

MEDIA RELEASE



Street:
473 Annerley Road
Annerley QLD 4103

Postal:
PO Box 173
Annerley QLD 4103

Tel: 07 3892 8500
Fax: 07 3392 8511
TTY: 07 3892 8501
www.deafservicesqld.org.au

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MP David Gibson to visit Deaf Services Queensland

The Nationals State Member for Gympie, David Gibson, will visit Deaf Services Queensland on Tuesday 21 November 2006.

Mr Gibson, who grew up with two Deaf parents, will tour the office of Deaf Services Queensland, in order to meet and deliver a speech to Deaf Services Queensland staff and the Senior Citizens Group.

The Senior Citizens Group was formed in 1986 to cater for senior deaf and hard of hearing people. Up to 70 members gather at the Community Hall at Deaf Services Queensland Annerley every Tuesday to enjoy activities such as cards, bingo, lunch and guest speakers.

Mr Gibson is expected to speak about his experiences growing up with Deaf parents, how and why he got into Parliament and his present and future agenda regarding deaf and hard of hearing people.

The charity's Chief Executive Officer, Damian Lacey, says, "Deaf Services Queensland applauds the time taken by David to concern himself with the issues of Deaf and hearing impaired people. We look forward to working with David to help raise awareness both in Parliament and in the wider community in order to address barriers restricting Deaf and hard of hearing people, including the lack of funding for interpreting services and of adequately trained Auslan interpreters throughout the State."

For over 103 years, Deaf Services Queensland (formerly the Queensland Deaf Society) has been providing information, referral, advocacy, aged care, lifestyle support, education and employment services, to enrich the lives of thousands of deaf and hearing impaired people in Queensland. As a not-for-profit organisation, their service is made possible with the support of volunteers, the community, businesses and government financial grants.

22% of Australians suffer from some form of hearing loss.

For more information or to arrange an interview, please contact:

Peter Bonser, Queensland Deaf Society, Ph: 07 3892 8500 Email: peter.bonser@qds.org.au or
Julie Postance, Ph: 03 9539 5362 Mobile: 0400 197 616
Email: jpostance@deafchildreinaustralia.org.au