

COPY OF A CIRCULAR LETTER, REFERRED TO IN THE EDITORIAL, SENT TO THE DEAF OF AUSTRALIA, DATED APRIL 1931.

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It is no use denying the fact that the state of affairs in connection with the adult deaf and dumb of Australia are in a very unsatisfactory condition. The existence of two organisations in New South Wales, the enquiry being held in Queensland, the constant murmurings in Victoria go to show that all is not well. Why should this be and is there any remedy?

At the request of several deaf and dumb persons we the undersigned contemplate the holding of a conference of deaf and dumb representatives of each State. It is too early to give any idea of the agenda but we would like to hear from the deaf of other States as to whether they consider:

1. There is need for a conference, if so when and where should it be held?
2. They would endeavour to assist in the sending of delegates from their State to represent them.
3. Any further suggestions they may have.

It should be clearly understood from the commencement that the proposed conference is not to be under the auspices of any organisation for the adult deaf: it is being organised by the deaf independently. Neither is the conference to be domineered in any way by any Superintendent: in fact it is not yet decided whether Superintendents should even be invited to attend. You might also let us have your opinion on this matter.

If the conference is to be held in Sydney several Sydney Deaf will arrange hospitality for the delegates. If it is decided to hold it in another State it is hoped similar arrangements can be made. This will be the means of reducing the expense to travelling only, and it is hoped this item will be overcome by the deaf in each State making their own arrangements to raise funds to send their own delegates.

The time has evidently come for the deaf to get together to exchange ideas and to try and form a common policy for the recognition of their rights. The A.D.D.A. is obviously either dead or else has become a one State show, and there being no organisation in existence we felt we had no alternative but to send this letter to you in an attempt to start the ball rolling.

Trusting to have your opinions and those of your fellow deaf at as early a date as is convenient.

We remain,

Yours faithfully,

Fletcher S. Booth.

Ernest L. Quinnell.