



**For Immediate Release – 22 August 2007**

## **MEDIA RELEASE**

### **Deaf Children Australia sponsors Excellence in Auslan Interpreting Awards 2006**

Deaf Children Australia was one of fourteen organisations sponsoring the Inaugural ASLIA Vic Excellence in Auslan Interpreting Awards held on 11 August 2007 at the Sebel Hotel, Albert Park.

The Excellence in Auslan Interpreting Awards provided an opportunity for ASLIA Victoria, sponsors and supporters to publicly recognise and pay tribute to professional and dedicated interpreters in Victoria and to the organisations which routinely provide appropriate communication access for Deaf/hearing employees, the Deaf community and/or provide consistent support to working interpreters.

Auslan is the national sign language of Australia.

The Australian Sign Language Interpreters Association of Victoria (ASLIA Vic) is a professional body that represents the needs and interests of Auslan (Australian Sign Language) Interpreters.

There were nine categories under which Victorian Auslan interpreters are nominated. These included awards for those Pre/Primary, Secondary, Tertiary, Community, Interpreter Advocate, Graduate, Deafblind, paraprofessional and professional interpreters who have made the most significant contribution to the interpreting industry. The Victorian Interpreter of the Year award was presented to an interpreter based on their performance in the National St Jerome five interpreter awards (those being the Pre-Primary, Secondary, Tertiary, Community and Interpreter Advocate Awards).

Deaf Children Australia sponsored the awards for the pre/primary and the secondary interpreters who have shown the most significant contribution to access for children in schools. Interpreter, Nicole Maher was the recipient of the pre-primary award and interpreter while Tanya Jizba was the recipient of the secondary interpreting award.

There were also four categories in which to nominate organisations. Awards were given for innovation, service delivery excellence and best practice by an interpreting agency as well the not-for-profit public and private sector organisations that have consistently supported the needs of interpreters. Deaf Children Australia has been nominated for the not for profit awards.

In order to qualify for an award, interpreters must have NAATI accreditation or must have completed a Relay Interpreting course and work in Victoria. The award nomination is for the period 1 January – 31 December 2006.

Other sponsors included: La Trobe University, Victorian Council of Deaf People, Deafness Foundation Victoria, Able Australia, RMIT University, NABS and NAATI.

**Street:**  
597 St Kilda Road,  
Melbourne, VIC 3004

**Postal:**  
PO Box 6466,  
St Kilda Road Central,  
Melbourne, VIC 8008

**Tel:** + 61 3 9539 5300  
**Fax:** +61 3 9525 2595  
**TTY:** +61 3 9510 7143  
**Helpline:** 1800 645 916  
[info@deafchildren.org.au](mailto:info@deafchildren.org.au)  
[www.deafchildreinaustralia.org.au](http://www.deafchildreinaustralia.org.au)

ACN 108 025 207 ABN 57 108 025 207

There were 200 guests, who among them included The Hon Dr Sharman Stone MP Minister for Workforce Participation and Dr Jemima Napier, Vice President of ASLIA and Kyle Miers, President of Australian Association of the Deaf.

The CEO of Deaf Children Australia, Damian Lacey says: “There is a massive shortage of interpreting skills in Australia. Our vision at Deaf Children Australia is that deafness is no barrier. There are a significant number of Australians who rely on Auslan as their preferred means of communication and the role of interpreters is highly valued by members of the deaf community, service providers and the community at large. The demand for interpreters outstrips the supply and these awards are not only an opportunity to recognise the skills of interpreters, but also to encourage people to consider interpreting as a career.”

Deaf Children Australia is a national not-for-profit organisation representing the needs of 16,000 deaf and hearing impaired children and their families across Australia and has been enriching their lives for over 140 years.

For information, support or referral, people can contact Deaf Children Australia’s national helpline on 1800 645 956, or visit [www.deafchildreinaustralia.org.au](http://www.deafchildreinaustralia.org.au).

**Media enquiries**

**Julie Postance**  
**Tel: (03) 9539 5362**

**Mob: 0400 197 616**  
**Email: [jpostance@deafchildren.org.au](mailto:jpostance@deafchildren.org.au)**