

For Immediate Release – 23 January 2007

## MEDIA RELEASE

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### **Deaf and hearing impaired kids meet Neighbours stars at Ramsay Street**

There will be shrieks of joy this afternoon (2.30pm-5pm) when 24 deaf and hearing impaired kids embark on a tour of Ramsay Street to meet Neighbours stars including Dr Karl (Alan Fletcher) and Nell Feeney (Janelle Timmins).

One of the biggest issues that young deaf people face is that they do not often get the opportunity to attend organised youth activities because most mainstream service providers do not offer communication support.

Deaf Children Australia aims to increase the amount of opportunities for young deaf people to take part in these activities. Communication support is provided through interpreters and volunteers and young people are also supported by positive deaf adult role models.

Activities like these provide an excellent opportunity for deaf children and their families to get to know each other, share common experiences and form friendships.

Damian Lacey, CEO of Deaf Children Australia, says: "Deaf kids should be able to have equal access to all activities available to hearing children. Our vision at Deaf Children Australia is that deafness is no barrier."

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 over 140 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](http://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](mailto:jpostance@deafchildren.org.au).***

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