

Friends of Able

Standing alongside deafblind people,
thanks to our supporters.



Alex
experiencing
Sensas

A Sensory challenge

When **Alex** stepped into the Sensas experience, he didn't know what to expect. Like many people who are deafblind, unfamiliar environments can feel overwhelming. But with his CommGuide beside him, Alex surprised himself, solving puzzles, laughing and trusting his senses in new ways. He said, *"I really loved the Ballpit room! The experience was so meaningful for Deafblind participants because there aren't many accessible Escape or Challenge rooms."*

Able Australia's Deafblind Recreation Group thoroughly enjoyed their excursion to Sensas, an immersive experience where you use different senses to complete challenges!

Deafblind participants were supported by communication guides and interpreters through the fun sensory challenges.

Fun-filled trip to an accessible beach!

Frankston Beach recently tested an incredible new **accessible beach** pilot program. Our Deafblind Recreation Group enjoyed the opportunity to spend the day relaxing in cabanas, lounging on banana lounges and cruising with beach wheelchairs and walkers. Many clients were supported by the experienced

The groups' excellent sense of touch, taste and smell, plus skills in sign language led to them breaking records in solving puzzles!

We highly recommend the **Sensas Experience** to everyone in Melbourne. For each challenge completed, you'll collect charms that are added to the tally raising funds for Able Australia's programs supporting people with complex disabilities! You can also grab an Able Auslan poster to keep learning sign language at home.



*At Able, inclusion isn't a concept.
It's something you can touch, taste,
hear and feel.*

Commguides trained by Able. Some of the people we support enjoyed a swim in the bay while others explored the sand with tactile mats. It was a perfect blend of relaxation and adventure!



Having fun exploring city attractions

Clients were supported by the team from Able's Day Services in unforgettable adventures to the city's most-loved attractions.

Excursions included Melbourne Zoo, Aquarium, Museum, Eureka Tower and National Gallery of Victoria. From exploring the exhibits to soaking in the sunshine with smiles, the days were packed with fun, laughter and connection.



Thanks to City of Melbourne for supporting this community inclusion project.

Because of your support, people with complex disabilities can feel more welcome and part of the community.

Moments of joy matter, and so does getting there safely..

DB-SAFE: Deafblind-Safer Access for Everyone

Imagine trying to cross the road safely when you have both vision and hearing loss. **For people who are deafblind, crossing the road can be dangerous.**

Able's new project, **DB-SAFE** will:

- Hear directly from deafblind people and their Commguides about road safety concerns
- Deliver in-person workshops to improve travel safety
- Develop accessible resources and staff training tools



Our DB-SAFE workshop for CommGuides and Support Workers included training and practice in the local community while crossing roads and accessing public transport.

The DB-SAFE project is supported through a TAC Road Safety Grant and a Department of Transport and Planning Community Road Safety Grant.

Thank you to our supporters and the deafblind community.



We look forward to updating you on the next stage of the project — delivering a series of four DB-SAFE Workshops to the deafblind community.

Together, we're working towards safer, more inclusive travel for everyone.

Thank you for supporting our Christmas Appeal

Your kind donations to Able Australia's Christmas Appeal helped fund personalised gifts and meaningful moments for our **576 clients** (with multiple complex disabilities) across Australia.



A special thanks to donors who sent Christmas messages for our clients. Emily was excited that her artwork was featured on the baubles. She also loves learning to ride the new bike at Able's Children's respite!



What you made possible at Christmas continues every day. *It's a reminder to the people we support that they are seen, known and valued.*

Amy's new skills and creations

When you light a candle, or unwrap a soap from Made by Mosaic, you're holding more than just a product. You're holding a story.

Through our innovative social enterprise, **Amy** expresses herself creatively while developing valuable work skills. When making candles, she chooses the scents, pours the wax, labels the jars and packs orders with care. You will often find her at local markets, providing exceptional customer service. She has also learned to use the point-of-sale app on the iPad and EFTPOS and is now a mentor to newer makers!

Please support our inclusive work by choosing from our collection of beautiful, handcrafted gifts, each one telling a story of confidence, connection, and capability.

If you're in Hobart, pop into our store at **2a Pierce Street, Moonah** on weekdays.

Or you can support our artists here: www.madebymosaic.com.au



Support our clients with disability



A gift that will last a lifetime

Many people like you, who passionately support Able Australia, consider providing a donation or leaving a gift in their Will that funds many of our life-transforming projects.

Leaving a legacy to Able Australia in your Will is a very special way of giving a gift that keeps giving. A gift in your Will — no matter how big or small — ensures that Able Australia will continue to support and empower people living with complex disabilities.

We're excited to partner with EveryWill (formerly Gathered Here) to make legacy giving as easy as possible for our

supporters. **Wills written on EveryWill are completely free of charge and include free updates for life.**

It'll only take around 10 minutes, and no matter how many times you change your mind, you can change your Will too.

Able Australia supporters, and your families can write a Will for free just using the QR code below, or visit

ableaustralia.org.au/gift-in-will



For Bequest information, please contact Rose Livingston on 1300 220 602 or email fundraising@ableaustralia.org.au



Join Able:Community (monthly donation program)

Join Able:Community, to empower and enable people living with complex disabilities in Australia to achieve their life goals.

Each month, your investment will drive initiatives including:

- Giving young people a memorable experience like horse riding, cooking or swimming lessons.
- Supplying deafblind people with the assistive technology and supports they

need for communication and everyday activities.

- Supporting Able's Centre of Excellence — Deafblind in training, advocacy and deafblind research for all ages.

Giving monthly helps Able Australia plan future programs, offers you behind the scenes exclusive updates and gives continued support to people with disability. Phone Jess or Rose in our Donor Care Team on **1300 220 602** or set up a recurring gift on donate.ableaustralia.org.au/

Thank you for being a part of creating special opportunities for the people we support.

Please contact our Donor Care Team to let us know what you thought about our Newsletter and tell us what you'd like to hear more about in the future:

Phone **1300 220 602** or email fundraising@ableaustralia.org.au.

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