



## NEW OPENACCESS APP IMPROVES ACCESSIBILITY TO OLD DUBBO GAOL

Dubbo Regional Council is pleased to launch a new iPhone/Android app at the Old Dubbo Gaol that allows the deaf and hard of hearing to equally experience the award winning tourist attraction.

The *OpenAccess* app is available for download on iPhone and Android and translates the Old Dubbo Gaol's interpretation signage into Auslan videos so the hard of hearing can participate and engage in self-guided tours.

Michael McMahon, CEO of Dubbo Regional Council said he was extremely proud of the team for looking at new ways to be an inclusive tourism attraction.

"I have personally been to the gaol to see how this app works for the deaf and hard of hearing and it's fantastic. I'd like to commend the team on continually improving the site to ensure everyone in the community can have equal access to this very significant attraction for our region," said Mr McMahon

Users can simply download the app, find Old Dubbo Gaol as an option and download the content over wifi. When the visitor gets to the site it is a matter of inputting the numbers on the sign they wish to read and it displays the Auslan video.

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Try watching this video on [www.youtube.com](http://www.youtube.com), or enable JavaScript if it is disabled in your browser.

Jessica Hull, Group Booking Officer for the Old Dubbo Gaol said the response from the hard of hearing community has been fantastic.

“I have had the pleasure of demonstrating the app to people hard of hearing and those who work with the deaf community the excitement and enthusiasm is overwhelming,” said Ms Hull.

The *OpenAccess* app has translated interpretive signage into Auslan for many sites across the country including Maitland Gaol, Art Gallery of NSW and the National Gallery of Australia.

This project is driven by Dubbo Regional Councils Disability Inclusion Plan aiming to make Dubbo and the region as accessible as possible to all sections of the community.

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The background is a solid blue color. It features several stylized virus particles of varying sizes and shades of blue and white. The largest virus particle is in the center, with a dark blue core and a lighter blue outer shell covered in small white protrusions. Other smaller virus particles are scattered around it, some with more prominent spikes. The overall aesthetic is clean and modern.

# COVID-19 RESPONSE