



## New Website

Deaf Services Queensland has updated the website providing users with easier access to information about Deaf Services Queensland.

Check it out: [www.deafservicesqld.org.au](http://www.deafservicesqld.org.au).

## Charity Golf Day at Indooroopilly



Windsor Recruitment hosted a Charity Golf Day at Indooroopilly Golf Club in September. Deaf Services Queensland benefited from the day and will use the funds to support services for Deaf and hard of hearing people throughout Queensland. Thank you to Windsor Recruitment and all the sponsors and supporters of the day.

## Tertiary Accreditation For Primary School Students



In August, fifteen students in the Bilingual Bicultural program at Toowong State School were recognised for their achievements when they were awarded with Certificate II in Auslan from South Bank TAFE. Certificate II in Auslan is normally a tertiary qualification and Toowong is the first school in Queensland to attain this. Many of these students have participated in the Bilingual Bicultural program at Toowong State School since its inception in 2000.

## School Transition Expo

In September, Deaf Services Queensland participated in a School Transition Expo at the Goodna Arts and Cultural Centre. This event was for senior students with special needs to meet service providers who can assist students in accessing vocational pathways after leaving school. Sign On Employment is a Disability Employment Network agency for Deaf and hard of hearing job seekers managed by Deaf Services Queensland. The expo provided a good opportunity to show young deaf and hard of hearing school leavers that they do have choices. If you are a job seeker of any age who is Deaf or hard of hearing, then contact Sign On Employment to meet our staff for an informal chat about how we can assist you.

## Coming Events

- The 10th Annual Deaf Festival - 13 October 2007 9am - 5pm at Mt Gravatt Showgrounds, 1646 Logan Road, Mt Gravatt Contact [qad\\_inc@hotmail.com](mailto:qad_inc@hotmail.com) for more information.
- Deaf community visit to Parliament House - Wednesday 17th October, 10.30am - 12.30pm. See story on page 2.
- Deaf Services Queensland Annual General Meeting - Friday 23rd November 2007 at Deaf Services Queensland Community Hall 473 Annerley Road Annerley.
- XV Australian Deaf Games - January 2008 at the Gold Coast. For more information visit [www.austdeafgames.org.au](http://www.austdeafgames.org.au)
- Cruise for the Deaf - Saturday 12th January 2008 starts at Brisbane Botanic Gardens finishing at Kurrawa Park, Broadbeach at the Gold Coast
- Deaf Services Queensland free Information Sessions and Open Day Monday 15 October at Community Hall 473 Annerley Road Annerley

## OUR SERVICES

### ■ AUSLAN Interpreting Service

We offer professional high quality Sign Language Interpreting Service. Our interpreting service provides access between hearing and Deaf people through clear communication in life situations such as medical, legal, vocational, business and community environments. All interpreters are professionally qualified by the national accreditation body, NAATI.

### ■ Sign On Employment Service

Sign On Employment is a specialised Employment service for Deaf and Hearing Impaired People. When a Deaf or Hearing Impaired person is looking for work they need to be assessed by Centrelink and a Job Capacity Assessor (JCA) for eligibility to register with our service.

### ■ Community Services

Members of the Deaf Community can seek assistance from Community Workers in all areas of life. This includes a Walk in Service at all offices around Queensland.

### ■ Life Style Support (LSS)

We assist deaf people who are aged and those with disabilities to live in the community as independently as possible. We help clients with daily tasks such as banking, shopping and attending medical appointments.

### ■ Community Education

Tailored programs are designed to create awareness of deafness through Auslan classes, Baby Sign and Deafness Awareness Training programs for government and business organisations.

### ■ National Relay Service

We provide information to individuals, public and private sectors regarding the National Relay Service. This service assists those with hearing or speech impairments to use a telephone.

### REGIONAL OFFICES:

Cairns, Toowoomba and Maryborough

For further information:  
Phone: (07) 3892 8500  
TTY: (07) 3892 8501  
Fax: (07) 3392 8511

Deaf Services  
QUEENSLAND

# DeafVIEWS

SPRING 2007

## IN THIS ISSUE

- AUSLAN INTO SCHOOLS
- SMOKE ALARMS
- PARLIAMENT HOUSE VISIT
- WILL POWER
- NEW WEB SITE
- CHARITY GOLF DAY
- TOOWONG SCHOOL
- SCHOOL TRANSITION EXPO

## Heading for a hat trick



Margaret with Roy, the latest winner at the Deaf Lottery at her stand in Garden City Shopping Centre

Twice in a row, Margaret, who works at the Garden City Westfield Shopping Centre in Brisbane has sold the winning ticket in the \$350,000 Deaf Lottery prize.

The Deaf Lottery supports deaf and hard of hearing children and adults throughout Australia. Tickets available phone:

**1800 773 678**

## SUPPORT BENEFITS education



Above: Gail Smith and Tiahna

Deaf Services Queensland and its partner Deaf Children Australia welcome the Queensland Government's recent commitment of \$30 million to implement Auslan into Queensland schools over the next four years.

The Queensland government investment in the lives of deaf children stems from the courage of Gail Smith and Kim Devlin. Gail and Kim were courageous in their fight for the right of their children, Benjamin and Tiahna respectively, to have access to quality education. These two mothers of deaf children opened up the possibility for change by highlighting the desperate need for the nationally recognised sign language to be used within the Queensland School system.

Gail says "There are many difficulties that Tiahna has to face as a profoundly deaf child. Our six year fight for her right to education through Auslan support has been well worth it."

Damian Lacey, CEO of Deaf Services Queensland and Deaf Children Australia says, "We are committed to ensuring that the maximum benefit for deaf and hard of hearing children can be gained through the exciting initiative of Education Queensland and are working with the Government to highlight the need for a range of programs".

Tiahna is happy and confident going to school as she now participates in the class 100%. Gail has noticed such a change in her. "Tiahna is thriving and loves going to school. No more tears because she can't understand what the teacher has said."

## Home based AUSLAN tuition

As the focus shifts from Signed English to Auslan in Queensland classrooms, learning Auslan poses challenges for families of deaf and hard of hearing children. A child's well being needs access to communication strategies including opportunities for developing Auslan skills.

Home tuition allows the whole family, rather than one member to grow their competency in Auslan, providing everybody with skills to create an accessible language environment. It focuses on the family participating in the social and academic development of their deaf child. The success of the new program relies on funding from the community.

To support this program please contact Deaf Services Queensland.



# SMOKE ALARMED



New legislation was passed through Queensland Parliament which became effective on 1 July 2007, requiring homes and units throughout Queensland to be fitted with smoke alarms. Conventional smoke alarms can cost between \$20 and \$50 which is manageable for most family budgets. A deaf or hard of hearing person is obliged to pay anywhere from \$250 to \$350 for a system that includes a flashing light or a vibration device.

There are approximately 400,000 Queenslanders affected by hearing loss, including many elderly and infirm people. The recent tragedy of a deaf man who died in a house fire in Western Australia highlights the importance of adequate smoke alarm installation in homes and businesses.

Deaf Services Queensland is assisting Queensland Fire and Rescue Service (QFRS) in their development of initiatives for more affordable smoke alarms for deaf and hard of hearing people. QFRS has allocated resources to focus directly on identifying suitable options for addressing this issue. This includes analysing the most appropriate types of smoke alarm systems and ways to reduce the cost of each item.

QFRS will submit recommendations for consideration by the Queensland Government for support to fund smoke detectors for deaf and hard of hearing people throughout Queensland.

## VISIT TO Parliament House



David Gibson MP State Member for Gympie and CODA with Carolyn Male MP State Member for Glasshouse and Government Whip welcome the Deaf Community to Government House and encourage all to participate in this history making event.

The Queensland Parliament will proudly celebrate the National Week of Deaf People by hosting a function on Wednesday 17 October 2007.

In conjunction with Deaf Services Queensland, the Queensland Parliament invites deaf people to Parliament House on this date to observe Parliament in action and also attend a morning tea.

Members of the Queensland deaf community will be welcomed to Parliament where interpreters will sign in Auslan during Question Time at 10.30am.

Following this, all guests will be invited to mingle with Members of Parliament at a morning tea hosted by the Speaker of the Legislative Assembly, the Honourable Mike Reynolds MP.

Furthermore, students from deaf schools have arranged to tour Parliament on that day. Queensland Parliament looks forward to their visit.

As places are limited, please contact Deaf Services Queensland or visit our website to register.

### Here are some easy ways to add value to our organisation

- Make ongoing donations
- Leave a legacy
- Volunteer your time and talents
- Introduce us to your organisation, club or association

473 Annerley Rd, Annerley Q 4103  
Ph: (07) 3892 8500  
Fax: (07) 3392 8511  
TTY: (07) 3892 8501  
email: dsq@deafsq.org.au

### AUSLAN Alphabet



### FROM THE CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER



Damian Lacey, CEO, Deaf Services Queensland

It is difficult to imagine a life without communication. However, for some in the community this is a reality. The strength of Deaf Services Queensland comes from our staff responding in a proactive way to the needs of the deaf community.

Our objective is to prevent anyone falling through the cracks before it leads to greater problems such as mental health issues. Deaf Services Queensland, in partnership with Deaf Children Australia will be hosting the World Congress on Mental Health and Deafness in October 2009. We expect individuals and professionals from around the world to attend and share their work and research findings in this area.

Deafness, often known as the hidden disability, affects most families in Australia. We have identified a number of innovative programs that fall outside the traditional 'funding regime' where the government

provide grants. We rely heavily on individual donations and developing partnerships with corporate sponsors to fund important programs such as our youth program.

Our new youth program is the first of its kind in Queensland. We have recently employed a part time staff member specifically to work with deaf youth to establish services based on relevant needs of deaf youth.

Education Queensland has also announced that it is making a transition from Signed English to Auslan for the education of deaf children. In partnership with Deaf Children Australia, we have met with key personnel in the department to ensure that Auslan is supported in the home environment with sign tuition for family members. This is something that the strength of our partnership with Deaf Children Australia has the capacity to supply throughout the transition.

With the proactive decisions we have made in the past year, I believe the prospects for Deaf Services Queensland are excellent. With the combination of talented people, and support from the community, exciting things are happening here at Deaf Services Queensland.



## WILL power!

If you are considering making a Will then consider the power in your hands to change the lives of deaf and hard of hearing people by including Deaf Services Queensland in your Will.

A wonderful lady, Kathleen Costello did just that. Now the deaf community are able to access important services because of her generosity. The permanent legacy to her name is a property situated in Wilson St, Maryborough.

We know it is important to look after your family and loved ones so whether your bequest is large or small, your legacy will enable deaf children and adults with opportunities for access and equity throughout their lives.

Please discuss how your Will can have the power to change lives. Talk to your solicitor or contact Deaf Services Queensland.



### Yes, I would like to help



PO BOX 173, ANNERLEY Q, 4103  
PHONE: (07) 3892 8500  
TTY: (07) 3892 8501  
FAX: (07) 3392 8511

Privacy notice: Your personal information is collected to enable us to provide you with a receipt for donations and news updates.

You can request to have your details removed at any time.

My tax-deductible gift:  \$30  \$50  \$100  \$250  other \$ .....

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

Please charge my:  Bankcard  Visa  Mastercard  Amex

Card number input fields

Cardholder's name: .....  
PLEASE USE BLOCK LETTERS

Cardholder's signature: ..... Expiry date: .....

Name: .....

Address: .....

Postcode: .....