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MEDIA RELEASE

Jeremy uses charades to help Deaf Children Australia

As a 24-year-old third year multimedia student from Swinburne University with a passion for life and challenges, Jeremy Parkinson seems like your average kind of guy. But he's far from it...

On walking past the Victorian College of the Deaf recently, Jeremy spotted a group of deaf and hard of hearing children communicating with each other using sign language. What struck him was the openness and freedom of their silent self-expression, compared with the loud, but obvious lack of self-expression so prevalent in our hearing society.

To highlight this observation, he decided to hold a charades event for Deaf Children Australia not only to raise awareness of the challenges faced by deaf and hard of hearing children, but also to drum up donations for Deaf Children Australia.

With assistance from Deaf Children Australia and a team of volunteers, Jeremy was able to make his Charades event dream a reality. On 3 April this year, approximately 100 guests engaged in the fun and entertainment of the charades night, while raising \$8000 in cash and donations to help deaf and hard of hearing children.

Deaf Children Australia is a not-for-profit organisation and without the generosity of people such as Jeremy, the organisation would not survive.

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 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.deafchildrenaustralia.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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