

DEAF PLACE: WORK

The Future

With the continuous improvements in technology and increasing numbers of registered and regulated interpreters to enable greater access, the future looks brighter for Deaf people. What remains a challenge is educating people, both Deaf and hearing, that Deaf people 'can'. Hearing employers need to look past the deficit model of deafness and embrace the wonders of technology. Hearing employers and Deaf people themselves, need to embrace 'Deaf Gain' (Bauman & Murray, 2014). They need to be open to and mindful of the benefits, contributions and advances that arise from the Deaf ways of being (ibid).

"I think in the future Deaf people will do well in terms of the jobs they do, especially with the improvements in technology and with better availability of interpreters. With the pool of [Deaf] professionals growing, I can't see any problems, I think things will continue to get better. Some Deaf people may well need reminding and encouraging that they 'can'. The internalisation of 'I can't', needs resolving.

(John Vare)

"In the future, we may well have a Deaf PM. We have already had a Deaf MP - it was however a short span in office. Similarly we have had people in council positions, but they've equally been short lived too. We need to continue increasing the scope of the positions Deaf people are in. I'd love to see a Deaf doctor potentially in a high-profile job in science for the government, or someone in MI5, a spy, I don't see why not.

(Ricci Collins)

"Of course, I believe Deaf people will achieve more in the future and can achieve whatever's in their heart or dreams. They need to be told they will achieve, just as hearing children are. I don't see why Deaf children cannot achieve the things that their hearing peers can, they should never say they cannot, because they can. A Deaf person could be a doctor, a dentist, an English teacher, any professional role, they can do any role they want, never stop dreaming, remember that.

(Ola Bolinska)

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