

For Immediate Release – 30 May 2008

MEDIA RELEASE

PARENTS IN BRISBANE MEET FOR DEAF KIDS

Parents of deaf and hard of hearing children in Brisbane can now join the parent support group, POD (Parents of Deaf), which was started and supported by Deaf Children Australia and aims to provide peer support for parents to help with the difficulties of raising a deaf or hard of hearing child.

Tina Carter of Salisbury, mother of profoundly deaf Oscar, says joining the POD group has given her the opportunity to meet other parents of deaf children so they can support each other and share experiences and information.

“Through the network of POD families, I am learning what joys lay ahead for me as well as valuable strategies to cope with some of the challenges of having a child who is deaf. I love attending meetings and doing what I can to support other families.”

Damien Lacey, CEO of Deaf Children Australia, says that many parents can feel overwhelmed and isolated when dealing with the daily challenges of bringing up a deaf or hard of hearing child.

“In Australia, 95% of deaf and hard of hearing children are born to hearing families who have little or no experience of deafness. Our vision at Deaf Children Australia is that deafness is no barrier. This program brings families together so they can talk in a supportive, confidential environment, share experiences and understand that they are not alone,” he said.

Deaf Children Australia is a national not-for-profit organisation representing the needs of 16,000 deaf and hard of hearing children and their families across Australia and has been enriching their lives for over 140 years. As a not-for-profit organisation, its service is made possible with the support of volunteers, the community, businesses and government financial grants.

For more information on POD Queensland email brisbane@podqld.org. For confidential service and support call the Deaf Children Australia National Helpline 1800 645 916 or visit www.deafchildreinaustralia.org.au.

Media enquiries

Julie Postance (03) 9539 5362

Street:
597 St Kilda Road,
Melbourne, VIC 3004

Postal:
PO Box 6466,
St Kilda Road Central,
Melbourne, VIC 8008

Tel: + 61 3 9539 5300
Fax: +61 3 9525 2595
TTY: +61 3 9510 7143
Helpline: 1800 645 916
info@deafchildren.org.au
www.deafchildreinaustralia.org.au

ACN 108 025 207 ABN 57 108 025 207