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MEDIA RELEASE

PARENTS IN LISMORE MEET FOR DEAF KIDS

Parents of deaf and hard of hearing children in the Northern Rivers are finding comfort and support in the knowledge that there are others in the same boat. The parent support group, POD (Parents of Deaf), meet bimonthly in Lismore, a service started and supported by Deaf Children Australia to provide peer support for parents to help with the difficulties of raising a deaf or hard of hearing child.

Kelly and David Clark of Lismore, who have a profoundly deaf son, seven-year-old Kasha, joined the POD Lismore group so they could share experiences and support by meeting other parents of deaf children from the area.

“The PODs meetings give us the opportunity to discuss the issues and difficulties in raising a deaf child with other parents who understand what we’re going through. We have become a really close-knit group,” says Kelly.

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 about POD in Lismore, contact Craig Bishop on (02) 66 225572. For confidential service and support call the Deaf Children Australia National Helpline 1800 645 916 or visit www.deafchildreanaustralia.org.au.

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