

A History of Deaf Children Australia 1914 to 2004

Formerly known as the School for Deaf and Dumb, the, Victorian Deaf and Dumb Institution, the Victorian School for Deaf Children and VSDC Services for Deaf Children

1927: The education department, with the permission of the Board of Management, erected a school building at 597 St Kilda Road.

1942: The Institution moved to Marysville while the RAAF occupied the St Kilda Road site during World War 2. Classes resumed at St Kilda Road in 1944.

1949: Name changed from Victorian Deaf and Dumb Institution to Victorian School for Deaf Children.

1950: In response to the call for an 'oral' education for deaf children, VSDC built and operated the Princess Elizabeth Kindergarten (later known as Princess Elizabeth Junior School) for Deaf Children. Some eight years later, the Education Department was again persuaded to accept responsibility for the salary of teachers.

1960: The centenary of the commencement of deaf education in Victoria was celebrated on 12 November.

1962: The 100th Annual General Meeting was held on 28 August.

1983: A decision was made to phase out boarding school style accommodation in favour of family group homes.

1982: The name changed to Victorian School for Deaf Children Inc. to differentiate itself from the school of the same name.

1995: The Board renovated school buildings on the St Kilda Road site in return for a Victorian State Government guarantee of maintaining the operation of its school for the next thirty years. The school was opened as the Victorian College for the Deaf (VCD).

1996: To more clearly define our role as a state-wide service provider, our name changes to VSDC Inc - Services for Deaf Children.

1998: The Australian Governor General, Sir William Deane, re-opened the bluestone building following extensive restoration and refurbishment.

2002: Our partnership with the Victorian Education Department for the provision of the Princess Elizabeth Junior School facilities concluded, with the Victorian State Government agreeing to fund a new school. Our commitment to families continued through the provision of accommodation for rural families and their children.

2003: In response to the growing need for our services across Australia a decision was made to establish ourselves as a national entity, becoming Deaf Children Australia.

2004: Deaf Children Australia was formally launched and our first interstate office opened in South East Queensland.