



**MEDIA RELEASE:**  
**Monday, 12 October 2009**

## **GUIDE DOGS VICTORIA CELEBRATES INTERNATIONAL WHITE CANE DAY**

Held on October 15 every year, **International White Cane Day** aims to create more awareness about the mobility needs of people who are blind and vision impaired; and encourage sighted people to look out for White Cane users and offer assistance, if necessary.

Jenny Black, Mobility Services Manager at **Guide Dogs Victoria** says, "Loss of independent mobility can have a devastating effect on people's sense of freedom and independence."

"Our aim at **Guide Dogs Victoria** is to train people to maximise use of their remaining vision and other senses to develop safe and independent mobility skills such as pedestrian safety. We do this by use of mobility training, which may include the use of mobility aids such as a White Cane or a Guide Dog. The nature and extent of vision loss differs from person to person, so **Guide Dogs Victoria** works with individuals to find the right mobility solution to meet their needs."

Despite deteriorating vision, **Guide Dogs Victoria** can assist clients to optimise their remaining vision and use their other senses to compensate as much as possible for the vision loss. Programs aim to help clients to quickly regain their confidence, build their self-esteem and regain some level of independent mobility.

If you, a friend or a family member is vision impaired, you may wish to contact **Guide Dogs Victoria** on (03) 9854 4467 to discuss the options. Enquiries can also be made via email [referrals@guidedogsvictoria.com.au](mailto:referrals@guidedogsvictoria.com.au).

Guide Dogs Victoria provides a range of mobility services to people who are blind or vision impaired, including Guide Dog Mobility, Children's Mobility and services for people whose vision loss results from an acquired brain injury such as stroke. All services are provided totally free of charge throughout metropolitan and regional Victoria.

***For more information, please contact:***

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