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MEDIA RELEASE

PARENTS IN MACARTHUR MEET FOR DEAF KIDS

Parents of deaf and hard of hearing children in the Macarthur region can now join the parent support group, POD (Parents of Deaf), the first support group of its kind in the region.

The group, which aims to provide peer support for parents to help with the difficulties of raising a deaf or hard of hearing child, was established and supported by Deaf Children Australia.

Aileen Ryan, mother of moderately deaf 15 year-old Elysha, says that joining the POD group has allowed her to meet with other parents and discuss the important issues and decisions they face when raising a deaf or hard of hearing child.

“My daughter is now a teenager, so as a parent of an older deaf child I feel I can help give advice to the parents who have younger children as I know what they’re going through.”

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 Macarthur email pcde@bigpond.com. For confidential service and support call the Deaf Children Australia National Helpline 1800 645 916 or visit www.deafchildrenaustralia.org.au.

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