# **BCA Inform, Tuesday August 2nd Policy, Projects and Future prospects**

**Project update:
General Manager, Projects and Engagement – Sally Aurisch**

* Plans for the new member communication platform have progressed and a trial is now underway with a small group of members. From there we will iron out an issues before a proper roll out in mid-September.
* The BCA skills exchange project is now up and running, and we are looking for a few extra people who might like to get involved in a history of BCA project. Please get in touch with our Project Officer Conor Smith if you are interested in being involved via email at conor.smith@bca.org.au or by calling 1800 033 660.
* Work on our peer connect groups are also well underway and we are looking for group team leaders. Promotions for the group will start soon so please keep an eye out on our communication channels and member update, again Conor is the best contact if you are interested in becoming a team leader or have any further questions. Please get in touch with our Project Officer Conor Smith if you are interested in being involved via email at conor.smith@bca.org.au or by calling 1800 033 660.
* We have officially selected the first round of recipients for the Hugh Jefferies Scholarship awards, announcements will be made soon. As part of the scholarship these people will be working with BCA on some projects throughout the year
* We are opening another round of scholarships later in the year for people commencing their study in early 2022, there will be five scholarships of $5000 and those recipients will be announced in February 2020.
* We have been successful in obtaining a grant for our Eye To The Future 2.0 project which aims to change the views of both recruiters and employers. The Project Manager position for this project has now closed and we will be hopefully undergoing interviews next week.
* BCA will also have six further job announced in the coming weeks including an Administration Assistant, an Events and Initiatives Project Officer and four other Project Officer jobs that will be focusing on business and working with younger people. We will promote those jobs through our announcements list and through ethical jobs and seek so keep an eye out if you are interested in joining the team.

**Policy update:
National Advocacy Projects Officer** **– Jaci Armstrong**

* The 2021 Census is coming up next Tuesday 10th August, the census is already open and can be completed any time before that night and any time up to August 12. There has been quite an improvement on this census compared to previous years and the website and forms have completely been redesigned and tested with a number of screen reading softwares to make it more accessible. However if you are having issues please get in touch with our advocacy team.
* There is also a New Horizons episode this week where we chat with a representative from the ABS to address many concerns people have had with the census in the past. See the link here: [Episode 721 – 2021 Census – Blind Citizens Australia (bca.org.au)](https://www.bca.org.au/2021/08/03/episode-721-2021-census/)
* Have been continuing discussions with the banking industry in terms of accessibility. We rely on the feedback of our members on the ground to shape this advocacy so if you have any feedback please reach out to us as we want to represent the broad experience of our members in terms of feedback but also improvements of service.
* Many members raised issue with e-scooters and e-bikes particularly around the Brisbane area, we have recently updated our e-scooters policy as well as written an environment scan about them on our website. More detail can be found here: [Policy – Blind Citizens Australia (bca.org.au)](https://www.bca.org.au/policy/#travel).
* We encourage any of our members to get in touch with the Policy and Advocacy tram if they have any questions, comments or need any support via email at advocacy@bca.org.au or call 1800 033 660.