# C:\Users\John Simpson\Dropbox\E and J shared\Convention 17\Logos\BCA Logos - official\BCA logo - without words.jpg

# Blind Citizens Australia

# National Convention 2019

# Draft Program

## “You can do it your way”

## Friday 29 March to Monday 1 April 2019

*Note: This is a draft program only (as at 14/2/19), and details are subject to change without notice.*

## Venue Details:

The Old Woolstore

1 Macquarie Street, Hobart, Tasmania

Ph: 03 6235 5355

Website: [www.oldwoolstore.com.au](http://www.oldwoolstore.com.au)

Hosted by: John Simpson, President, Blind Citizens Australia

Master of Ceremonies: Rikki Chaplin, Advocacy Officer, Blind Citizens Australia

## Follow the BCA National Convention:

* On Twitter at #BCACONV
* Remember to follow us on twitter @au\_bca
* Like us on facebook at [www.facebook.com/blindcitizensaustralia](http://www.facebook.com/blindcitizensaustralia)
* The convention will be streamed via the internet for those unable to attend in person. To access the stream, visit [www.bca.org.au](http://www.bca.org.au)/conv2019/
* You can text your comments or questions to 0488 824 623 throughout the weekend

## Convention 2019 is proudly sponsored by:

### Major Sponsor:

### Vision Australia

Blindness and Low Vision Services



Vision Australia is a leading national provider of blindness and low vision services in Australia. We work in partnership with Australians who are blind or have low vision to help them achieve the possibilities they choose in life.

We support more than 27,500 people of all ages and life stages, and circumstances. We do this through 28 Vision Australia centres in Victoria, New South Wales, the Australian Capital Territory, Queensland, South Australia and Western Australia; 30 clinics; and through outreach programs in the Northern Territory and Tasmania.

## Access Information

### Orientation and Mobility (O&M)

O&M instructors will be on hand to assist with orientation to the hotel. They will be located in the main foyer on Friday from 10:00AM to 3:00PM and on Saturday from 8:00AM to 11:00AM. If you arrive from Friday onwards, but outside of these times, volunteers will be available to assist. Should you be unable to locate someone to assist you, please call 03 9654 1400 or text 0488 824 623 to request assistance.

### Volunteers

Volunteers will be on hand to assist throughout the convention. Please note that volunteers are unable to provide support with personal care tasks. If you need assistance with feeding, toileting and other personal needs, you should bring a support worker. Also note that we have a limited number of volunteers to assist a large number of people, so they will not have time to toilet dog guides.

### Dog Guide Facilities

There will be a number of safe options for toileting dog guides at the venue, including a grassed area out the front of the hotel and AstroTurf specifically laid out by Guide Dogs Tasmania.

### Aira Access

Aira is pleased to support the convention by making the venue an Aira Access location for the duration of the event. Aira is a service for your smartphone that connects you with professionally-trained human agents to assist you with any task. If you are an Aira Explorer at present, using the service at the hotel during the convention will be free, and will not be deducted from your plan.

Even if you’re not using Aira at the moment, if you have a smartphone, you can download the iOS or Android app for free. Use Aira for free for such tasks as finding a hotel room, a conference room, reading a hotel menu, describing exhibit hall tables, description during the conference/workshop sessions, or calling an Uber to get to public transportation.

We advise guests to download the free Aira app prior to the event so you will be ready to take advantage of this opportunity to experience Aira as soon as you arrive.

You can search for Aira in the iOS App Store or Google Play Store. Alternatively, go here: [www.aira.io/app](http://www.aira.io/app). You will find a banner at the top of the app that says “Tap to use Aira as a Guest for Free”. Register with email and phone number on “Sign Up as a Guest”. Then you will get a text message confirming your phone number. Double-tap on the link in the text message and you’ve signed up as a Guest!

## Associated Events

### Adaptive technology Exhibition

As in previous years, the convention will host an exhibition of the latest in blindness and low vision assistive technology, which will run throughout the weekend.

### Convention Welcome Function

Friday, 29 March from 6:00-8:00PM in the Marino Room. Includes a chance to meet old and new friends in a relaxed atmosphere. Drinks available for purchase and finger food provided.

### Convention Dinner

Saturday, 30 March, 6:30PM – 10:30PM in the Marino Room. Includes presentation of Blind Citizens Australia awards.

### Optional Sight-seeing

We are organising sight-seeing activities on Monday 1st April, which will not be officially part of the convention program but which will be a good opportunity to network and experience Hobart. Any costs associated with sight-seeing will be paid for by the individual on the day. Further information about sight-seeing activities will be provided to registrants who express interest closer to the event.

# Friday 29 March

## 1:30-3:00PM: Concurrent Workshops

## Workshop 1A: Doing it Our Way: The Many Faces of Independence

A recent post on social media which implored people who are blind or vision impaired to be supportive, rather than judgmental of one another has sparked much discussion among some members of our community about the nature of independence and the need for a safe space in which to be ourselves. This facilitated discussion will provide an opportunity for participants to explore what independence looks like for people who are blind or vision impaired, whilst recognising and celebrating the fact that independence looks different for each of us.

## Workshop 1B: Beyond the Bare Minimum: The Future of Audio Description in Australia

We are at a critical juncture in the development of professional audio description. Audio description in the arts and cultural sector is now provided on a professional basis in three states, and momentum is growing in broadcast and cinema. This workshop will explore what values should underpin a vision for consistent professional practice in Australia and look at how these will be negotiated, disseminated and upheld into the future. This session will invite participants to share their experiences of audio description, and their aspirations for future practice. The information shared will contribute to a larger national conversation about professionalising audio description and offers users a Blind-first space to discuss the practice and make recommendations for future development.

## 3:00-3:30PM: Afternoon-tea

## 3:30-5:00PM: Concurrent workshops

## Workshop 2A: Braille music: From The Perkins to the World

NZ Musician Stephen Bennett will lead a discussion about how participants use braille music and how they share their music notation with others. The workshop will include audio clips of interviews with blind musicians outlining how they have managed the challenges of working with braille music. There will also be a training session in the use of braille music editor software.

**Workshop 2B: Diverse Experiences of Blindness**

A panel of speakers from minority groups will reflect on how their minority status has shaped their experiences of blindness.

**5:00-5:45PM: Choir Rehearsal 1**

**6:00-8:00PM: Welcome Function**

An informal cocktail style event to welcome guests to the convention. Canapes will be provided but drinks are at the cost of the individual.

# Saturday, 30 March

**8:00-8:50AM: Registration**

**8:50-9:00AM: Housekeeping announcements – MC**

## 9:00-10:30AM: Session 1: Opening Session

9:00-9:10: Welcome to Country

9:10-9:20: President’s welcome

9:20-9:30: Roll call

9:30-9:50: Feature Speaker: Edward Santow, Human Rights Commissioner.

9:50-10:00: Q&A

10:00-10:20: Keynote Address: Suman Kanuganti, CEO of Aira Corp.

10:20-10:30: Q&A

## 10:30-11:00AM: Morning tea

## 11:00AM-12:00PM: Session 2: With An Eye To The Future

Panel: The Future of Work: Behind the headline and what it means for people who are blind or vision impaired.

The “Future of Work” (FOW) is a headline topic when it comes to employment and economic participation. From automation and robotics, to recruitment and contingent workforces. What does it all mean, and what does it mean for people with a disability and specifically those who are blind or vision impaired?

## 12:00-1:00PM: BCA Your Way: recommendations session

Focused discussion based on recommendations received about particular actions that the BCA board could take in relation to issues directly impacting on people who are blind or vision impaired or the functioning of the organisation.

There is an additional recommendations session on Sunday afternoon.

## 1:00-2:00PM: Lunch

## 2:00-3:30PM: Session 3: Blindness Services in the 21st Century

2:00-2:30: Vision Australia Update

2:30-3:00: Guide Dogs Australia

3:00-3:30: Launch of Service Provider Expectations Policy by BCA’s National Policy Council

## 3:30-4:00PM: Afternoon tea

## 4:00-4:45PM: Panel: New Developments in Australia’s Blindness Sector

## 4:45-5:00PM: Close

## 5:00-6:00PM: Choir Rehearsal 2

## 6:30-10:00PM: Convention Dinner

Sit down dinner, presentation of the David Blyth Award, Diana Braun Aspirations Award, and Certificates of Appreciation.

Drinks are at the cost of the individual.

# Sunday, 31 March

## 8:00-8:50AM: Registration

## 8:50-9:00AM: Welcome and housekeeping - MC

## 9:00-10:20AM: Session 4: From Past to Present

9:00-9:10: CEO’s welcome

9:10-9:20: Roll call

9:20-9:50: History of Tasmanian information services

9:50-10:20: Launch of NSW Legacy Project

## 10:20-10:50AM: Morning tea

## 10:50-11:45AM: Concurrent Sessions: Session 5: Doing it your Way in Every Day Life

## Session 5A: Ultimate Independence: Combining Innovative Technology with Your Cane or Dog Guide

In the era of ever improving and emerging technologies, people who are blind or vision impaired have many more opportunities to increase their mobility and independence. Combine this technology with our Dog Guides or canes and we have the most advanced and effective mechanisms to be involved in our communities. This interactive session will showcase innovative technology and provide opportunities for discussion about how technology can enhance mobility skills.

## Session 5B: Life Hacks for Health and Wellness

Accessing and advocating for the healthcare we need can be challenging. Hear about research the NSW Agency for Clinical Innovation and Vision Australia have been conducting into how to improve hospital experiences of people who are blind or vision impaired; find out what BCA’s National Policy Council has been doing in the area of health and hospital access; and share personal experiences, tips and tricks about how to get the best possible healthcare.

## 11:50AM-12:45PM: Concurrent Sessions:

## Session 5C: Taking the Stress Out of Travelling Alone

Travelling alone, whether in Australia or overseas, can be a daunting experience. In this session, you will hear stories of the challenges people who are blind or vision impaired have experienced in getting to their destinations and how they have overcome them. There will also be opportunities to share your own experiences.

## Session 5D: When Blindness is Not Your Only Impairment: The Impacts and Challenges of Living with Multiple Disabilities, Physical, Social and Emotional

Panelists will share personal stories of living with multiple disabilities, from communication to mobility and everything in between. This will be followed by a Q&A and discussion.

## 12:45-1:45PM: Lunch

## 1:45-3:00PM: Session 6: The NDIS and My Aged Care: Removing the Road Blocks to Choice and Control

1:45-2:00: Removing the Barriers to the NDIS for People Who are blind or Vision Impaired.

2:00-2:15: Removing the Barriers to My Aged care for People Who are blind or Vision Impaired.

2:15-2:35: Q&A with speakers.

2:35-3:00: Facilitated discussion: BCA’s current work in relation to the NDIS and My Aged Care and what comes next?

## 3:00-3:30PM: Afternoon tea

## 3:30-4:45PM: Session 7: BCA Your Way

3:30-4:10: Recommendations Session 2

4:10-4:45: Q&A

## 4:45-5:00PM: Convention close

## 5:00-6:00PM: Choir Rehearsal 3

## 6:30-10:00PM: Barbecue Dinner

Sit down dinner featuring BBQ style food, drinks are at the cost of the individual.

Includes the Open Mic performances.

# Monday, 1 April

Optional sight-seeing activities, details to be confirmed.