

Empowering the blind and vision impaired

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*- Donna Hurley
Guide Dogs
Queensland*

Who are they?

Guide Dogs Queensland
Member of International
Guide Dogs Federation

Where are they?

Throughout Queensland,
Australia

What do they do?

Guide Dogs Queensland's mission is to equip, empower and educate blind and vision impaired Queenslanders with services and resources that enable them to maintain independence, mobility and freedom.

What did they receive?

\$10,000 worth of Microsoft® software packages and licensing.

The outcome?

“It's been of great benefit for our staff and our clients,”
- Donna Hurley

www.guidedogsqld.com.au

While most people associate Guide Dogs services with their famous icon the Guide Dog – the provision of these special helpers is just part of the service provided by Guide Dogs Queensland.



The organisation educates clients about their vision loss so they are able to focus on what is achievable instead of what is not. It equips clients with the mobility aids and skills necessary to live independent lives.

“We empower blind and vision impaired Queenslanders by helping them achieve mobility, independence and freedom,” said Donna Hurley, Communications and Marketing Manager of Guide Dogs Queensland.

“Our services are life changing. We advocate on behalf of blind and vision impaired Queenslanders to ensure public places are equipped with the infrastructure and information they require to engage with the community.”

In mid-2007, through the DonorTec program, Guide Dogs Queensland received Microsoft® software packages and licensing to the value of \$10,000.

“It's been of great benefit for staff and our clients,” said Ms Hurley. “In addition to the staff benefiting from using the Microsoft® software for administration duties, our clients have access to the client residence workstation, at our main centre in Brisbane.”

Ms Hurley said there were also several low vision support groups who use the computer workstation.

“We are a not-for-profit organisation and receive less than seven per cent funding from government,” said Ms Hurley. “The vast majority of our services are funded and sustained by donations, community support, corporate sponsorship and grants.

“Donations such as the Microsoft® software and licences we received through DonorTec help us to keep operational costs to a minimum, which allows us to direct more funding into our services.

“Though we are best known for our Guide Dogs, it's our rehabilitation services that form the largest sector of our business,” she explained.

“We conduct orientation and mobility training, host workshops; teach life skills, job skills and we provide counselling to clients and families. The more current and professional our equipment is, the better it is for our organisation and for our clients,” said Ms Hurley.

About DonorTec:
www.donortec.com.au

DonorTec provides donated software and hardware from companies such as Microsoft® and Cisco to eligible Australian non profit groups, assisting them to build their ICT capacity. Hundreds of groups have already benefited from the DonorTec Program, which is provided by Community Information Strategies Australia Inc (CISA) - via the Communit project - in partnership with TechSoup. CISA and Compumentor/TechSoup are nonprofit organisations involved in a global partnership for technology donations.