



**ALIA Access 2010 Conference**  
**Brisbane Convention & Exhibition Centre**  
**Wednesday 1 – Friday 3 September 2010**



**CAN EVERYBODY SEE THIS?**

Tony Iezzi, Vision Australia Library, VIC

The world of information is defined and designed by the sighted majority. A person who is print disabled doesn't get to read the newspapers, magazines, books, music scores and the other many printed materials that sighted people read and take for granted every day. For many, the only way to be informed is by listening to news stories being broadcast. These are select and few in number, compared to the number of articles published beyond the broadcast media. In fact, only 3-5% of all print based material is accessible to the vision impaired community.

It is the lack of information that is cited as the biggest barrier for the print disability community to participate more fully in life, in the wider community and in having more options and exercising a greater range of choices.

Vision Australia (VA) is working to make print based information accessible to people with a print disability. By using the i-access® Online Library, members can access audio books and magazines, Braille books, newspapers and other publications. This collection offers mainly DAISY formatted titles allowing greater accessibility for readers. The breadth of news coverage and the depth of analysis available make this service a key contributor to accessible information being available immediately.