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MEDIA RELEASE

Beacon of hope for parents of deaf children

Deaf Children Australia has recently started a program that is the first of its kind in Australia. The Beacon program matches trained parent mentors with parents of newly diagnosed babies who have severe or profound hearing loss.

More than 90% of deaf and hard of hearing children are born to families with little or no experience with deafness. The Beacon program aims to help parents of newly diagnosed deaf children to better deal with the post diagnosis emotions of fear, confusion, isolation and uncertainty.

Deaf Children Australia has been providing information, advocacy, support services and educational resources to enrich the lives of deaf and hearing impaired children and young adults for 144 years. *Deaf Children Australia* represents the needs of 16,000 deaf and hearing impaired children throughout Australia. As a not-for-profit organisation, their service is made possible with the support of volunteers, the community, businesses and government financial grants.

For more information on Deaf Children Australia, please call 1800 645 916 or log on to www.deafchildreinaustralia.org.au. For more information about this press release or to request an interview, please call Julie Postance on 9539 5362 or jpostance@deafchildren.org.au.

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