Round Table on Information Access

for People with Print Disabilities Inc.

2025 Conference Program

**Access Unlocked: Innovating for Information Equity**

New legal frameworks are significantly altering the accessibility landscape. At the forefront of this transformation is technology, a powerful enabler that has reshaped how information is accessed and shared. This conference will explore the dynamics between legislative changes, technological progress, and advocacy efforts that collectively enhance information equity. The 2025 conference is dedicated to deepening the understanding of information equity as an essential element of social justice. It emphasises the critical need for cross-sector collaboration to overcome the obstacles faced by individuals with print disability and to pave the way for a society where inclusive participation is the norm.

**Dates:**

**Saturday 24 May to Tuesday 27 May 2025**

**Venue:**

Stamford Plaza Hotel Melbourne

111 Little Collins Street

Melbourne VIC 3000

Tel: (03) 9659 1000

**Please note:** The conference program may be subject to change without notice.

**Program Date:** 26 February 2025

## Saturday 24 May 2025

Venue: Balmoral Room

9:30am – 10:00am Registration

10:00am – 10:30am Morning Tea

### 10:30am – 5:00pm Australian Braille Authority (ABA) Annual Meeting

Chair: Tristan Clare

The agenda for the day will be circulated prior to the meeting. Further details will be made available through the OZBRL listserv.

12:30pm – 1:30pm Lunch

1:30pm – 3:00pm ABA Annual Meeting continued

3:00pm – 3:30pm Afternoon Tea

3:30pm – 5:00pm ABA Annual Meeting continued with Feature Presentation

### 6:00pm – 8:00pm Welcome Function and Conference Opening

Venue: Edinburgh Room, Stamford Plaza Hotel

## Sunday 25 May 2025

8:15am – 9:00am Registration

8:30am – 5:30pm Technology and Services Exhibition

### 9:00am – 10:15am Session 1 Plenary

Venue: Thornbury Room

Chair: Sonali Marathe

9:00am – 9:15am

Conference Announcements and Roll Call

9:15am – 9:30am

Welcome and President’s Introduction:

Sonali Marathe, President, Round Table on Information Access for People with Print Disabilities Inc

9:30am – 10:15am

1 The Road to Marrakesh – History and Relevance of the treaty

Keynote Address:

Maryanne Diamond, Board Member, National Disability Insurance Agency (NDIA)

10:15am – 10:45am Morning Tea

### 10:45am – 12:15pm Concurrent Sessions 2 & 3

| **Session 2 Chair**: Agata Mrva-Montoya **Venue: Thornbury Room** | Session 3 Chair: Sondra Wibberley Venue: Balmoral Room |
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| 10:45am – 11:15am:  2a Leveraging Alexa: Empowering Print-Disabled Individuals and Driving Accessibility Innovation  Presenter:  Jeanna Manifold, Senior Business Development and Partnerships Manager, Australia & NZ, Amazon Alexa | 10:45am – 11:15am:  3a Accessibility in the Chemistry laboratory: The case of blind students  Presenter:  Professor Siegbert Schmid, School of Chemistry and Sydney Nano, Faculty of Science, The University of Sydney |
| 11**:15am – 11:45am:**  2b Voices of Access: AI-Powered Reading for the Blind and Low Vision Community  Presenter:  Jarek Beksa, CEO, Sonnar | 11**:15am – 11:45am:**  3b A step towards inclusive education: Curriculum Based Functional Assessment Checklist for students with Deafblindness  Presenter:  Dr Shruti Bobade, Independent Researcher |
| 11**:45am – 12:15pm:**  2c AI-enabled Assistive Smart Glasses for People with Cerebral Visual Impairment  Presenter:  Bhanuka Gamage, Inclusive Technologies Lab, Monash University | 11**:45am – 12:15pm:**  3c Developing a Braille Needs Assessment for Early Childhood.  Presenter:  Tricia Izzard, Early Childhood Specialist Teacher/Children and Young People Senior Practitioner, Vision Australia  **Co-authors:** Tricia d'Apice, Lead Consultant Vision Impairment and Sue Silveira, Next Sense |

12:15pm – 1:00pm: Lunch Break

### 1:00pm – 2:30pm: Concurrent Sessions 4 & 5

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| Session 4 Chair:  Venue: Thornbury Room | Session 5 Chair: Annette Sutherland Venue: Balmoral Room |
| 1:00pm – 1:30pm:  4a Five Points for Using a 3D Printer to Create Tactile Materials with a Vacuum Former  Presenter:  Kazunori Minatani, National Center for University Entrance Examinations Japan | 1:00pm – 1:30pm:  5a Empowering Accessibility: The impact of multi-line braille displays in education, employment, and leisure  Presenter via Zoom:  Roger Firman, UK Association for Accessible Formats |
| 1:30pm – 2:30pm:  4b WORKSHOP: ANZAGG Workshop on Getting Started with (accessible) 3D Printing  Facilitators:  Dr Leona Holloway, Research Fellow, Monash University & Sarah Hayman, Support Skills Teacher and Assistive Technology Library Manager, Statewide Vision Resource Centre | 1:30pm – 2:30pm:  5b WORKSHOP: Transcription at the speed of Microsoft Word: For requests that were needed yesterday  Facilitators:  Michael Walker, Accessible Format Production Specialist & Janine Land, Accessible Format Production Team Leader, SASVI |

2:30pm – 3:00pm: Afternoon Tea

### 3:00pm – 4:00pm: Concurrent Sessions 6 & 7

| Session 6 Chair: Jane Wegener Venue: Thornbury Room | Session 7 Chair: Sondra Wibberley Venue: Balmoral Room |
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| **3:00pm – 3:30pm:**  6a Co-designing AI Assistance in Productivity Applications with Screen Reader Users  Presenter:  Minoli Perera, PhD Candidate, Monash University | **3:00pm – 3:30pm:**  7a Braille for Lifelong Learners  Presenter:  Kerri Weaver, Director, Eyes and Independence |
| **3:30pm – 4:00pm:**  6b Teaching students to use, modify and influence audio description as a tool of access and a workplace-relevant skill  Presenter:  Polly Goodwin, Freelance Audio Describer, Poly Sensory Access | **3:30pm – 4:00pm:**  7b Beyond the Itinerant Model: A New Approach to Developing Independent Living Skills  Presenter:  Cass Embling, Churchill Fellow |

4:00pm – 4:10pm: Break / Move to Plenary

### Plenary Session 8

Venue: Thornbury Room

### 4:10pm – 4:40pm: Exhibitor Session

### 4:45pm – 5:45pm: Round Table AGM

**Chair:** Sonali Marathe

### 5:45pm: Close of Day One

## Monday 26 May 2025

8:30am: Registration opens

### 9:00am – 10:15am: Plenary Session 9

Venue: Thornbury Room

**Chair:** Frances Gentle

9:00am – 9:15am:

Welcome and Roll Call

9:15am – 9:45am:

9a V2020A - 25 years of collaboration

Keynote Address:

Carly Iles, CEO & Jonathan Craig, Policy and Advocacy Manager, Vision 2020 Australia

9.45am – 10:15am

9b Accessing the expertise of teachers and people with lived experience to drive innovation in braille literacy assessment and teaching

Feature Presenter:

Dr Emily White, Lecturer (University of Melbourne) and President (International Council for People with Visual Impairment - Pacific Region)

10:15am – 10:45am Morning Tea

### 10:45am – 12:15pm: Concurrent Sessions 10 & 11

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| Session 10 Chair: Venue: Thornbury Room | **Session 11 Chair**: Jane Wegener **Venue: Balmoral Room** |
| 10:45am –11.15am:  10a Smart phones, PC’s, Embosser: accessing formatted Braille  Presenter:  David Woodbridge, Blindness product specialist, HumanWare | 10:45am –11.15am:  11a A World of Sound: Global Initiatives in Braille Music  Presenter via Zoom:  Christina Hayes, Multi Format Producer (Music Specialist), Vision Australia, Chair of MBPN |
| 11:15am – 12:15pm:  10b WORKSHOP: Co-Designing the ideal classroom whiteboard viewer  Peter Cracknell, Manager, Vision and Blindness Technologies, Quantum RLV | 11:15am – 12:15pm:  11b WORKSHOP: Braille at the Opera  Brad Cohen, General director, NZ Opera & Paul Brown, Director, Audio Described Aotearoa |

12:15pm – 1:00pm: Lunch Break

### 1:00pm – 2.30pm: Concurrent Sessions 12 & 13

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| **Session 12 Chair**: Neil Jarvis **Venue: Thornbury Room** | Session 13 Chair: Tristan Clare Venue: Balmoral Room |
| 1:00pm –1:30pm:  12a National Libraries Australia  Presenter:  Lihong Zhang, National Libraries Australia | 1:00pm –1:30pm:  13a Hearing the progress of audio accessibility  Presenter:  Dominique Parker, Audio designer and Digital accessibility consultant |
| **1:30pm – 2:00pm:**  12b Enhancing Accessibility in Public Libraries: Insights from Australian Library Staff  Presenters:  Dr Agata Mrva-Montoya, Lecturer, University of Sydney & Dr Jo Kaeding, Lecturer, The University of South Australia | 1:30pm – 2:30pm:  13b ABA WORKSHOP: Braille Music in the Modern Era  Facilitator:  Tristan Clare, Chair, Australian Braille Authority  Panellists:  Christina Hayes, Multi Format Producer (Music Specialist), Vision Australia, Craig Cashmore, Founder and Director, PeppaCode and Leanne Newham. |
| 2**:00pm – 2:30pm:**  12c Vision Australia: Building Community  Presenters:  Jamie Kelly, Online Training and Support Officer & Ed Gamble, Formats Development Officer, Vision Australia |

2.30pm – 3:00pm: Afternoon Tea

### 3:00pm – 4:30pm Concurrent Sessions 14 & 15

| **Session 14 Chair**: Agata Mrva-Montoya **Venue: Thornbury Room** | Session 15 Chair: Janine Land Venue: Balmoral Room |
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| 3:00pm – 3:30pm:  14a Access Unlocked: Pioneering Good Design and Accessibility with Our New Website & Online Shop  Presenters:  Jody Martin-Rankin, Executive Manager - Strategy & Darren Toy, Program Manager, See Differently | 3:00pm – 3:30pm:  15a Combining Refreshable Tactile Displays and Conversational Agents for Accessible Data Access  Presenters:  Dr Sam Reinders, Research Fellow & Dr Munazza Zaib, Research Fellow, Monash University |
| **3:30pm – 4:00pm:**  14b Print Disability in Papua New Guinea: Challenges and Pathways to Information Accessibility  Presenter:  Eric Kuna, Manager, Papua New Guinea University of Technology Press | 3:30pm – 4:30pm:  15b WORKSHOP: Exploring Refreshable Tactile Displays for Interactive Tactile Graphics  Facilitators:  Dr Leona Holloway, Dr Sam Reinders, Monash & Peter Cracknell, Quantum RLV |
| **4:00pm – 4:30pm:**  14c Advancing Accessibility: Developing a National Associated Plan for Accessible Information and Communication  Presenter:  Jackson Reynolds-Ryan, Senior Policy Officer, Blind Citizens Australia |

### 4:35pm – 5:35pm: ANZAGG AGM

Venue: Thornbury Room

### 6:30pm – 7:00pm Pre-dinner Drinks **Venue: Buckingham Room**

### 7:00pm – 11:00pm Conference Dinner **Venue: Buckingham Room**

## Tuesday 27 May 2025

8:30am: Registration opens

### 9:00am – 10:15am: Plenary Session 16

**Venue: Thornbury Room**

**Chair:** Agata Mrva-Montoya

9:00am – 9:15am:

Welcome and Roll Call

9:15am – 9:45am

16a Disability & Digital Citizenship: Australian Consumers & Citizens with Disability Navigating Digital Society

Keynote Address:

Professor Gerard Goggin, Distinguished Professor, Institute for Culture and Society, Western Sydney University. Associate Investigator, Centre of Excellence in Automated Decision Making and Society

9:45am – 10:15am

16b Transforming Access: A Decade of Progress, and What’s Next in Information Accessibility

Feature Presenter:

Sonali Marathe, President, Round Table on Information Access for People with Print Disabilities Inc

10:15am – 10:45am: Morning Tea

### 10:45am – 12:15pm: Concurrent Sessions 17 & 18

| Session 17 Chair: Sondra Wibberley **Venue: Thornbury Room** | **Session 18 Chair**:  **Venue: Balmoral Room** |
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| 10:45am – 11:15am:  17a How can I create multiple accessible formats from one source document easily?  Presenter:  Vithya Vijayakumare, Senior Digital Production Coordinator, VisAbility | 10:45am – 11:15am:  18a Audio Descriptions of Art; Lessons learnt from a lived experience of Dyslexia  Presenter:  Dr Rebecca La Forgia |
| 11:15am – 12:15pm:  17b WORKSHOP: Reaching out and engaging with the off liners  Facilitator:  Clive Lansink, Director, Accessible Information and Communications Ltd | 11:15am – 12:15pm:  18b WORKSHOP: Creating tactile instructions for a dressmaking pattern: One swell drawing too far?  Facilitator:  Janine Land, Accessible Format Production Team Leader, South Australia School and Services for Vision Impaired |

12:15pm – 1:00pm: Lunch Break

### 1:00pm – 2:00pm: Concurrent Sessions 19 & 20

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| Session 19 Chair: Lauren Hayes **Venue: Thornbury Room** | **Session 20 Chair**: Jane Wegener **Venue: Balmoral Room** |
| 1:00pm – 1:30pm:  19a Re-Evaluating Conversational Search Systems for Enhanced Accessibility  Presenter:  Johanne Trippas, Vice-Chancellor's Senior Research Fellow, RMIT University | 1:00pm – 2:00pm:  **20a** **WORKSHOP: Play Made Inclusive with Accessible Lego Instructions**  Facilitator:  Lyn Eagers, Consumer & Braille Trainer/Access Technology Specialist, Vision Australia |
| 1:30pm – 2:00pm:  19b Supporting independent healthcare using mobile devices for people who are blind or have low vision  Presenter:  William Chen, PhD Candidate & Dr Matthew Butler, Associate Professor, Monash University |

2:00pm – 2:10pm: Break / Move to Plenary

### 2:10pm – 3:00pm: Plenary Session 21

Venue: Thornbury Room

**Chair:** John Simpson

2:10pm – 2:40pm

21a Digital Accessibility under the DDA in 2025

Feature Presenters:

Neil Jarvis, Strategy Lead, & Andrew Arch, Principal Consultant, Intopia

2:40pm – 3:00pm

21b President’s Final Address

Sonali Marathe

President, Round Table on Information Access for People with Print Disabilities Inc

### 3:00pm: Conference finishes

### BONUS WORKSHOP!

3:00pm – 5:00pm

Gallery Excursion with Sophie Coppenhall, PhD Candidate & Dr Matthew Butler, Associate Professor, Monash University

Meaningful encounters with art in conversational, multisensory art history tours