



FROM THE CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER

Christmas is fast approaching and we are coming to the close of a very busy year. This bumper edition of Deaf Views shows the hard work and achievements of each and every member of the team here at Deaf Services Queensland. I want to recognise the dedication that has seen an improvement of all our services and programs; particularly with the additional work load of organising the 4th World Congress on Mental Health and Deafness held in October.

The recent announcement by Disability Services Queensland of State government funding to support Deaf and hard of hearing people in the Townsville region is exciting news. We are planning to consult with the Deaf community in Townsville to make sure our service delivery meets the needs of Deaf and hard of hearing people and their families.

I am very proud to be part of this important work and know that it is the whole community that makes it possible for Deaf and hard of hearing children, youth and adults in each of our neighbourhoods to live fulfilling lives and achieve to their full potential. Thank you for your support and I wish you and your family the very best that life can bring.

Damian Lacey,
CEO, Deaf Services Queensland

LUCKY WINNERS!

Long time residents of Blackall, Kevin and Sharyn Harlow were the lucky winners of our recent Deaf Lottery draw. It didn't take long for all the towns folk to hear about the win and congratulate the couple.

The Harlow's have always planned to tour Australia on retirement. Now that dream will be sooner than expected with Kevin and Sharyn choosing a brand new Toyota Landcruiser 4WD as part of the \$350,000 prize value. The next winner could be you! To order your tickets today call 1800 773 678 or visit www.deafлотtery.com.au



Kevin and Sharyn receiving keys to the Toyota Landcruiser from Robbie Butler, owner of Butler's Toyota.

EVENTS AND ACTIVITIES

ROTARY CLUB OF NORTH BRISBANE



Mr David Rees and Heather Lawton

Rotary Club of Brisbane North donated \$1000 to Deaf Services Queensland to support the deaf and hard of hearing community. Pictured is Mr David Rees, club secretary receiving a certificate of appreciation from Heather Lawton Fundraising Manager, Deaf Services Queensland.

FUTURES



Australian Theatre of the Deaf

Australian Theatre of the Deaf (ATOD), the only professional deaf theatre company in Australia recently showcased their production 'Futures' at the Broncos Leagues Club in Brisbane. On their recent tour of Queensland Schools, Deaf Services Queensland organised a night at the theatre for all members of the community to enjoy the production. ATOD prides itself on producing fully accessible theatre with no communication barriers and performs a variety of styles and techniques including, visual theatre, visual vernacular, sign singing, shadow interpreting and mime.

AUSLAN IN THE MALL



Auslan in the Mall

To celebrate the 2009 National Week of Deaf People (October 10 – 16), Deaf Services Queensland hosted 'Auslan in the Mall' in the Queen St Mall, Brisbane on Wednesday 14, October. Auslan in the Mall raises awareness about the Deaf community and their language - Auslan (Australian Sign Language) and bridges the communication gap between the deaf and hearing communities. If you would like to learn Australian Sign Language contact Deaf Services Queensland or visit the website www.deafservicesqld.org.au to find a class near you.

BELLINGHAM MAZE



Sophy Wrangell and Heather Lawton

\$1275 was handed over to Deaf Services Queensland thanks to the generosity of customers at the Bellingham Maze, a Sunshine Coast tourist attraction.

Original owners of Bellingham Maze selected Deaf Services Queensland to receive the funds from the coins thrown into a wishing well, as one of their grand children was partially deaf. Current owners, Wayne and Sophy Wrangell have continued the support.

Pictured left is Deaf Services Queensland Fundraising Manager Heather Lawton presenting Sophy Wrangell with a certificate of thanks for the many years support of Deaf Services Queensland.

DEAF FESTIVAL



On October 31, Queensland Association of the Deaf hosted the 11th Deaf Festival –The Year of Creativity.

Held at Toowong State Scholl oval, this festival gave the Deaf and hard of hearing communities and their friends and family a great opportunity to enjoy a fun day out with the whole family.

This event was supported by Deaf Services Queensland, Brisbane City Council, Deaf Australia, Deaf Sports and Recreation Queensland and the Westside News.



World Congress IN QUEENSLAND

The 4th World Congress on Mental Health and Deafness held recently at the Brisbane Convention and Entertainment Centre were 3 fact filled days which explored the relationship between mental health and deafness.

Hosted by Deaf Services Queensland and Deaf Children Australia, the theme 'A Life to be Lived', focused on mental health issues of deaf people through all of life's stages. The congress included presentations on infants and children, adolescents, adults and older people.

Communication was enhanced with the mental health sector about the need for accessibility of their services for deaf and hard of hearing people. Teachers, early intervention providers, audiologists and social workers play a significant role in the areas of mental health and deafness. This was emphasised and promoted.

The Congress identified collaborative research and service delivery opportunities, including a national research study on mental health and deaf children, an

expansion of the important research conducted by Dr. Andy Cornes, a family psychotherapist from the UK. In the near future, Deaf Children Australia and Deaf Services Queensland will also roll out SAFE, a preventative tool for strengthening the mental health and safety of deaf and hard of hearing children.

Perhaps most importantly, the Congress provided an opportunity for participation of deaf and hard of hearing people to play a major role by reflecting the needs, interests and goals of the community. Over 350 people attended as delegates, keynotes, presenters, chairs, facilitators, staff and volunteers.

Hosting the 4th World Congress on Mental Health and Deafness here in Australia has delivered a message to both State and Federal governments about the major mental health issues facing a signifi-

cant number of deaf and hard of hearing Australians. Building on the Congress success, the Deaf community of Australia call on the Federal Government to fund a national well-being centre on deafness and mental health. This would act as an information and referral point for all Australians who experience mental health and deafness issues.

We are very grateful for the generous support of the Congress from major sponsors Queensland Health and Beyond Blue. We also acknowledge support from Disability Services Queensland, Cochlear Limited, Mental Health Council of Australia and Eli Lilly. The involvement of these and other organisations ensured the huge success of the Congress and resulted in very positive feedback. For more information visit our Congress website: www.mhd2009.org



IN THE NEWS!

SUPPORT for deaf people and their families in the Townsville area will be strengthened thanks to a \$140,000 funding boost from the State Government.

Minister for Disability Services, the Hon Anastacia Palaszczuk MP made the announcement at the start of National Deaf Week 2009. The government will provide \$140,000 to Deaf Services Queensland which will deliver support to Deaf people in the Townsville region. A joint effort in lobbying the government for support between QLD Association of the Deaf and Deaf Services Queensland has secured this funding.

Deaf Services Queensland

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Regional Offices:

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Yes, I would like to help



PO BOX 465, MOOROOKA Q, 4105
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My tax-deductible gift: \$30 \$50 \$100 \$250 other \$

My cheque payable to: **Deaf Services Queensland** is enclosed

Please charge my: Visa Mastercard Amex Expiry Date ____ / ____

Cardholder's name:
PLEASE USE BLOCK LETTERS

Cardholder's signature: Expiry date:

Name:

Address:

Postcode:.....

Phone: Email:



JOURNEY TO Oscar

My name is Tina. Four years ago, I birthed a well-padded baby boy with lots of curly hair and eager blue eyes—my Oscar. Like most babies, he cried all the time and sucked hard on his mother's breast, desperate for constant sustenance. I had indeed become a mother. But not just any mother, I had become the mother of a deaf child.

Yes, Oscar is deaf, top of the class deaf. Not temporary. Not reversible. Can't hear his daddy's circular saw in the next room, can't hear me vacuuming under his bed.

When first told my son was deaf, I experienced shock, pain, confusion, anxiety and finally self-doubt. As a hearing parent, what did I know about bringing up a deaf child?

I longed to be released from the pressure to make the "right" decisions about my son's communication methods and hearing devices. I wished many times to fast track ahead 20 years to ask my son, "are we doing the right things?" I worried constantly about being the perfect parent of a deaf child and at times it was all I could think and talk about.

To abate these feelings of inadequacy, I started to find out all I could about deafness. I learned about language development, communication methods, early intervention approaches, hearing aids, cochlear implants, the socio-emotional development of deaf children, deaf education, deaf history, capital "D" Deaf and Deaf politics. I studied sign language for three years and am now highly proficient in kindergarten level Auslan. Sometimes I feel I have become an expert on something I still know absolutely nothing about.

Almost as soon as Oscar was diagnosed I was introduced to the medical model of 'fixing' deafness....that deafness was some-



thing devastatingly bad which, luckily these days could be fixed with invasive technology and assertive early intervention. Doctors assured me that my son would be "chatting away in no time, so not to worry dear".

As Oscar came off the breast and began to crawl, my concept of deafness grew to become a culture, a language, something to be proud of. Deafness became real live people. Deaf adults, each as unique as hearing adults lived with challenges and joys regardless of their communication methods and use or non-use of hearing technology.

Since Oscar's diagnosis I had been on a long journey—emotionally exhausting at times, but rich in information, revelation and finally inspiration. Recently however, I reflected and wondered: Where was my son in all of this? I looked around for my Oscar and took a really close look. It felt like I was looking at him for the first time.

My beautiful baby boy has grown. His hair no longer tight curls, but thick and wavy. His chubby legs now stretched, long and strong. He can walk now and has learned to talk. I see him running and laughing. Making

boats and trains out of old cardboard boxes. Building volcanos and aeroplanes in the sandpit, dancing to the Wiggles. I can see him now, fast asleep in his Thomas the Tank Engine pyjamas, clutching his Toy Story DVD to his chest. Yes, my son is deaf and I am the mother of a deaf child. First however, I am the mother of Oscar, unique as any other child with his own personal charm. My beautiful boy—my Oscar.

Tina Carter is actively involved in POD Qld, a network for parents/caregivers with children who are deaf or have any degree of hearing loss. POD Qld is supported by Deaf Services Queensland and welcomes families using all ranges of communication methods and technologies. The group aims to provide opportunities for social interaction between parents of deaf children through education/information/skills workshops, information sharing via a parent email network and liaison with professionals and community organisations. If you would like to know more please check www.podqld.org, email Tina at pod.qld@gmail.com or phone Deaf Services Queensland.

PRE CONGRESS RECEPTION

The Hon Anastacia Palaszczuk MP, Minister for Disability Services and Multicultural Affairs represented the Premier Anna Bligh at the Pre Congress Reception held on the Speakers Green at Parliament House on the 27 October. The reception provided an opportunity for the Queensland Government to welcome the 4th World Congress on Mental Health and Deafness key sponsors, keynote speakers, dignitaries and interstate and overseas delegates to Queensland. Thank you to Queensland Rail Passenger Services for sponsoring this event.

R to L: Damian Lacey CEO Deaf Services Queensland and Deaf Children Australia, Bobbie Blackson Chair of DSQ Board, Minister Anastacia Palaszczuk MP, Noel Henderson Chair of DCA Board, Theo Taitalos, Group General Manager Customer Services QR Passenger



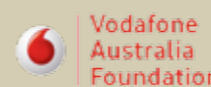
DEAF DAY AT PARLIAMENT

In the lead up to the National Week of Deaf People (NWD — October 10-16), over 90 members of the Deaf community attended Question Time proceedings at Queensland Parliament House on Wednesday 7th October.

Thanks to the sponsorship from Vodafone Australia Foundation, Australian Sign Language (Auslan) Interpreters gave the Deaf community a rare opportunity to see the inner workings of Parliament. Question Time was followed by a morning tea hosted by the Speaker of Queensland Parliament, The Hon John Mickel MP. At this event, members of Parliament and the Deaf community could mingle together and communicate through Sign Language Interpreters.



Above: The Hon John Mickel MP addressing the Deaf Community at Deaf Day in Parliament morning tea. Members of Parliament from left: Michael Crandon MP – Member for Coomera Peter Dowling MP – Member for Redlands Scott Emerson MP – Member for Indooroopilly David Gibson MP – Member for Gympie Carolyn Male MP – Member for Pine Rivers Peter Bonser – Interpreter



STAY IN TOUCH

GIVE THE GIFT OF COMMUNICATION THIS CHRISTMAS



Many of us take for granted the ability to pick up the telephone and have a conversation. For people with hearing loss, this can be a joy they miss, especially around special occasions like Christmas. The National Relay Service can help people stay in touch with friends, family and business over the telephone.

Ninety year old Norman Hicks of Jamboree Heights in Brisbane has found the Relay Service "a big help". Still living in his own home, the telephone is a vital link for him to stay in touch. "With the ordinary phone it became difficult to hear over the phone, but with the Relay Service I can still use a phone to make my own doctors appointments and book cabs. I can also talk to my niece who lives in Sydney".

People like Norman can become quite isolated when they lose their hearing. The National Relay Service is one way people with hearing loss can maintain their independence and stay connected. Deaf Services Queensland hosts Queensland's National Relay Service Education and Information Officer. Cindy Ranger can provide information, resources and training about the service. If you know someone who has trouble hearing or speaking over the phone contact Cindy on 07 3892 8534 or queensland@relayservice.com.au. There is also a free call number for the National Relay Service Helpdesk 1800 555 660 or helpdesk@relayservice.com.au. The NRS is an Australian Government initiative with no extra cost to customers using the service.

On Thursday 8 October, three members of Queensland Parliament went head to head with three members of the Deaf community to discuss the topic 'Deafness is the best disability to have'. The Deaf Debate was the first of its kind in Queensland and connected the Deaf community and Members of Parliament in a social yet topical environment. This event also provided a fantastic opportunity for our community to get together, interact and enjoy what was a very entertaining evening.

Donna McDonald, Cameron Miller and Sally Strobridge debated against Scott Emerson MP, Member for Indooroopilly, Carryn Sutherland MP, Member for Pumicestone, and Chris Foley MP, Member for Maryborough. This provided a unique experience for those who attended the event held in the stately Red Chamber at Parliament House.

The Deaf Day in Parliament and the Deaf Debate were made possible through the generosity of Vodafone Australia Foundation with The Hon John Mickel MP granting permission for both events to be held at Parliament House.



Debate participants at Parliament House L to R: David Gibson MP, Carryn Sutherland MP, Scott Emerson MP, Donna McDonald, Sally Strobridge, Cameron Miller



Norman Hicks using the Relay Service in his home at Jamboree Heights.

DEAF DEBATE

OUR NEW HOME!

Deaf Services Queensland has relocated our head office to 915 Ipswich Road Moorooka. This new location on the corner of Gow Street and Ipswich Road is easily accessed by public transport. Thank you to NRMA Insurance, Watty! Paints (Qld) and InterfaceFLOR for contributing to the refurbishment.



The new Deaf Services Queensland head office

EXPRESS YOURSELF

Deaf and hard of hearing youth can become very isolated from the community and struggle with feelings of self worth. 'Express Yourself', is an initiative developed by Deaf Services Queensland's Youth program and is funded by the Brisbane City Council. It gives deaf and hard of hearing youth an opportunity to express themselves in a variety of visual and performance art. Young people learn new skills which help to increase confidence and self awareness. The program provides positive interaction between the youth who attended the workshops which included Hip Hop dancing, Circus Skills, painting, screen printing and photography. The program is run during school holidays with the next workshops being held in January. Email: Andrew.Green@deafsq.org.au for more information.



Deaf youth Hip Hop dancing at Arts Access

PETRA'S AWARD

Petra Svab is no stranger to the needs of minority groups. Born profoundly deaf to migrant parents and becoming a paraplegic from a work accident in 1996, Petra was recently honoured with an award for improving the quality of life of the deaf community and people with mobility issues.

Throughout her career, Petra has demonstrated her commitment to ensuring equal access for people with a disability through her work as Community Access Officer at Deaf Services Queensland, her voluntary advocacy roles for the Deaf community, and those who use wheelchairs. Through Petra's hard work, she encouraged conversations about mental health and wellbeing amongst the Deaf community as she undertook 30 workshops around Australia in the lead up to the 4th World Congress on Mental Health and Deafness.

Petra felt very honoured to receive the award presented at the Disability Action Week award ceremony in August 2009 by Queensland Disability Services Minister, The Hon Anastacia Palaszczuk MP. Well done Petra!



Above: Petra receiving her award from The Hon Anastacia Palaszczuk, Minister for Disability Services and Multicultural Affairs and Paul Larcombe, Chair of the Disability Council of Queensland.

OUR SERVICES

Interpreting

We provide an interpreting service that facilitates the communication between Deaf and hearing individuals. Our interpreting service – Sign Language Communication known as SLC connects and empowers individuals to access services and information they require from the general community.

Employment

Sign ON Employment is a specialist Disability Employment Network agency. We support job seekers to secure and maintain employment. Our clients are not just deaf but may experience other disabilities such as deafblind individuals and those with mental health issues.

Community Services

Members of the Deaf community can seek assistance from Community Access workers in all areas of life. This includes Walk in Services.

Lifestyle Support Services

We assist deaf people with additional disabilities to improve their quality of life. Our strength lies not only in our provision of independent living assistance but also in our unique ability to communicate competently with our clients.

Community Education

Programs create awareness of deafness through Auslan Classes, Baby Sign Classes and Deafness Awareness Training for government and business organisations.

Family Support Programs

In partnership with Deaf Children Australia, family support programs include POD Queensland a network for parents/caregivers with children who have any degree of hearing loss. Cool Kids Cool Parents workshops assist with parenting a deaf or hard of hearing child. STAR matches a deaf child and their family with a deaf adult who can mentor the deaf child.

National Relay Service

We provide information regarding the Commonwealth funded National Relay Service. This service assists people with hearing or speech loss to use a telephone.