



## **Deafblind Service Providers in Australia during Covid19**

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**Summary:** This presentation will address the response of Australian service providers to the COVID-19 Pandemic, highlighting the importance of essential contact support people and accessible technology.

Service providers in Australia have been utilising workers who have ongoing essential contact with deafblind people to be the point of information sharing. Multidisciplinary teams have supported these people, the communication guides and disability support workers, to share information in small increments whilst maximising social distancing.

Technology has been the tool most adopted to support deafblind people and their essential contact supports; though video conference calls, circulation of sign language videos, clearly written information and contact through phone and web; teams and professionals have kept in contact with deafblind people and each other.

This crisis has highlighted the need for deafblind people to have technology devices and support. The need for accessible information and services who understand the needs of deafblind people has been further highlighted.