**PHIL HARPER, Ph.D.**

Phil Harper is currently Coordinator of World Federation of the Deaf’s Expert Panel on Accessibility – Technology and Sign Language and has been a member since 2003. He has been

appointed International President for the Accessibility and Technology Commission for the 2019 WFD Congress in Paris, France. He was in the same role was International President in Brisbane, Australia in 1999 and in Istanbul, Turkey in 2015.

Phil has been an advocate for human rights for deaf people for over 30 years with special interest in accessible technology, empowerment through leadership training and legislation. He has written several journal articles, presented at national and international conferences and has developed and facilitated many accessible technology and leadership training programs. Phil has attended international government and non-government meetings and conferences in relation to accessible technology on behalf of WFD.

He was Deaf Australia’s representative and lead advocate in the lobbying for a national relay service and better telecommunications access in the 1980s and 1990s.

Phil gained his Doctorate of Philosophy from Deakin University, Burwood. Victoria in 2009 researching the impact of video relay interpreting on deaf people in the workplace. He also received a Churchill Fellowship in 1983.

Phil currently works with Conexu Foundation as Community Liaison Manager. Other past

employment included as Manager – Video Relay Interpreting Service with Vicdeaf and   
Manager of Deaf Victoria (State Deaf Advocacy and Information service).

He is Past President and Board member, Deaf Sports Australia; a Life member of Deaf   
Australia, winner of Deaf Australia’s Deaf Achievers Award in 1996; member of Deaf Victoria since 1982; married with 4 children; Interests include travel, reading, bushwalking, sports and community advocacy; and, resides in Melbourne, Australia.