MINUTES OF THE GENERAL MEETING HELD AT THE S.A. DEAF CENTRE ON 16th JANUARY, 1977 TO CONSIDER FORMATION OF A NATIONAL BODY OF THE DEAF.

Eighteen persons were present when Mr. B. Muller of S.A.D.C. explained the purpose of the meeting.

Mr. A. Mann (Vic) was elected to the Chair.

Mr. J. Lovett (Vic) moved that a Minutes Secretary be elected to record the proceedings of the meeting. Mr. I. MacGregor (Qld) seconded. Cd.

Mr. I. MacGregor moved that Mr. Muller be elected Minutes Secretary. Mrs. E. Cirke seconded. Carried.

Mr. Muller accepted.

Mr. MacGregor stated that his D.G.C. had circularized among all the States but got no reaction at all. It was his feeling that the A.F.A.D.S. covered the ground sufficiently now and that there could be a conflict between the two bodies for affiliation with the W.F.D. as the case had happened with the B.D.A. and the R.N.I.D. in England.

Mr. B. Bernal (Vic) said that the A.F.A.D.S. had produced excellent results for the deaf of Australia and there was no reason for formation of a National Body if the proposed body was going only to duplicate the A.F.A.D.S. The V.D.C. had called for a public meeting of the Deaf in Victoria and the meeting showed great confidence in remaining with the A.F.A.D.S.

Mr. D. Johnston (N.S.W.) was in favour of the proposed body.

Mr. W. Cooper (W.A.) was strongly against, stating that it was too early because of smallness of the Deaf population in Australia. He pointed out that it was the intention of the A.F.A.D.S. to send a deaf representative to the W.F.D. at its next meeting, and that it had been most interesting to be at the last A.F.A.D.S. meeting and he could see that the A.F.A.D.S. represented a great future for the Deaf of Australia.

Miss D. Griffiths (N.S.W.) said that it would be appropriate for the Deaf of Australia to wait till the educational standard of the Deaf in general had improved in possibly at least 25 years. We should have more properly educated deaf before we began to consider such formation.

Mr. Cooper said we should be sure of financial support before we began to consider such formation.

Mr. B. Taylor (N.S.W.) suggested that the National Body could send a delegate to the A.F.A.D.S. ensuring that the Deaf was still represented but with one voice for all the Deaf in Australia.

The chairman mentioned that there could be some doubt whether the National Body would be recognised by the A.F.A.D.S.

Mr. Cooper said that it was likely that the Federal Government would recognise the A.F.A.D.S. rather than the proposed body. Under the present system, we could have six deaf delegates on the A.F.A.D.S. which should be much better than only one representating the proposed body.

Miss. Griffiths pointed out that the Australian Deafness Council was supreme as far as the Federal Government was concerned.

Mr. Muller moved that it is the opinion of the meeting that it is inappropriate at present to form a national body of the Deaf in Australia. Mrs. D. Shaw (N.S.W.) seconded. Carried.

Mr. Cooper stated that the A.F.A.D.S. dealt with each importa t matter, one at a time; at present it is concentrating on the telephone for the Deaf.

The Chairman extended thanks to the delegates for producing facts and for passing an appropriate motion.

Mr. Muller moved a vote of thanks to Mr. Mann for his chairmanship. Miss Griffiths seconded. Carried with acclamation.

Bruce Muller,
Minutes Secretary.
27/1/77.