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MEDIA RELEASE

Deaf Children Australia grants help deaf youth realise their dreams

Thirty-three ambitious deaf youths from around Australia have been awarded grants by Deaf Children Australia (DCA) to help make their dreams a reality. The grants also fulfil DCA's aspiration to directly empower young deaf youth and its vision that 'deafness is no barrier'.

The DCA Youth Grants were created to recognise the ideas and achievements of young deaf people and highlight their positive contribution to society.

A total of 33 applicants between 15-21 years applied. Of those, 16 were from Victoria, 5 from Queensland, 1 from New South Wales, 1 from South Australia, 2 from Western Australia, 2 from ACT and 6 from Tasmania. (Historically a Victorian program, it has become national in the last three years.)

Applicants' requests included funding to set up personal businesses, assistance for further study and hobbies, creating an Auslan DVD, setting up an after-school deaf club and work experience.

Damian Lacey, CEO of DCA says, "These grants will give deaf and hearing impaired people the opportunity to fulfil their true potential."

The DCA Youth Grants were established through the generous support of DCA, the Allen & Cecelia Tye Estate and the Nelson & Brook Educational Trusts. The sum of \$27,400 was donated in grants.

Deaf Children Australia - formerly VSDC Services - 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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