

Colin James Allen AM (Member of the Order of Australia)

Curriculum Vitae

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EDUCATION

- Diploma in Community Organisations, University of Technology, Sydney (1997)
- Certificate IV in Training and Education (2014, updated in 2018/2019)
- Executive management programme courses

EMPLOYMENT HISTORY (descriptions of selected positions described at the end of this CV)

DATE	POSITION	ORGANISATION
February 2016 - Current	Freelance Consultant	Self-employed
July 2018 - Current	Teacher	The Deaf Society, Sydney, Australia
March 2011 - Current	President (voluntary)	World Federation of the Deaf
September - November 2017	Actor	Finnish Theatre of the Deaf
July 2016 - June 2018	Chair (voluntary)	International Disability Alliance
July 2013 - February 2016	Access and Community Engagement Consultant (part time)	The Deaf Society, Sydney, Australia
October 2009 - June 2013	Director of Services	The Deaf Society, Sydney Australia
May 2009 - December 2009	Project Co-ordinator, Deaf Human Rights and Capacity Building Training Project in Western and Central Africa	The World Federation of the Deaf and Swedish National Association of the Deaf
July 2007 - May 2009	Project Co-ordinator, Global Education Pre-planning Project on Human Rights of Deaf People	The World Federation of the Deaf and Swedish National Association of the Deaf
July 2004 - July 2007	Analysis Situation Survey Officer, Deaf Balkan Survey Project (Macedonia, Serbia and Montenegro, Bosnia and Herzegovina and Turkey)	Finnish Association of the Deaf
September 2000 - April 2008	Organisational/Programme Advisor and Capacity Building Trainer (Albania, Kosovo and Cambodia)	Finnish Association of the Deaf
March 1994 - January 1995	National and Worldwide Deaf Theatre Conference Director	National Theatre of the Deaf, (CT, USA)
1986-87	Actor/Drama Teacher	Sunshine Too, NTID, (NY, USA)
1983 and 1985-86	Actor/Drama Teacher	Fairmount Theatre of the Deaf, (Ohio, USA)
1979 - 1982 / 1984 - 85	Actor/Drama Teacher	Australian Theatre of the Deaf

COMMUNITY INVOLVEMENT / BOARD SERVICE

DATE	POSITION	ORGANISATION
2011 - present	President	World Federation of the Deaf
2017 - present	Board Member	Deaf Australia (NSW)
2003 - 2011	Board Member	World Federation of the Deaf
2016 - 2018	Chair	International Disability Alliance
2014 - 2016	First Vice Chair	International Disability Alliance
2013 - 2014	Second Vice Chair	International Disability Alliance
2011 - 2013	Board Member	International Disability Alliance
2003 - present	WFD Representative	United Nations (New York and Geneva)
2009 - present	Justice of the Peace	NSW Justices of the Peace

CORE COMPETENCIES

- Teaching/training
- Leadership and motivational presenter
- Community engagement (State, National and International)
- Cross-Cultural expertise (with governments and local communities globally)
- Advocacy
- Deaf Sector and Disability Consultant
- Short and long term project management (National and International)
- Development of position papers, policies and guidelines
- Project and organisational strategic and business planning and reporting
- Media savvy – both social and mainstream media
- Human resource management
- Governance
- Knowledge of national legislation and international instruments relating to both human rights and disability rights
- Quality assurance
- Financial management
- Communication - Australian Sign Language, International Sign and eight national Signed Languages including American Sign Language

MAJOR ACHIEVEMENTS

- Awarded [Member of the Order of Australia](#) (AM) in 2018 for significant service to people who are deaf or hard of hearing through national and international leadership and advocacy roles.
- Appointed Chair of the [International Disability Alliance](#) (IDA), the peak network of 1,100 organisations of persons with disabilities and their families from across eight global and six regions. IDA promotes the rights of persons with disabilities in line with the United Nations' mission to advance human rights and sustainable development.
- Appointed President of the [World Federation of the Deaf](#) (WFD), an international federation of deaf organisations from 135 nations; its mission is to promote the human rights of deaf people and full, quality and equal access to all spheres of life, including self-determination, sign language, education, employment and community life.

INTERNATIONAL LEADERSHIP

During my involvement with WFD and IDA, I played a key role in guiding and representing WFD and IDA's engagement with the United Nations and its entities and other international human rights and international development organisations. My commitment to human rights was exemplified through representing IDA at the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities (CRPD) Committee Session Meetings in Geneva, at Annual State Parties' Conferences of CRPD, the 2016 [World Humanitarian Summit](#) in Istanbul, the United Nations High Level Meeting on Disability and Development in New York, the 2016 UN Social Forum in Geneva and 22nd APEC High Level Forum on Disability in Beijing, China. I also led 22 representatives from organisations of persons with disabilities as part of the Major Groups and Other Stakeholders delegation at the High Level Political Forum (HLPF) on Sustainable Development in July 2016 and also attended the HLPF in July 2017. In addition, I represented IDA and was involved in the inaugural [Global Action on Disability](#) (GLAD) Network meeting in London (2015) as co-Chair, a role I also undertook at GLAD events in Berlin (2017) and Helsinki (2018). As WFD President, I was also closely involved with the proclamation of the [United Nations International Day of Sign Languages](#) (IDSL) which was adopted by the United Nations General Assembly in December 2017. The objective of the IDSL is to raise awareness on sign languages and strengthen the status about sign languages.

I have been closely engaged with the implementation of the 2030 Agenda for persons with disabilities worldwide including leading IDA's strategic approach to awareness raising, capacity building and participation of persons with disabilities in the preparatory processes towards national reviews. Under my leadership, IDA's mission was to ensure that the UN upheld the essential, unifying principle of the disability movement: 'nothing about us without us'. This included implementing standards on full inclusion and participation of persons with disabilities, notably ensuring accessibility of decision-making spaces and documentation, meaningful participation in follow-up and review processes, and universal design throughout programme implementation.

As President of WFD, I have also spearheaded a much closer relationship with the World Association of Sign Language Interpreters (WASLI) with positive results for interpreters and deaf people worldwide. This has led to the establishment of the WFD-WASLI International Sign Interpreter Accreditation process as a joint initiative of the WFD and WASLI to meet the increasing demand for quality International Sign Interpretation in the international arena, and in particular at meetings with the United Nations and its associated agencies. As an extension of this process, I was also instrumental in the development of a Code of Conduct and an associated Professional Conduct Review Process Panel. The Co-operation Agreement between WASLI & the WFD has highlighted the need to jointly focus on the promotion of Human Rights, and our commitment to the implementation of the UNCRPD, especially in its articles relating to Sign Language and Sign Language Interpreters.

The close collaboration with WASLI in the drafting of a number of guidelines, statements and submissions relevant to the interpreting situation across the globe, e.g. on the 'Use of Signing Avatars', 'Remote Interpreting', 'Fake Interpreters', and working with both WASLI & International Deaf Emergency on 'Communication in natural disasters and other mass emergencies for Deaf people who use a signed language', has served to demonstrate good practice between our organisations and can be viewed as a model for National Deaf Associations and Sign Language Interpreter Associations to emulate.

PRESENTATIONS/TEACHING/DELIVERY OF TRAINING

Addressed international and national conferences as a keynote presenter and delivered workshops on issues related to human rights for both the Deaf Community and persons with disability in more than 70 countries. This includes provision of training in the Dominican Republic, Denmark, China, Madagascar, Brazil, Colombia, Nigeria, Tunisia, Lebanon, Vietnam, Saudi Arabia, Fiji and Papua New Guinea.

Examples of teaching and training conducted includes:

- Human Rights for Deaf People
- UN Conventions including the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities (CRPD), Convention on the Elimination of all Forms of Discrimination Against Women (CEDAW) and the Convention on the Rights of the Child (CRC)
- Agenda 2030 - Sustainable Development Goals
- Community capacity building
- Organisational development training
- Deaf culture and Sign Language
- Deaf leadership
- Sign Language interpreting
- Monitoring, evaluation and reporting
- Strategic planning/Annual planning

Conducted International Development Cooperation Program evaluations in:

- Madagascar
- Vietnam
- Cambodia
- Fiji
- Russian Federation

PUBLICATIONS

- Russell, D. and Allen, C. (2013). Book foreword for Napier, J., & McKee, R., & Goswell, D. (***Sign language interpreting: Theory & practice – Serbian version***). Translated and adapted by Desanka Zizic & Vera Jovanovic. Serbia.
- Haualand H., Allen, C. (2009). ***Deaf People and Human Rights***, World Federation of the Deaf and Swedish National Association of the Deaf.
- Allen, C. (2008). ***Seven Regional Survey Reports of the Deaf Human Rights Survey Report***, World Federation of the Deaf & Swedish National Association of the Deaf
- Allen, C. Walters, S., Emerson, S. (2007). ***Balkan Survey Report*** (Insight into the situation of deaf people in Macedonia, Serbia and Montenegro, Bosnia and Herzegovina and Turkey), Finnish Association of the Deaf.