

1st May 2008

Mr A B Sample
123 Sample Street
Sample Town VIC 3000



When you are deaf and blind, being able to share everyday experiences means so much

Dear <Title> <Surname>,

Shane loves tea. He can identify all the different varieties by their scent. He knows his favourite Japanese tea cup by its shape in his hand. In fact, the only thing that Shane loves more than his tea, is being able to sit down and have a good, long chat.

Living with 50 other people in supported accommodation, you would think that Shane must spend his days chatting to everyone and anyone. But sadly, he can't.

Shane is the only deafblind resident living in the facility, and he can't communicate with his house mates and they can't communicate with him.

So instead, Shane spends hours upon hours pacing up and down the corridor and sorting his tea packets over and over again, counting the days until he is visited by our support workers or when he comes out to our Deafblind recreation days.

Shane is just one of many people who would benefit from spending more time supported by Able Australia. But as many of our deafblind support programs receive little or no government funding, we look to our supporters to help with the shortfall.

As you would already know, Able was formerly called The Deafblind Association. It was started back in

(Please turn over ...)

YOUR SUPPORT WILL HELP FUND THESE UPCOMING ACTIVITIES:

- Trip to St Kilda Sea Baths - May 7th
- Workshop for first aid and home safety - May 28th
- Shopping at Ikea - June 11th
- Ice skating at the Docklands - July 31st
- Trip to the Snow!! - August 13th
- Yoga and Healthy Lifestyle - August 27th
- The Melbourne Show - September 24th

AND HOPEFULLY MUCH MORE!



the 1960s when an outbreak of Rubella caused many babies to be born profoundly or completely deaf and blind. Of course, those infants are today middle-aged adults who are reliant on Able. This is because their parents, who once provided so much of their care, are now elderly or have since passed away.

In addition, Able Australia Services also welcomes others. People like Shane.

Shane's deafblindness was not caused by Rubella but from tumours that were removed from his body and brain at a young age. This also caused permanent paralysis, though as an adult, he managed to live in a flat for some years until he recently suffered a fall and fractured his neck. These days, as well as being deafblind, Shane also has balance problems and can only get around with the aid of a walker.

As Able is one of the few organisations that supports people with multiple disabilities – we don't ever want to turn anyone away. Of course, this means that access to our services must be limited. It's not ideal, we realise, and this is why I'm writing in the hope that you can help.

If you could donate \$60, for instance, that would be wonderful. This gift would provide another three hours for one person to have a support worker. This time could mean a walk in the park and a visit to a café for a nice cup of tea for a person we support. More importantly, it would mean having someone to communicate with.

If you could manage to give \$75 or \$150, for example, it would mean so much. This would fill the tank in our bus for a day or two out and about. As you can imagine, day trips are a highlight for our friends. We only have room for so many at our facilities, so these trips enable us to include more people in the services we provide.

Of course, as always, we are so grateful for any help you can give. Your gift, for example, could help cover the daily transport costs of our volunteers. These people are so generous with their time, they really shouldn't be out of pocket as well. If our volunteers' fares are covered, they may even be able to help us out more often.

I can't imagine what life for the people we support would be like without your kindness.

Thank you for supporting Able Australia Services. It means so very much to Shane and others like him.

My best regards,



Celestine Hare
Chief Executive

PS Remember that if you donate by June 30, you can claim it on your next tax return.

PPS I hope you enjoy the sample tea that Shane himself has recommended for your pleasure, watch out for your VIP invitation to the official Ableart launch.

YES! Please use my gift to make the day of someone with deafblindness

My able Gift is: \$25 \$45 \$70 \$_____ **my choice**

Enclosed is my: Cheque/Money Order **OR**

Please debit my: Visa MasterCard Diners Club AMEX

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Name on Card _____

Signature _____ Expires ____/____

Email _____ Ph. _____

Gifts \$2 and over are tax deductible. Donate before 30 June to claim this year!



Mr A B Sample
123 Sample Street
Sample Town VIC 3000

PO Box 1145, Camberwell VIC 3124
Phone 1300 225 369 Fax (03) 9882 9210
TTY (03) 9882 6786
Website: www.ableaustralia.org.au
Email: info@ableaustralia.org.au