# Screen Readers: Everything Access and Teaching Staff should know

Darren Britten • Andrew Downie • Kiah Buhler • Doug McGinn

## Slide 2: Screen Readers 101

What is a Screen Reader? What does it do? How does it work?

Over the next 50 minutes we will seek to unpack these questions and dispel some of the myths around accessibility and screen readers. Andrew, Doug and Kiah will share their unique insights and experiences to help you in making the world a little more screen reader-friendly.

## Slide 3: Acknowledgements

In the spirit of reconciliation, we would like to acknowledge the Traditional Custodians of country throughout Australia and their connections to land, sea and community. We pay our respect to their elders past, present and emerging and extend that respect to all Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples today.  
  
While virtually connected today we are presenting geographically dispersed and acknowledge the Wurundjeri people of the Kulin nation in Victoria, the peoples of Stoney Creek nation in Tasmania and the lands of Cammeraygal peoples in NSW.

## Slide 4: Andrew Downie

## Slide 5:

What is a screen reader?

## Slide 6:

How intelligent are they?

## Slide 7:

How do screen readers convey information in tables?

## Slide 8:

What can and cannot be read with a screen reader?

## Slide 9: Kiah Buhler

## Slide 10:

What equipment can you use with a screen reader?

## Slide 11:

Do commands vary between screen readers?

## Slide 12:

Can a person using a screen reader read information as fast as their sighted colleagues?

## Slide 13:

Is it only blind people that use screen readers?

## Slide 14: Doug McGinn

## Slide 15:

Where do screen reader users get training?

## Slide 16:

Where can screen reader users go to get support?

## Slide 17:

Are screen reader users the experts in accessibility?

## Slide 18: Darren Britten

## Slide 19: What can you do to make the world a little more screen reader friendly?

* Use headings in your documents and online content
* Use the accessibility checker in Microsoft Office
* Provide meaningful links
* Adding context and meaning to your content
* Name your files with meaningful titles
* Say what you mean when recording or describing a function

## Slide 20: What can you do to make the world a little more screen reader friendly?

* Provide keyboard shortcuts/guides to students
* Put important information up front
* Include screen reader users in projects and program development
* And most importantly….ask someone

## Slide 21: Further information and resources

* Upcoming ADCET Guidelines: Online Tertiary Access for Students and Staff who are Blind or Vision Impaired
* [Australian Disability Clearinghouse on Education and Training](http://www.adcet.edu.au/)
* [ZOOM - Hot Keys and Keyboard Shortcuts](https://www.adcet.edu.au/resource/10623/zoom-hot-keys-and-keyboard-shortcuts) and [Microsoft Teams - Keyboard shortcuts](https://www.adcet.edu.au/resource/10624/microsoft-teams-keyboard-shortcuts)
* [Improve Accessibility with the built-in Microsoft Office Accessibility Checker](https://www.adcet.edu.au/resource/10657/improve-accessibility-with-the-built-in-microsoft-office-accessibility-checker)
* [Disability Awareness eLearning](https://disabilityawareness.com.au/)

## Slide 22: Further information and resources

* [A guide to Hierarchical Headings](https://www.adcet.edu.au/resource/10113/hierarchical-headings) and [The Importance of Correct Document Structure](https://www.adcet.edu.au/resource/10112/the-importance-of-correct-document-structure) by Andrew Downie
* Upcoming ADCET Guidelines: Online Tertiary Access for Students and Staff who are Blind or Vision Impaired

## Slide 23: Thank You