am Session 1 Inaugural Plenary

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| **Master of Ceremonies: Melissa Cain**  **9:00am – 9:45am**  Welcome to Country by Turrbal people  Formal opening – Councillor Vicki Howard, Civic Cabinet Chair for Community and the Arts and Councillor for Central representing Lord Mayor Adrian Schrinner  Roll Call, Conference Announcements  **9:45am – 10:30am**  Keynote Address: Life On Our Terms: How to Consciously Create a life of Adventure, Opportunity and Empowerment  Dr Chantelle Griffiths, Co-Founder and CEO, Tactile and Technology Literacy Centre in Auckland, New Zealand |

#### 10:30am – 11:00am Morning tea break - Tea and coffee sponsored by Quantum

#### 11:00am – 12:30pm Concurrent Sessions 2, 3 and 4

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| **Room 1** | **Room 2** | **Online** |
| **Session 2 Chair: Melissa Fanshawe**  **Braille / Tactile Literacy** | **Session 3 Chair: Melinda Whipp**  **Parents and Caregivers** | **Session 4 Chair: Carla Silveira**  **Early Childhood and Inclusion** |
| 11:00am – 11:30am  2a SPEVI Position Statement on Braille Literacy in Australia  Presenter: Jo Minnis, SPEVI Inc Committee of Management | 11:00am – 11:30am  3a Exploring family quality of life among families raising children with vision impairment  Presenter: Sue Silveira, NextSense Institute | 11:00am – 11:30am  4a Let’s get moving! Early intervention to promote motor development in a blind infant  Presenter: Kathryn Leonida, BLENNZ |
| 11:30am – 12:00pm  2b The pathway to the pathway: Building the evidence for an empirical braille literacy learning progression and beyond  Presenter: Emily White, University of Melbourne | 11:30am – 12:00pm  3b Building community capacity for inclusion  Presenter: Margo Carwardine, Queensland Braille Writing Association (Braille House) | 11:30am – 12:00pm  4b The Oregon Project: Overview and New 7th Edition  Presenter: Tyler York, Southern Oregon ESD - OR Project |
| 12:00pm – 12:30pm  2c New developments in UEB Online  Presenters: Frances Gentle and Craig Cashmore, NextSense | 12:00pm – 12:30pm  3c Grief and loss experienced by parents of children diagnosed with vision impairment  Presenter: Sau Kuan Cheong, Guide Dogs Queensland | 12:00pm – 12:30pm  4c Understanding Barriers to Digital Inclusion Students May Encounter  Presenter: Sarahelizabeth Baguhn, American Foundation for the Blind |

#### 12:30pm – 1:30pm: Lunch break and visit exhibitors

#### Parents and caregivers are invited to “connect and reflect” over a shared lunch, led by Melinda Whipp and Melissa Fanshawe

#### 1:30 – 3:00 Panel Sessions 5 and 6

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| **1:30 – 2:15 Session 5 Panel**  Chair: Melissa Fanshawe  Topic: Essential factors to build Quality of Life and wellbeing through the teen years  Panel Members: Melissa Cain and young adults  **2:15 – 3:00 Session 6 Panel**  Chair: Ben Clare  Topic: The New Frontier of Braille: How do we integrate Multiline Displays with Screen Readers in Education  Panel Members: Michael Curran, Debra Goodsir and invited guests |

#### 3:00pm – 3:30pm: Afternoon tea break

#### 3:30pm – 5:00pm Concurrent Sessions 7, 8 and 9

| **Room 1** | **Room 2** | **Online** |
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| **Session 7 Chair: Jude Shelley**  **Young People: Considerations** | **Session 8 Chair: Lynda Williams**  **Workshops** | **Session 9 Chair: Kerri Weaver**  **Braille / Tactile Literacy** |
| 3:30pm – 4:00pm  7a Enhancing inclusivity for students who are vision impaired at a local high school  Presenter: Antony Abbracciavento | 3:30pm – 4:15pm  8a Workshop: Sonification in the classroom  Presenters: Lily Gower, SA School and Services for Vision Impaired, and Phia Damsma, Sonokids Australia  4.15pm – 5:00pm  8b Let’s code with LEGO Braille bricks  Presenter: Marc Angelier, The Braille Program, LEGO Foundation | 3:30pm – 4:00pm  9a Easy step-by-step methods for teaching braille reading using actual tactual materials  Presenters: Roberta Becker and Tamara Black, Actual Tactuals Braille |
| 4:00pm – 4:30pm  7b Navigating the NDIS  Presenters: Melinda Whipp, Vision Australia, parent representative, Education Queensland, and Melissa Fanshawe, Associate Professor, University of Southern Queensland | 4:00pm – 4:30pm  9b Quality of life for braille users: What does the literature say?  Presenter: Aasha Rose, University of Southern Queensland |
| 4:30pm – 5:00pm  7c What are my options? Life Post School - Vision Impairment and Intellectual Disability  Presenter: Lee Strickland, Dotted Beats | 4:30pm – 5:00pm  9c The Braille Bites project  Presenters: Jennifer Jesso and Adam Wilton, Provincial Resource Centre for the Visually Impaired, Daphne Hitchcock, Braille Literacy Canada |

#### 5:00pm: Close of Day 1 Program

#### 6:30pm – 7.30pm Welcome drinks – Pre-booking required

Venue: Elizabeth Picture Theatre, 175 Elizabeth Street, Brisbane City, QLD 4000

The Elizabeth Picture Theatre is housed in a heritage-listed former ballroom in the heart of the CBD, at close walking distance to the conference venue. The Theatre boasts a spiral staircase up to the foyer, stained glass windows, and beautiful vintage chairs, and an original wooden bar taking you back in time.

Pre-screening popcorn and a drink will be supplied on arrival.

Small meals are available for purchase at Box Office, but please place your order on time. To view the menu, visit: <https://www.fivestarcinemas.com.au/the-elizabeth/food-and-drink>

Or have a bite before arriving at the Theatre or following the movie!

#### 7:30pm – 9:00pm Exclusive premier screening of “Possibilities” (American Foundation for the Blind – AFB)

Venue: Tara Room, Elizabeth Picture Theatre, 175 Elizabeth Street, Brisbane City, QLD 4000.

This former ballroom is beautifully decorated, with all the original ceiling finishes.

Experience a special movie in a special venue with special colleagues!

Pre-booking required.

Please contact [admin@speviconference.net](mailto:admin@speviconference.net) with any questions.

## Tuesday 14th January 2025 (Day 2)

#### 8:15am – 8:45am Registration

Conference Announcements, Housekeeping

#### 8:45am – 10:00am Session 10 Plenary

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| **Master of Ceremonies: Melissa Cain**  **8:45am – 9:15am Welcome**  Welcome to delegates and welcome to SPEVI Bear  **9:15am – 10:00am Keynote**  Keynote Address: Let me fail so I can succeed  Mr Michael Sheppard, Solicitor, Queensland, and former Australian representative in the sport of Goalball |

#### 10:00am – 10:30am Morning tea break - Tea and coffee sponsored by Quantum

#### 10:30am – 12:00pm: Concurrent Sessions 11, 12 and 13

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| **Room 1** | **Room 2** | **Online** |
| **Session 11 Chair: Frances Gentle**  **Cutting Edge Research** | **Session 12 Chair: Emily White**  **Sports and Physical Activity** | **Session 13 Chair: Carla Silveira**  **Innovative Approaches** |
| 10:30am – 11:00am  11a The power of the dots: Empowering braille users through communication connection and language rights  Presenter: Jodie Lea Martire, University of Queensland | 10:30am – 11:00am  12a Bridging the accessibility gap through tactile sporting fields  Presenters: Frances Raphael, Louise Arvier, Effie Horriat and Gabby Comerford, Vision Australia | 10:30am – 11:00am  13a Innovating inclusive education: introducing reach & match light and braille number tiles for children with visual impairments  Presenter: Mandy Lau, Reach & Match |
| ​​11:00am – 11:30am  11b Skills, Thoughts, Activities, Responsibilities: Development and evaluation of the STAR Kit employability home program  Presenter: Natalie Kaine, Faculty of Medicine and Health, The University of Sydney | 11:00am – 11:30am  12b In 2022; Zero BVI children under 15 Years old are playing sport in WA. Let's change that  Presenter: Raquelle Hannen-Williams, Blind Sports Western Australia | 11:00am – 11:30am  13b EmPOWERment via math accessibility through digital access in WORD and AI: Using UEB math, braille displays, and screen readers for connection, inclusion and education  Presenter: Denise Robinson, TechVision |
| 11:30am – 12:00pm  11c “We're somehow stupid because we don’t have working eyeballs”: Exploring stigma consciousness of children and adolescents with vision impairment  Presenter: Emma Sutherland, University of Wollongong & Macquarie University | 11:30am – 12:00pm  12c Looking to the future. Building Australia’s next Paralympians through the ParaSTART and APAP programs  Presenters: Emma Beckman and Sean Tweedy, University of Queensland | 11:30am – 12:00pm  13c Hands on maths - not just for juniors!  Presenters: Carolyn Bawden and Kylie Rattray, South Australian School & Services for Vision Impaired |

#### 12:00pm – 1:00pm: Lunch break and visit exhibitors

#### 12:00pm – 1:00 pm: Session 14 LIVES meeting – Room 3 (bring your lunch)

The LIVES meeting is an informal meeting of leaders and representatives of BLV education services

#### 1:00pm – 2:30pm: Concurrent Sessions 15, 16 and 17

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| **Room 1** | **Room 2** | **Online** |
| **Session 15 Chair: Natalie Kaine**  **Art and Life Ready Games** | **Session 16 Chair: Jo Minnis**  **Workshops** | **Session 17 Chair: Melissa Cain**  **Poster Presentations – In-person**  **Location: Ground floor** |
| 1:00pm – 1:30pm  15a Portraits in the Dark - Visual art for students with complex needs  Presenter: Lee Strickland, Narbethong State Special School | 1:00pm – 1:45pm  16a Workshop - The learning through play experience tool  Presenters: Marie Oddoux and Marc Angelier, The Braille Program, LEGO Foundation  1:45pm – 2:30pm  16b Inclusive education for blind children in the Solomon Islands (online workshop)  Presenters: Eddie Babanisi and Emma Vakabu, Blind and Visually Impaired People of Solomon Islands (BVIPSI) | 1:00pm – 1:30pm  17a Mapping Guide Dogs Queensland’s holiday mobility camps onto the ECC  Presenter: Jessica McLeod, Guide Dogs Queensland  1:30pm – 2:00pm  17b Hand movement in braille and tactile graphic reading for students with VI  Presenter: Sandra Tsoenemawu Sikanku  2:00pm – 2:30pm  17c Empowering STEM Learning through inclusive braille-based technologies  Presenter: Rajeev Joshi, Chapman University |
| 1:30pm – 2:00pm  15b Can touch this: Centering the blind spectator in contemporary art  Presenter: Danni Zuvela, Artistic Director of the ACE Gallery, Adelaide, South Australia |
| 2:00pm – 2:30pm  15c Life Ready Games - online games for young people  Presenters: Lara Anderson, Vision Australia, and Reuben Moorehouse, Noble Steed Games |

#### 2:30pm – 3:00pm: Afternoon tea break

#### 3:00pm – 4:00pm Concurrent Sessions 18, 19 and 20

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| **Room 1** | **Room 2** | **Online** |
| **Session 18 Chair**: **Frances Gentle**  **Music** | **Session 19 Chair: Pranitha Moodley**  **Workshop** | **Session 20: Carla Silveira**  **CVI and Explicit Direct Instruction** |
| 3:00pm – 3:30pm  18a Help! I have a blind student in my music class! – support for teachers and teacher aides  Presenters: Lee Strickland, Narbethong State Special School, and Lily Gower, South Australian School for Vision Impairment | 3:00pm – 4:00pm Workshop  19a Open forum - Strategies and tools for students with BLV to be safe and savvy online  Presenters: Phia Damsma, Sonokids Australia, John Norgaard, Sonokids, Rob Cantle, University of Southern Queensland, and Craig Cashmore, PeppaCode | 3:00pm – 3:30pm  20a How to use the Austin Assessment: From screening for CVI related visual issues through to guiding practice  Presenter: Nicola McDowell, Massey University |
| 3:30pm – 4:00pm  18b Rhythmic conversations: developing language in children who are deafblind with additional complex needs  Presenter: Lee Strickland, Narbethong State Special School | 3:30pm – 4:00pm  20b Fluency at your fingertips: the power of reading  Presenters: Skye Jones and Skye Wittwer, SA Schools and Services for Vision Impaired |
| 4:00pm – 5:00 pm Session 21 **SPEVI Biennial General Meeting – all welcome** | | |

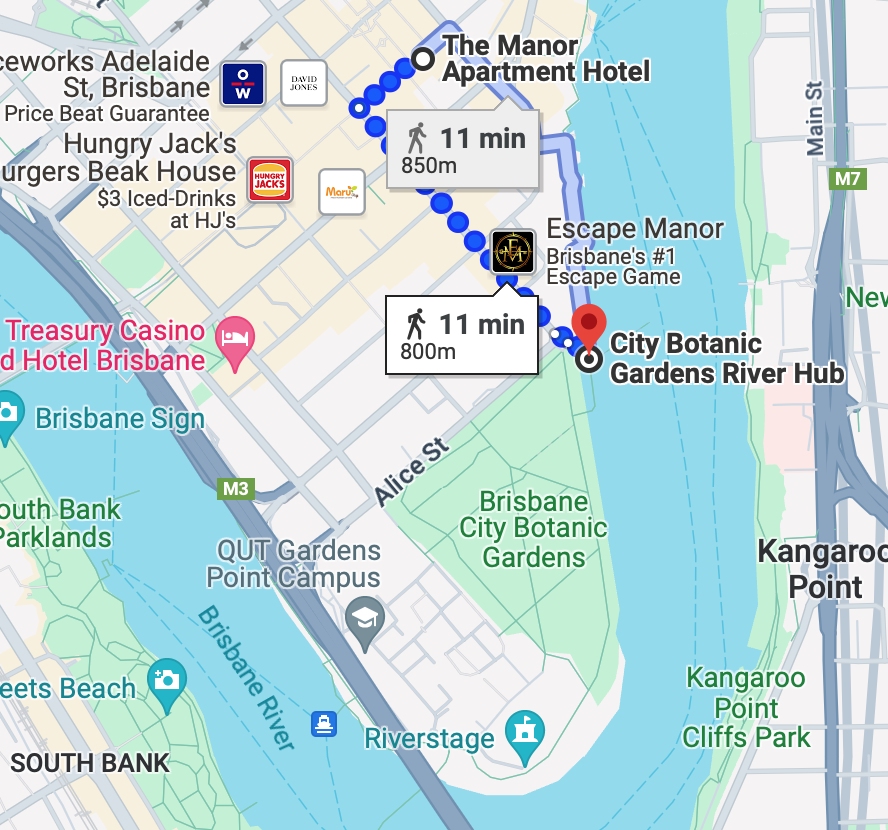
#### 5:00pm Close of Day 2 Program

#### 6:00pm - 9:00pm - Brisbane River Cruise and Dinner – Pre-booking required

Sponsored by Vision Australia

All aboard the Miramar (Koala Cruises). Pickup from City Botanical Garden River Hub

Meet outside UniSQ at 5:30pm to walk together OR meet us at the City Botanical Garden River Hub by 5:50pm (map below)



## Wednesday 15th January 2025 (Day 3)

#### 8:15am – 8:45am Registration

#### 8:45am – 10:00am Session 22 Plenary

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| **Master of Ceremonies: Melissa Cain**  **8:45am – 9:15am**  Conference Announcements, Housekeeping and Welcome  **9:15am – 10:00am**  **Keynote Address: Access to Employment for People with Disability, a Pacific Islands Perspective**  Mr Ben Clare, Vice President and Secretary of SPEVI, Disability Inclusion Adviser, Aspen Medical, Project Consultant, Australian Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade |

#### 10:00am – 10:30am Morning tea break – Tea and coffee sponsored by Quantum

#### 10:30am – 12:00pm: Concurrent Sessions 23, 24 and 25

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| **Room 1** | **Room 2** | **Online** |
| **Session 23 Chair**: **Phia Damsma**  **Technology** | **Session 24 Chair: Frances Gentle**  **Deafblindness / Additional Disabilities** | **Session 25 Chair: Pranitha Moodley**  **Room 3**  **Life and leadership skills** |
| 10:30am – 11:00am  23a UEB maths with NVDA, JAWS, single-line braille displays  Presenter: Peter Cracknell, Quantum RLV | 10:30am – 11:00am  24a Barriers and facilitators to including users of tactile language: making inclusion work, on the basis of understanding tactile language and cognition  Presenter: Steve Rose, Vision Australia | 10:30am – 11:00am  25a Beyond the itinerant model: a new approach to developing independent living skills  Presenter: Cass Embling |
| 11:00am – 11:30am  23b Advanced JAWS features: the path to academic and professional excellence  Presenter: Sam Taylor, Vision Australia | 11:00am – 11:30am  24b Communication and literacy development support for students with multi disabilities VI  Presenters: Jessie Middleton and Catriona Pine, Department of Education Queensland | 11:00am – 11:30am  25b The Life Ready Hub and the expanded core curriculum  Presenters: Patricia Rolland and Patricia Izzard, Vision Australia |
| 11:30am – 12:00pm  23c TBA  Presenter: David Woodbridge, Humanware | 11:30am – 12:00pm  24c Tactile literacy and deafblindness - beyond braille and sign  Presenters: Meredith Prain, Able Australia, and Steve Rose, Vision Australia | 11:30am – 12:00pm  25c The importance of opportunities for leadership and adventure in empowering students with lived experience of blindness and low vision  Presenter: Debra Goodsir, NSW Department of Education |

#### 12:00pm – 1:00pm: Lunch break and visit exhibitors

#### 1:00pm – 2:30pm: Concurrent Sessions 26, 27 and 28

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| **Room 1** | **Room 2** | **Online** |
| **Session 26 Chair**: **Emily White**  **Pacific and Community** | **Session 27 Chair: Jo Minnis**  **Workshops** | **Session 28 Chair: Lara Anderson**  **Room 3 Braille and CVI** |
| 1:00pm – 1:30pm  26a The power of partnerships to transform lives in Tuvalu  Presenter: Rosie Paueli and Annie Dares, Tetra Tech | 1:00pm – 1:45pm - Workshop  27a Museums for Touch project  Presenters: Lily Gower and Hannah O'Brien, SA School and Services for Vision Impaired    1:45pm – 2:30pm  27b Goalball Queensland workshop  Presenters: Melissa Cain, Raissa Martin, and Warrick Jackes | 1:00pm – 1:30pm  28a Developing a braille needs assessment for early childhood  Presenters: Tricia d'Apice and Sue Silveira, NextSense |
| 1:30pm – 2:00pm  26b Empowerment through connection, inclusion and education  Presenters: Barbara Farouk and Vilisi Salafabisi, Fiji Society for the Blind | 1:30pm – 2:00pm  28b Braille for lifelong learners  Presenter: Kerri Weaver, Eyes and Independence |
| 2:00pm – 2:30pm  26c From Marrakesh to the Marshalls; making the right to read real in the blue Pacific  Presenter: Mr Ben Clare, SPEVI, Aspen Medical, and Australian Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade | 2:00pm – 2:30pm  28c The changing face of Cerebral Visual Impairment  Presenter: Ursula White, Queensland University of Technology |

#### 2:30pm – 3:00pm: Afternoon tea break

#### 3:00pm – 4:00pm Concurrent Sessions 29 and 30

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| **Room 1** | **Room 2** | **Online** |
| **Session 29 Chair: Kerri Weaver**  **Orientation and Mobility** | **Session 30 Chair: Pranitha Moodley**  **Teaching** | **Session 31 Online Space Entrepreneurship and Art** |
| 3:00pm – 3:30pm  29a Explorers United - Exploring the power of connection through O&M group programs  Presenters: Marnie Roth, Confident Steps, Darren Moyle, Going Places Orientation & Mobility, and Paula Foote, Orientation and Mobility Specialist | 3:00pm – 3:30pm  30a Learning something every day: A reflection on a life in teaching  Presenter: Debra Goodsir, NSW Department of Education | 3:00pm – 3:30pm  31a Brewing Independence: Empowering vision impaired students through coffee entrepreneurship  Presenter: Kylie Rattray, SA School & Services for Vision Impaired |
| 3:30pm – 4:00pm (Online presenter)  29b Building vision teacher capability to help expand the Developmental Orientation and Mobility workforce in Aotearoa, New Zealand  Presenters: Nicola McDowell and Shiree Arrian, Massey University | 3:30pm – 4:00pm  30b The role of the Specialist Teacher Vision Impairment in Australia  Presenters: Melissa Fanshawe and Melissa Cain | 3:30pm – 4:00pm Online Poster Presentation  31b Establishing disability inclusion centres in tertiary institutions: The challenges and success stories of the University of Goroka in Papua New Guinea  Presenter: Joe Kuman, University of Goroka |

#### 4:00pm – 5:00pm Closing Session 32

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| **Chair:** Conference Convenor – Ben Clare  Celebrating 70 years of SPEVI – Video “Voices of SPEVI” - Sue & Carla Silveira  Looking forward: Blue sky thinking: Melissa Cain  Thank you to our volunteers  Frances Gentle Award for Innovations in Professional Learning (Early Career and Established Career)  Sue Silveira and Pranitha Moodley, NextSense to present  Farewell to SPEVI Bear, Lara Anderson  Conference close SPEVI Presidents - Phia Damsma, Melissa Fanshawe, Lynda Williams |

#### 5:00pm Close of Conference

#### 5:30pm -7:30pm Post Conference event – all welcome (including partners)

Venue: Brisbane Hub Business Centre, Level 4, 260 Queen St Brisbane

BBQ provided by Brisbane Economic Development Agency (Brisbane City Council) [https://visit.brisbane.qld.au/](https://secure-web.cisco.com/1wAIVA47EDTzckxzpAzGPESfV589UJsoYmA8IcesCpxio8AUgIv5IrlhuGyWBcrSPSvbNAsEXxFYOdweUpeDEExeQK9ZyldAHwXP1CNGWCAlgjbvLzk69ZpYh301duRxvkJYop-x1EmO85_7IpZPcb7LAqxFSVfDMq9QrW7T4i7F274REv4UBIVTTQ7nY_A_2nGTakoDzv5bmCjyzbEadRgvXMD1HiFrW98GtgL5oxLFiSfrJSQn4f-gfrkb5_Dp-rhSa4O1Ot8bswSZklFhXkPsh9wLaWGtFTcN-0FqBqrsZG2dy5QFTTNAGYf0rRRD3-wFQNfp0pCnEM75lk_DYteqc3BUGz7PxrjCMoHOwmzv2CanQT6ylRiubfKloCwcxxkqJDvSxZKguAPUU9ti_rcPKkAigNkXvFXLwNQXmJ3F1ZNK3tpHuaKJGU8F8uap1dqPwlLpqTfxvOQffCQaKUw/https%3A%2F%2Fvisit.brisbane.qld.au%2F)  
  
Brisbane Economic Development Agency will provide a beautiful venue on the fifth floor veranda overlooking Post Office Square, and cater a simple BBQ, beer, wine and soft drink from 5:30pm – 7:30pm.

Volunteers to turn a snag are welcome.

## Thursday 16th January, 8:00am – 11:00am (Music by Dotted Beats until 2pm)

emPOWER SPEVI Braille Awareness Community Event – All Welcome  
  
Following the SPEVI Conference we want our SPEVI community to celebrate with the people of Brisbane, using our theme of em*POWER*ment to make positive change.

**Where: Post Office Square 8am – 11am**

**8:00am – 11:00am (Music by Dotted Beats until 2pm)**

Following the Conference close, we invite you to stay for an extra morning in Brisbane to em*POWER* knowledge of braille in a local community event.

**We need you!** People with lived experience of using braille, teachers of braille, transcribers of braille, braille technology experts and *all supporters of braille literacy* to emPOWER braille at this community event.

With the help of our conference participants, volunteers, sponsors and exhibitors, SPEVI aims to engage the local, Brisbane community and em*POWER* community awareness of the continued relevance of braille and new braille technologies. Help community members by explaining the braille code, emPOWERing community members to create braille and ultimately raise their understanding of the relevance of braille literacy in education, work and the community.

**How?**

We will set up booths and exhibits and talk everything braille. During the event, interested passers-by and visitors will be able to produce braille on paper or stickers.

The Lego Foundation will provide a Braille Bricks experience. Brisbane Braille House will have Perkins braillers so community members can create hard copy braille, and there will be new braille technology on display. We are planning other braille related activities to engage the community. We also welcome your ideas and contributions (reach out if you have an idea!).

The involvement of braille users, braille specialists, and all educators from the SPEVI community, will help em*POWER* the braille experience with the local community and will be critical to the success of this event. Together we can celebrate and get the message out about the continued importance of Braille to BOOST access to education, work, and community, and raise awareness of the need for accessibility in society.

This event has been supported by the Brisbane City Council and City Parklands.

**Be involved: SPEVI needs you!** Please email admin@SPEVIconference.net if you can join us or have additional ideas to add.