SPEVI NZ Executive

The executive comprises a President, Secretary, Treasurer and up to three additional members elected at the Annual General Meeting of SPEVI NZ. The executive meets regularly and hosts SPEVI member meetings.

The role of the executive includes:

- Actively promoting SPEVI's aims and objectives
- Working in partnership with SPEVI Inc.
- Strengthening connections and collaboration within the blindness sector in New Zealand
- Promoting SPEVI membership in the Pacific region and consulting directly with Pacific Island members
- Leading, organising and coordinating SPEVI NZ meetings and activities
- Receiving and distributing information to members
- Maintaining SPEVI NZ documents and records
- Holding responsibility for receipt and agreed expenditure of SPEVI NZ funds, including member subscriptions
- Responding to members' priorities

The executive welcomes your participation and contribution. If you are interested in being part of the SPEVI NZ executive please contact the SPEVI secretary at ***spevinz@gmail.com***

CONTACTS

SPEVI
https://www.spevi.net/

FACEBOOK
https://www.facebook.com/SPEVIInc/

The Secretary SPEVI NZ
spevinz@gmail.com

SPEVI
South Pacific Educators in Vision Impairment

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WHAT YOU NEED TO KNOW

HISTORY

SPEVI has longevity!

The association had its beginnings in Australia. At a conference of professionals and teachers held in Cheltenham Victoria in 1955, Paul Percy, an enthusiastic member of the New South Wales Teachers' Federation sought and gained support for a similar organisation for teachers of the blind.

By 1957 an association was established as The Australian Association of Teachers of the Blind (AATB).

In 1958 New Zealand teachers of the blind were invited to join AATB. The Association underwent a number of name changes.

In 1969 it was known as the Australian and New Zealand Association of Teachers of the Visually Handicapped (ANZATVH).

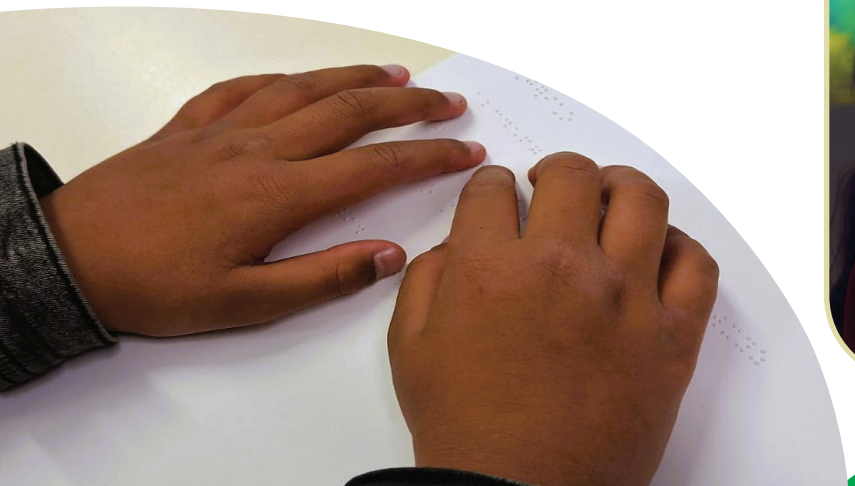
In 1989 the word 'teachers' was replaced with 'educators' to include all contributors to blind and low vision education.

The title Australian and New Zealand Association of Educators of the Visually Handicapped (ANZAEVH), remained until 1999 when the Association adopted its current name, the South Pacific Educators in Vision Impairment (SPEVI), recognising and including members in Pacific Island countries.

In 2005 the NZ 'branch' of SPEVI decided that it would be known as SPEVI NZ, in order to accommodate the important legal, financial, educational and cultural differences that influence the operational role of SPEVI in New Zealand. A separate constitution, written in 2000 to meet the requirements needed to become an incorporated society was retained.

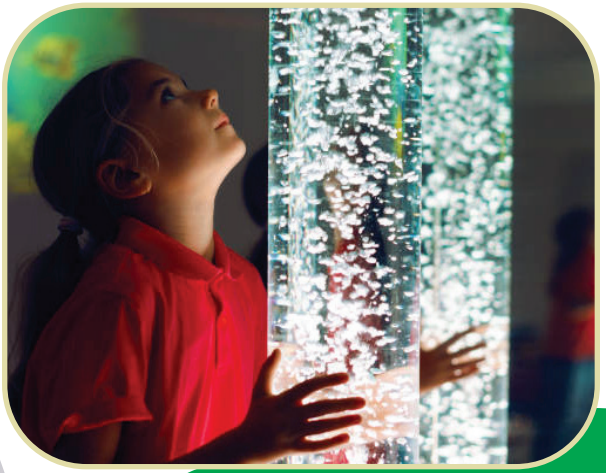
A Memorandum of Understanding with SPEVI Inc. in Australia, (ratified in Sydney on 21 January 2011) serves to ensure that the key aims of the SPEVI organisation are maintained.

SPEVI NZ and SPEVI Inc. both remain closely aligned and work in partnership.



SPEVI Aims

- To be recognised as the professional body in matters pertaining to blind and low vision education.
- To stimulate research and to encourage the highest standards in blind and low vision education.
- To promote general and special training in blind and low vision education.
- To promote and facilitate the interchange of information among parents, educators, consumers, other professional groups and the community concerning education and equal opportunity for persons who are blind or have low vision.
- To promote and facilitate cooperation in fully utilising services and equipment that support blind and low vision education.
- To promote and participate in the circulation of literature and other information relating to the education of persons who are blind or have low vision.
- To collaborate with organisations whose objectives are similar to those of SPEVI.
- To use all available resources to further the objectives of SPEVI.
- To promote collaboration and co-operation among service providers.
- To evaluate and encourage the use of appropriate up to date materials, including technical equipment, in the education of persons who are blind or have low vision, and support in-depth teacher education programmes in the use of new techniques and technology.
- To work in close partnership with SPEVI Inc. Australia.



MEMBERSHIP

Join others in influencing the future of blind and low vision education in the wider South Pacific region.

SPEVI membership is available to anyone interested or involved in blind and low vision education. SPEVI welcomes all school staff including those in leadership positions, resource teachers vision, classroom teachers, special education needs coordinators, learning support professionals, teacher aides, parents / carers / whānau, therapists, health and vision professionals, orientation and mobility specialists, technology consultants, academics, students and volunteers.

Benefits of membership include opportunities to:

- Be part of a collaborative and inclusive association where members can communicate, debate, learn and respond to issues that are relevant to the education of children and young people who are blind, deafblind or have low vision.
- Share ideas and knowledge through participation in meetings, SPEVI conferences, SPEVI Communities of Practice and the SPEVI Journal. (Members receive discounted rates to SPEVI conferences).

Subscriptions include full membership and associate membership

See the website for details and application forms
https://www.spevi.net/spevi-nz/