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MEDIA RELEASE

Deaf Children Australia offers Queensland parents a helping hand

Parents of deaf and hard of hearing children in Queensland are now receiving support and information through the parenting program- Cool Kids, Cool parents - offered by Deaf Children Australia.

More than 90% of deaf and hard of hearing children are born to families with little or no experience with deafness. Many parents report struggling with issues such as connecting with other families with a deaf child and how to cope when their child complains of feeling isolated or being bullied due to communication barriers.

The program has proved very successful in Victoria and is now being offered as a one day workshop in New South Wales and Queensland, with the aim of holding workshops throughout Australia over the next twelve months.

Topics covered in the workshops include communication, advocacy, family inclusion, dealing with emotions, sibling rivalry, challenging behaviours, parenting methods, self care and nurturing and the choices and restrictions facing parents today. All are topics designed to empower parents in the decision making process to find solutions that work for their family.

It is hoped that deaf and hard of hearing children will receive the support they need to enhance their communication skills and sense of identity, and to experience decreased isolation, increased self-esteem and greater participation in family and community life.

Damian Lacey, CEO of Deaf Children Australia, says: "Our vision at Deaf Children Australia is 'a life to be lived – deaf people empowered, connected and achieving.' This workshop offers parents an opportunity to raise any parenting questions in a supportive, confidential environment."

Deaf Children Australia has been providing information, advocacy, support services and educational resources to enrich the lives of deaf and hard of hearing children and young adults for 150 years. Deaf Children Australia represents the needs of 16,000 deaf and hard of hearing 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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