

30 June 2011

Helping the vision impaired find their way

Braille pedestrian signs are being trialled at the Currie, Grenfell and King William Street intersection in a joint collaboration between Adelaide City Council, Guide Dogs SA.NT and the Royal Society for the Blind (RSB).

The signs were installed this week and consist of both large letters and Braille located on traffic signal poles at each corner of the intersection.

Lord Mayor Stephen Yarwood is delighted with the new developments.

“Council works very closely with a number of organisations to improve disability access throughout the city and this is a great initiative to assist the vision impaired,” Stephen said.

“It’s a simple measure that can go a long way in helping the vision impaired to find exactly where they are and navigate around the city.”

Guide Dogs SA.NT’s Manager Vision and Sensory Services Garry Peschel says the new signs are a welcome addition in the city for people living with a vision impairment.

“These signs are an effective tool which will provide not only assistance but will also hopefully increase personal confidence in what can often be a confronting environment.”

With almost 12,000 clients across South Australia, the RSB is thrilled with Adelaide City Council’s continued dedication to increase accessibility for people who are blind or vision impaired.

“Braille pedestrian signs will particularly benefit the RSB’s visiting and country clients who are not familiar with the metropolitan area,” said Tony Starkey, RSB Representative for Government Relations and Accessibility.

Guide Dogs SA.NT and the RSB will monitor the effectiveness of the signs and after a six month trial a report will be presented back to Council.

Media Contact: Naomi Marsh (08) 8203 7446 or 0448 665 443
