

Tony receives an award



Tony Sullivan has been selling Deaf Lottery tickets for over 20 years with more than \$500,000 worth of art union tickets sold. Tony, who has Cerebral Palsy, applied for a job in 1988 and is now celebrating his 100th Lottery. "Tony loves going to work" said Tony's dad Mick. "It helps him feel productive and he enjoys his day out meeting people and helping the Deaf community." Tony was presented an award to recognise his 100th Deaf Lottery and many years of service.

Annual General Meeting

Deaf Services Queensland Annual General Meeting will be held on Saturday 22nd November 2008 at 10.30am in the Community Hall, Deaf Services Queensland, 473 Annerley Road Annerley. Members will be able to vote on changes that will guide an exciting future for Deaf Services Queensland. All welcome.

Sausage Sizzle raises funds

Cairns Deaf community rallied together to raise \$1800 to support the service in Far North Queensland. In August Deaf Services Queensland staff ran a sausage sizzle at Bunnings Hardware. Funds raised will purchase a new computer and TV and DVD which will provide greater access for the deaf community by showing community news and information in Sign Language.

Auslan in the Queen Street Mall



Deaf Services Queensland celebrated 2008 National Week of Deaf People by giving people the opportunity to learn Australian Sign Language in Queen Street Mall.

On Tuesday 14th October approximately 400 people took the opportunity to learn some Auslan at Centre Stage.

A dream come true

Ted and Fay Schloithe have been automatic Deaf Lottery ticket buyers since 2002. Their support has paid off as they won first in Deaf Lottery draw No.108. As a member of the Ulysses Motorcycle Club, Ted has always dreamed of one day owning a Honda Gold Wing. Ted and Fay will now be cruising the highway in luxury on their brand Gold Wing, just part of the \$350,000 first prize.



Your dreams could also come true by purchasing tickets in the next deaf Lottery. Ph:1800773678

Rebate Scheme

Panther Data have been a long time supporter of Deaf Services Queensland sharing in the commitment to improve the lives of deaf and hard of hearing people and their families. "We have been very pleased with the products and service Panther Data offers," said DSQ General Manager Brett Casey.

Deaf Services Queensland and Panther Data have developed a program that will give additional benefits to Deaf Services Queensland. Panther Data, a Queensland owned and operated company, have agreed to rebate 6% from the sales of printer, photocopier and fax consumables ordered from friends and supporters of Deaf Services Queensland.

When you next need IT consumables contact Panther Data and help improve the lives of deaf and hard of hearing people throughout Queensland. Visit www.pantherdata.com.au or phone 07 3335 7100 and make sure you tell them you are one of our friends.

Become a member

Deaf Services Queensland members have a voice. They vote on important issues, help change policy and legislation, assist in developing new models of service delivery and can contribute to building community awareness.

If you would like to become a member and help improve the lives of deaf and hard of hearing people then contact Deaf Services Queensland.

OUR SERVICES

- AUSLAN Interpreting Service
- Sign On Employment Service
- Community Services
- Life Style Support (LSS)
- Community Education
- Family Programs
- National Relay Service

REGIONAL OFFICES

Cairns, Toowoomba and Maryborough
For further information:
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Deaf Services
QUEENSLAND

Deafviews

SPRING 2008

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Did you know ...

- Deaf and hard of hearing Australians are at a much higher risk of experiencing mental health illness than their hearing peers.
- One in six Australians currently have a hearing loss, a rate that is predicted to increase to 1 in every 4 Australians by 2050.
- One in five Australians will experience a mental illness at some time in their life, a quarter of whom will receive treatment.
- Hearing loss is the second most prevalent national health issue, yet it remains the 8th national funding priority.
- There is only 1 dedicated mental health service in Australia which responds specifically to the needs of deaf and hard of hearing people. This service is located in Princess Alexandra Hospital Brisbane.

Anne's Story

"If a Deaf person who had suffered mental health issues had shared their story, showing me that I was not alone, I would have gone looking for help a long time ago."

"Hi, I'm Anne and I am deaf. I have battled depression since my late teens. I didn't get help because I was embarrassed about what people would think and was afraid of being rejected.

I thought I could cope but after becoming a mother to a beautiful baby girl, I became more and more stressed, tired and snappy. I adored being a mum, but I wasn't coping. Six months after my daughter's arrival, my partner and I got married and only a few months later I was pregnant with my second child. During this pregnancy I became a shadow of myself, paranoid, anxious, very negative and over protective of my daughter.

One day I broke down. My doctor confirmed that I had Post Natal Depression (PND). I was in such a bad state that he ordered me to leave work immediately. For the rest of my pregnancy I had to take Valium everyday to keep me calm.

I met with doctors, psychologists, case workers and the Crisis Assessment Treatment Team almost everyday—all without a

sign language interpreter. We couldn't understand each other which compounded my anxiety. I was eventually hospitalised.

Every time I asked for a sign language interpreter I was told, "Sorry, we are not funded for that"

My husband who is also deaf had a very hard time, juggling work and caring for our baby girl and looking after me. Finally, my gorgeous boy was born but sadly I had no recollection of his birth due to my depression, stress, being overtired and having no interpreter.

Two days after my son's birth I was feeling strange and not 'right' emotionally, so I asked to see a doctor. They could see I was very upset so found an intern who was learning sign language. She didn't know the Auslan signs to most of what the doctor was saying so again it was hard to understand. This resulted in the doctor suggesting I buy a book on PND. I couldn't believe it! I was in a hospital bed, and couldn't

get outside due to paranoia and anxiety and I was told to buy a book. I was later transferred into a Mental Health Mother and Baby Unit for close to four months. In hospital I was subjected to quite a few sessions of electric shock treatment. As there were no sign language interpreters, I couldn't get involved in the daily therapeutic sessions of music, exercise or talks and missing out like this just made my illness worse.

When I finally went home, I still wasn't myself. My days were drab, dark and dreary. Over time, my mother helped me to find pride in my appearance again, something that I had always cared about but which had ceased to be important to me during my illness.

I can't help remembering how scary my experience was in hospital a few years ago.

Today I'm relatively well, stable and immersed in family life. What I went through was hell, and I know it is not over. I want to help others by sharing my story, so they know they're not alone and hopefully something can be done to bring awareness to this problem."



Anne's story (continued)

Something is being done. While mental health in general is gaining increasing recognition by government and the community, the compounded problems for deaf and hard of hearing people with mental illness has received little or no attention. It is well known that deaf and hard of hearing people experience increased risks of mental health problems due to:

- increased social isolation and emotional vulnerability, leading to higher risk of abuse
- linguistic and cultural barriers to access existing mental health services and programs
- a lack of knowledge within the mental health sector of deaf specific considerations
- a lack of acceptance of mental health issues within the deaf sector, communities and individuals

Deaf Services Queensland and our partner Deaf Children Australia are working together to raise more awareness of this complex issue. In October 2009 we are hosting the 4th World Congress on Mental Health and Deafness at the Brisbane Exhibition and Convention Centre. This is an exciting opportunity that will result in helping deaf people who suffer with mental illness to bring more hope and happiness into their lives. Visit the website www.mhd2009.org for more information.

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AUSLAN Alphabet



Community Consultation

Deaf Services Queensland held a community consultation at the Kathleen Costello Centre in Maryborough. Amongst those in attendance were Brett Casey, General Manager of Deaf Services Queensland, The Honourable Warren Truss, Member for Wide Bay and Pam Steele-Wareham Regional Director Disability Services Queensland.

Carmel Murphy Manager of Regional Community Services said "people in regional areas often feel isolated, so gathering together as a community provided a good opportunity to work together in overcoming this issue." As a result, Deaf Services Queensland has reallocated resources enabling a

community worker to travel from Brisbane to assist the deaf community on a part time basis until a permanent appointment can be made.



Pam Steele-Wareham Regional Director Disability Services Queensland and deaf community members at the consultation

FROM THE CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER

Whether working with children, families, young or old, we facilitate the life-abilities and live-ability for Deaf and hard of hearing people in Queensland. The term life-abilities reflects our focus on providing Deaf and hard of hearing people with the opportunities and skills they need for self-actualisation to fulfill their life's potential. Live-ability reflects our work in the broader community to improve access and connectedness with the deaf community.

With this objective in mind, Deaf Services Queensland has been advocating for improved communication access to Disability Services Queensland's service providers. It is exciting to announce that we now have been awarded the tender to manage the Interpreting and Translating Assistance Strategy (ITAS). ITAS is a new initiative from Disability Services Queensland which aims to address the diverse communication needs of people accessing disability services. Deaf Services Queensland will be establishing a statewide language service that

will assist Disability Services Queensland funded non-government service providers to provide information and services to people with a disability who have difficulty understanding and communicating in English. We look forward to providing not only Auslan interpreting services but also working with our partners Vision Australia, On Call Interpreting, and Wu Chopperin Indigenous Health Service to provide assistance to vision impaired, CALD and Indigenous people.

With the year almost at its close, I want to take this opportunity to thank all our kind supporters who have donated to our programs throughout the year. We are very much aware that our work wouldn't continue without your help so please continue to support us and have a wonderful festive season.



Damian Lacey,
CEO, Deaf Services Queensland

International Congress Support



Karen Struthers MP with sign language interpreter Marty Randel announcing the governments support.

Representing Premier Anna Bligh, Ms Karen Struthers MP, Parliamentary Secretary for the Minister for Health announced \$50,000 support of the 4th World Congress on Mental Health and Deafness at the pre-launch held at Parliament House. The support from the Queensland Government and particularly from Queensland Health is an important step in this year of campaigning and activities before the international Congress to be held October 2009 at the Brisbane Exhibition and Convention Centre.

Veronica Pardo, Congress Convenor and Deputy CEO of Deaf Services Queensland and Deaf Children Australia welcomed the government's support. "With 800,000 deaf and hard of hearing Australian's experiencing mental health

problems at some time, greater awareness and collaboration within the deaf and mental health sectors is the priority of the Congress" said Ms Pardo.

We congratulate the Queensland Government and welcome their support of the congress.



Refugees learn Auslan



A year ago the Ahmadhah family arrived in Australia as refugees from Iran. Two family members, Abdulla and Atiqullah are profoundly deaf. This is an extra communication challenge in their new country. The inability to access the English language even through Australian Sign Language interpreters has ramifications for their future well being.

Deaf Services Queensland was asked to help Abdullah and Atiqullah. Thanks to funding from the Ross Divett Foundation, Abdullah, Atiqullah and their hearing brother Shafiq are being taught basic Sign Language skills at Deaf Services Queensland. Learning Australian Sign Language will give greater opportunities to access main stream education, learn new skills and ultimately gain employment and independence for Abdullah and Atiqullah.

It is important for hearing family members and friends to understand Sign Language for communication to be enjoyed on all levels by deaf people. If you are interested in learning sign language contact Deaf Services Queensland or visit our website. Courses run for 8 weeks.

Yes, I would like to help



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