Deaf Space Report
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READ THE REPORT

Deaf Connect is proud to share a landmark report titled 'Deaf Space,' that our organisation has commissioned by Deaf Space Consultant, Amanda Everitt.

The report draws on lived experiences from Deaf community members, industry leaders, First Nations Deaf contributors, and international experts.

Their stories and ideas outline a roadmap for a more inclusive Australia where Deaf accessibility and representation are recognised across society.

We hope this report helps you foster Deaf inclusion in your organisation and raises awareness of Deaf Space principles more broadly.

You are encouraged to:

- Share the Deaf Space report with your network.

- Advocate for Deaf-led approaches in planning, design, and decision-making.

- Expand Auslan visibility in your workplace, services, and public life.

- Consider how Deaf Space principles could be applied in your workplace, services, or community initiatives.

What is Deaf Space?

Deaf Space is more than buildings or booking Auslan interpreters – it's about spaces where Deaf people can come together to meet, lead, and make decisions in culturally safe environments that foster connection and belonging.

Examples include:

- A Deaf-led event where Deaf culture is shared and Deaf people have the chance to meet and communicate in their first language – Auslan.

- A workplace with visual alarms, clear sightlines, and Deaf-led design.

- A café with Deaf staff, where everyone signs Auslan and customers feel welcome.

- An online space where Deaf people connect to learn, work, and share stories together.

- A school that ensures bilingual education, so deaf children can learn in their first language.

Deaf Space also draws on design principles that prioritise visual communication, movement, and light, so people can communicate freely and navigate safely.

Features like clear sightlines or visual alarms make workplaces easier for Deaf people – and more user-friendly for everyone.

Why Deaf Space Matters

Most environments are designed for hearing people, by hearing people. Deaf people have often had to create "bubbles of accessibility and comfort" to survive in a world that does not accommodate their first language or identity.

This report shows how Deaf communities form around visual communication and shared culture, offering practical guidance to make public life more inclusive for everyone.

Examples of what this could look like include:

- A community centre designed for signing, where light, movement, and shared culture bring people together.

- A public square where Auslan events are part of everyday city life.

- A digital platform or online community where Deaf people lead conversations, shaping culture and connection online.

The Deaf Space report calls for a shift from survival strategies to systemic recognition and investment in Deaf-led spaces, services, and representation.

Deaf Spaces benefit all Australians by creating places where everyone belongs.

By embedding Deaf Spaces into our society, we can strengthen connections between the Deaf and hearing communities and create a more inclusive future for everyone.

Recommendations and Future Actions

- Deaf Space is about connection, belonging, and identity, not just physical access.

- Insights can guide policymakers, service providers, educators, and community organisations in designing a more inclusive future for all.

- Deaf communities can use these principles to advocate for spaces reflecting their values, stories, and ways of connecting.

Next Steps

There are many opportunities to take this work forward – from community events and co-designed activities, to developing Deaf-friendly workplaces, boosting Auslan visibility, and building public awareness.

👉 Read the full report and watch the Auslan videos on our [website](#)

👉 Share this on your socials

👉 Use the #deafspace hashtag

👉 Start thinking about what Deaf Space looks like in your organisation or local community.

If you'd like to learn more about this report, please contact:

connect@deafconnect.org.au