

Types of deafblindness

Congenital Deafblindness:

Congenital deafblindness is a term used when people are born deafblind or when their combined hearing and vision impairment occurs before spoken, signed or other visual forms of language and communication have developed.

Acquired deafblindness:

People who are born deaf or hard of hearing and later experience deteriorating sight.

Usher Syndrome for example, causes deafness or hearing impairment at birth and vision impairment later in life.

People who are born vision impaired or blind and go on to experience hearing loss at a later stage.



What is Deafblindness?



P: 9856 3516
www.deafblind.org.au
info@deafblind.org.au



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What is deafblindness?

Deafblindness is a unique and isolating sensory disability resulting from the combination of both hearing and vision loss or impairment.

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This has a significant effect on communication, socialisation, mobility and daily living.



Deafblind by numbers

0.2 - 2% of the population

Studies have reported from 0.2% to 2% of the population may be deafblind.

100,000 people

In Australia nearly 100,000 are reported to be deafblind, two-thirds are over the age of 65 years.

36% over 85 years

One study reported 36% of individuals over the age of 85 years are deafblind.



Effects of Deafblindness

A small number of people will have no sight or hearing.

Other people who are deafblind will have varying degrees of vision and/or hearing.

Experiences and understanding of the world around them will be different depending on whether a person was born deafblind or acquired vision and hearing loss through deterioration of these senses later in life.