Programs and Services

www.ridbc.org.au

Royal Institute for Deaf and Blind Children
By providing quality and innovative education and other services, RIDBC will achieve the best outcomes for current and future generations with hearing and/or vision loss throughout Australia.
Why choose RIDBC?

1. Expert staff
RIDBC staff take part in rigorous professional development and postgraduate programs through RIDBC Renwick Centre – Australia’s leading provider of professional education in sensory disability.

2. Multidisciplinary team
Access to a range of specialists from one service provider reduces complexity and ensures better outcomes for children.

3. Broad range of services
The range of services available at RIDBC for children with hearing or vision loss is unique in Australia.

4. Family centred approach
We pride ourselves on working in collaboration with families and ensuring that parents remain the key to their child’s education or therapy.

5. Assistance through transitions
Because RIDBC has such a broad range of services we are on the journey with families from the time of diagnosis through early intervention and on to preschool and school.

6. Excellent resources
RIDBC has the most up-to-date resources available for families so children can take advantage of every learning opportunity.
Royal Institute for Deaf and Blind Children (RIDBC) is Australia's largest non-government provider of therapy, education and diagnostic services for children with hearing or vision loss, assisting thousands of children a year across Australia.

Through high quality and highly relevant specialised services, RIDBC can meet the needs of children and their families from just a few weeks of age.

We are committed to investing in the technology and services needed to give children the very best start in life. We work with families and other professionals in the field to maintain our comprehensive approach to service provision.

As a charity, we rely significantly upon the generosity of the community and corporate Australia to support our life changing programs.

Thank you for your continued interest and support of RIDBC.

Chris Rehn
RIDBC Chief Executive
RIDBC works in collaboration with families, building relationships and making sure that parents remain the key to their child’s early intervention.
Programs and Services

RIDBC Early Learning Programs – Hearing or vision impairment

Access to intensive, early support is crucial to the outcomes for children with a hearing or vision loss, particularly in language development but also in other key areas such as cognition, motor and social development.

Children can be enrolled at RIDBC as soon as they are diagnosed with hearing or vision loss. From the earliest age, RIDBC teachers and therapists work closely with families to help them understand their child’s disability and learn how they can best support them. Parents are taught strategies to help their children develop language and overcome some of the challenges associated with having impaired vision or hearing.

RIDBC Preschools

RIDBC operates five preschools for vision or hearing impaired children. All RIDBC preschools are reverse integration preschools. They are purpose built to cater for the needs of children with vision or hearing loss but children from the community also attend and are excellent language and learning models for their peers. Every RIDBC preschool is reviewed against the National Quality Framework for Early Childhood Education and Care and consistently exceeds national standards.
Support is provided to families of children from non–English speaking backgrounds from any cultural group, however RIDBC has specialist staff to assist Chinese speaking and Arabic speaking families. RIDBC also runs programs specifically designed to accommodate Indigenous Australian children and families.

RIDBC Community Support Services

RIDBC individually tailors programs for each child using the latest technology to ensure they have every opportunity to succeed.
Specialist teachers also provide assistance to independent schools. Children with hearing or vision loss who attend these schools are supported to assist them to effectively access the mainstream school curriculum. For vision impaired students, braille, large print, low vision aids and technology services are provided. The RIDBC Alternative Format Publications Unit produces over 250,000 pages of braille, large print and tactile material each year. RIDBC aims to have large print and braille ready for students when their sighted peers receive the standard copy.
RIDBC provides a variety of specialist services which is unique in Australia including three schools and five preschools.

RIDBC Schools

RIDBC operates three schools:

**RIDBC Garfield Barwick School** is for children who listen and speak with the aid of cochlear implants or hearing aids. Students are gradually integrated into mainstream ‘partner schools’.

**RIDBC Alice Betteridge School** is for school aged children who have a hearing or vision loss and a level of intellectual impairment. All teaching is highly individualised.

**RIDBC Thomas Pattison School** offers an educational program for students who use Auslan (Australian Sign Language) as their first or primary language and English in its spoken and written form.
RIDBC Plus

RIDBC Plus is an innovative and flexible therapy service designed to meet the needs of children with hearing and/or vision loss and their families. Specially trained speech pathologists, occupational therapists and physiotherapists provide family-centred therapy.

Children accessing therapy services through RIDBC Plus are offered sessions to target specific aspects of the child’s development which is determined in consultation with parents and other service providers. Therapy is offered to assist in all agreed developmental areas including areas related to additional disabilities.

RIDBC Plus operates from a number of sites across NSW on a fee for service basis.

RIDBC Assessment Unit

This unit provides assessments for children who have a significant hearing or vision loss, including children with additional disabilities. It is a unique service in Australia whereby parents can access a broad range of professionals experienced in sensory impairment to obtain an educational assessment for their child.

The unit provides information to assist parents and professionals to understand more about a child’s sensory impairment and to meet a child’s educational and developmental needs.
RIDBC Jim Patrick Audiology Centre

RIDBC Jim Patrick Audiology Centre is a family friendly audiology clinic offering a full range of audiological services to children from anywhere in Australia. The centre is staffed by a leading team of paediatric audiologists. Services include diagnostic audiology through to support for modern technology such as high powered hearing aids and cochlear implants.

RIDBC Teleschool

RIDBC Teleschool provides educational/therapy services to children with hearing or vision loss who live in regional or rural parts of Australia. Service is primarily delivered by videoconference and complemented by email, fax, phone and post. Families are encouraged to visit the Sydney campus to supplement their regular service delivery. These visits also provide the opportunity for parents to learn from other parents and to share stories about raising children with hearing or vision loss among others who understand.
RIDBC Cochlear Implant Program

RIDBC Cochlear Implant Program allows a seamless, end-to-end service from diagnosis through implantation and habilitation. RIDBC provides assistance along every stage of the cochlear implant journey, with our expert staff working closely with external health providers to enhance outcomes. Centre-based or remote service delivery is available for all components of the program using videoconference or web-based technologies.

Australian Hearing Hub

An initiative of Macquarie University, the Australian Hearing Hub brings RIDBC together with the country’s best hearing and allied health organisations. Our presence at the Australian Hearing Hub provides another location where families can access any of RIDBC’s programs and services. RIDBC is proud to contribute its expertise to further the field through a combined effort to reduce the impact of deafness or hearing loss.

RIDBC Renwick Centre

RIDBC Renwick Centre is Australia’s leading provider of professional development and research in areas related to the education of children with hearing or vision loss. In affiliation with the University of Newcastle the Centre offers postgraduate programs (at Masters and Doctoral degree levels) and an extensive program of continuing
More than 600 professionals from around the world have received postgraduate qualifications from RIDBC Renwick Centre.

professional education for teachers, therapists, and a range of other associated professionals.

Through the Renwick Centre, RIDBC helps to ensure that services for children with sensory disabilities and their families—across Australia and around the world—are based on current evidence and are delivered by skilled and knowledgeable professionals.

World-class facilities provide an excellent environment for study and the research and development of new techniques in assessment and a wide range of interventions for children with vision and/or hearing loss. Among the facilities is the Rydge Family Library which houses the most extensive collection of books and resources in special education for children with sensory disabilities in Australia.
RIDBC educates and supports children and their families from their first weeks of life right through their teenage years.
You can help make a difference in the lives of children with vision or hearing loss.

To make a donation call 1800 043 411 or visit www.ridbc.org.au/donate
How to help:

Join a fundraising group
RIDBC has around 1500 people helping behind the scenes as members of fundraising groups.

Make a bequest
Your support through a gift in your Will creates a legacy for future generations.

Become a volunteer
Volunteers support our staff in areas as diverse as proof-reading braille, helping in classrooms and even gardening.

Buy a Rainbow Lottery ticket
The Rainbow Lottery is held four times a year with $25,000 in prizes on offer including cash and gift vouchers.

Participate in a fundraising event or organise your own
Enlist the support of friends, family, school and work colleagues. We can help you plan your fundraising event for RIDBC.

Become a corporate partner
Align your organisation with RIDBC and encourage staff to fundraise and support the children.

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