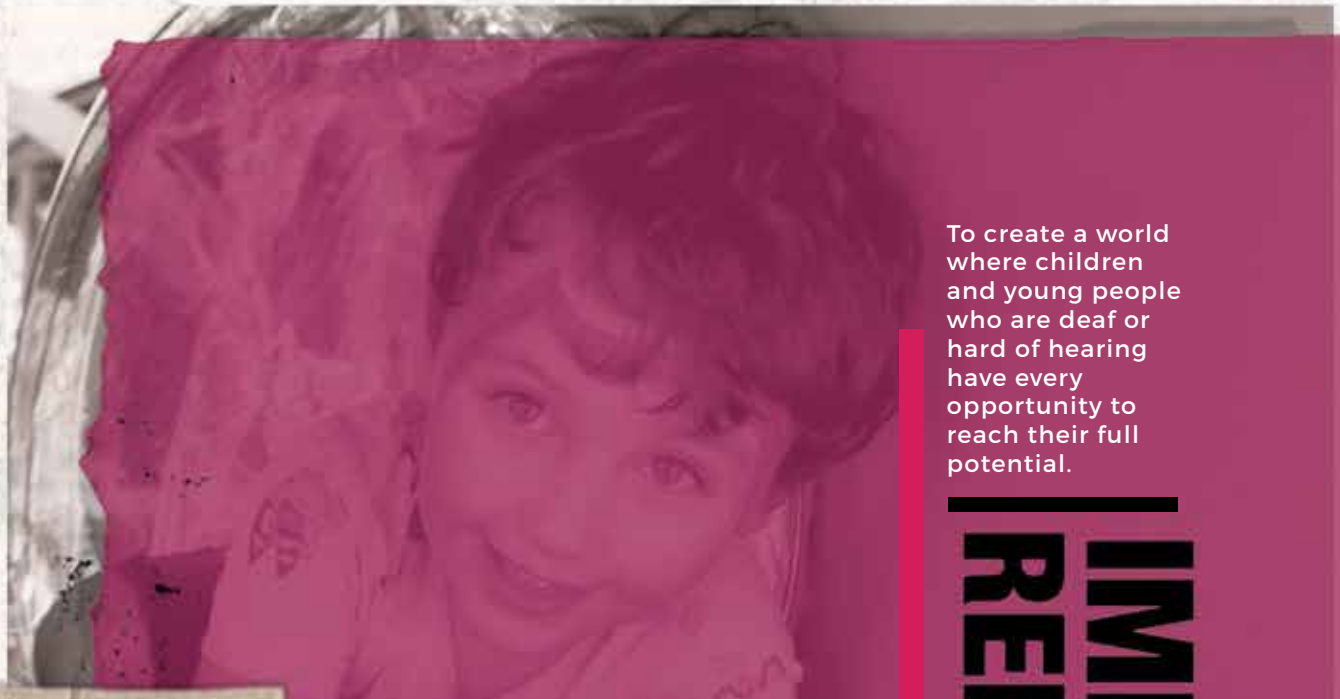


To create a world where children and young people who are deaf or hard of hearing have every opportunity to reach their full potential.

IMPACT REPORT

2022

Deaf Children Australia.

DCA | Another step in the journey.





OUR MISSION

OUR VISION

To create a world where children and young people who are deaf or hard of hearing have every opportunity to reach their full potential.

To provide the support, advice, options, and unbiased information families need to raise engaged, connected, and resilient deaf and hard of hearing young Australians.



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CHAIR & CEO REPORT

We have immense pleasure in presenting our 160th Impact Report, for the year ending 30 June 2022. With the restrictions of COVID-19 easing, we have enjoyed the opportunity of being able to offer more of our services and face-to-face support. We have also learnt through this extended period of lock-down, ways we can reach and support people wherever they may live in Australia.

We continue to be proud of our Flying Colours website, designed to support, inform, and inspire families across Australia who are raising children who are deaf or hard of hearing (DHH). The content and reach of this valuable resource is providing the support and advice parents of DHH children have told us they need.

Our Blueprint – Lead by Example project, aimed at supporting mainstream organisations to be more accessible to DHH children and young people, is progressing well. It includes the creation of an inspiring documentary featuring DHH children and young people who are successfully taking part in a mainstream activity of their choosing. We are excited to bring this to national awareness and roll out our curated training to organisations across Australia.

Taking a similar approach, our Puggles Swim program will be up and running by the time this goes to print. It will make it much easier for DHH children and their families to find an accredited swim instructor who can support the communication needs of a DHH child in a mainstream swim class.

Our Platypus Playhouse range of Auslan-English language resources has been very well received. It meets a need in our community for quality, engaging, bilingual resources for parents, so they can foster a language rich environment at home in the critical early years of language acquisition.

Despite the obvious challenges of lockdowns, our Sign for Work specialist employment services team has worked tirelessly to support participants at various stages of their career. They ensure participants are placed in meaningful roles that align with their skills and goals.

We continue to be incredibly grateful for the ongoing work of our volunteer Board members who have guided and supported Deaf Children Australia (DCA) through a challenging period. We thank them for their continued commitment including investing considerable time and energy into the development of the new DCA Strategic Plan 2022-2025 which will be launched at the end of 2022.

Our innovative approach to supporting our clients promises an exciting future and we look forward to sharing this with you. In creating our new vision, we were reminded DCA was started by inspiring, industrious pioneers who saw a problem and did something about it. Leaders and advocates have continued this work for 160 years. They have fought discrimination and worked tirelessly to improve the lives of DHH children, young people and their families. We are proud to continue this work today.

We would also like to thank our staff who have been hardworking, capable, positive, and creative as we emerge from the impact of COVID-19. Thank you also to our volunteers who are similarly committed to achieving our mission. On behalf of our participants and stakeholders we express our gratitude to our donors, corporate and philanthropic supporters, and government funders. Your support makes an enormous difference, enabling us to provide valuable opportunities for DHH children and young people, along with their families.

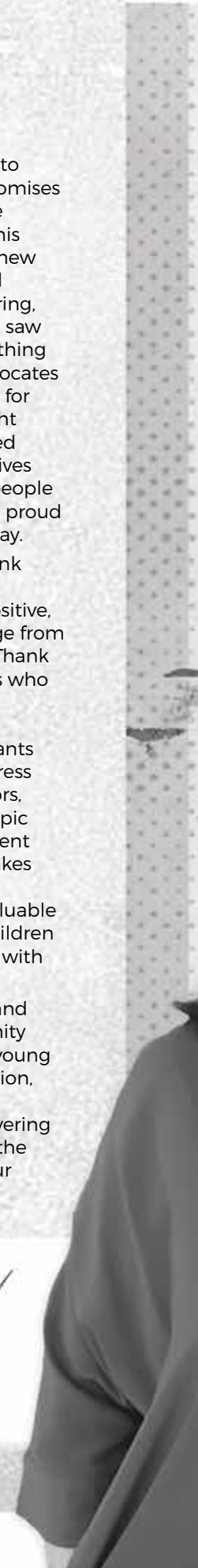
We commend the spirit and resilience of our community of families, children and young people and our organisation, together we prevail and commit ourselves to delivering on our mission to create the best possible world for our children to thrive.



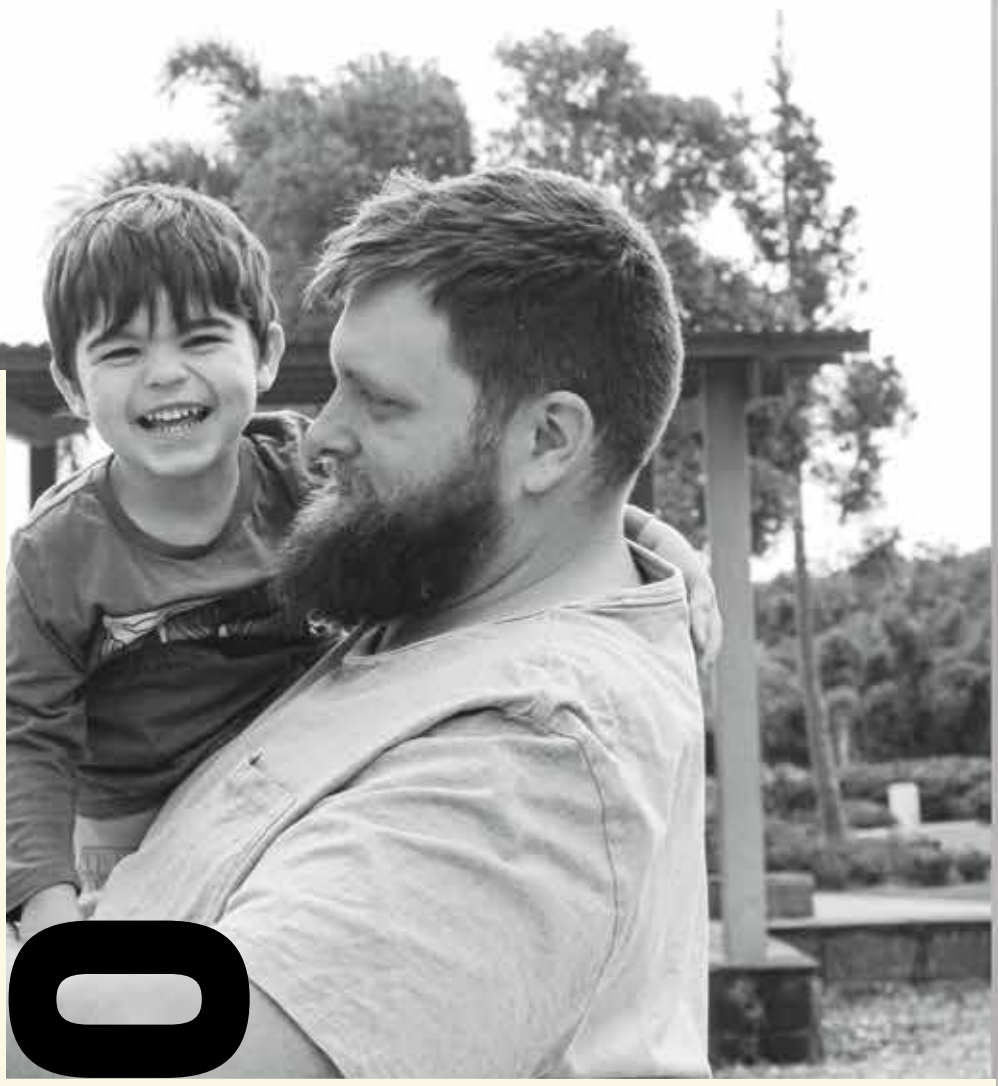
David Wilson
CEO



Dr Kerry Ferguson
CHAIR







SUPPORTING FAMILIES
PARENT MENTORS

For new parents of deaf and hard of hearing (DHH) children, having the support of someone who knows what you've been through can be essential. Every day, our Parent Mentors help families with DHH children to take those first steps into a new world – and for parents like Leanna, this support can make all the difference.

Quinn was only one and a half years old when he lost his ability to say Mum or Dad. Quinn had bilateral hearing loss. Often, one of the greatest struggles Quinn's mum Leanna faced was getting him to wear his hearing aids.

However, after meeting Parent Mentor Stacey from Deaf Children Australia, she discovered another parent who had been through a similar journey with her own child. Leanna learned about hearing aid bonnets that could help hold an infant's hearing aids in. Stacey told her this was what had helped her daughter adapt to having hearing aids.

3,300

Across QLD and VIC, the Parent Mentor Program supported more than 80 families per month, delivered more than 3,300 occasions of support.





"She laughed when I told her how terrified I was of my son losing his hearing aids," said Leanna. "She told me losing hearing aids was not a big deal, that kids throw them out the window or hide them for you to discover months later, and that you can always get a new pair."

"It was really comforting knowing she'd been through pretty much the same thing we were going through with our son. Just knowing that down the track, we could be in the same place, where we're not panicking and always worried that we're not providing the right support for our son".

Today Quinn keeps his hearing aids in most of the day with his bonnet on, and Leanna shares this tip with other parents of deaf and hard of hearing children she meets.

Leanna hopes to teach Quinn both Auslan and English so he can make his own language choices when he is older. Through our Parent Mentor program, Leanna has been in touch with parents who are able to help support her with their lived experience raising a DHH child.

Our Parent Mentors provide invaluable information to new parents, helping parents of DHH children to make the best decisions for their children. Every day, our Parent Mentors help parents like Leanna, supporting them and their families as they navigate this new world.

Having someone who knows what you're going through and who understands, can make all the difference.

BELIEVE AND ACHIEVE

The Nelson & Brook Educational Trusts, The Allen & Cecilia Tye Fund and our generous donors, help DCA support the dreams and ambitions of young people around Australia.

We all want to see young deaf and hard of hearing (DHH) people achieve their goals, and to lead their best life. It highlights the united force and the difference it makes to lives; it does take a community to raise a child.

The 2022 Youth Grants discovered remarkable ideas and goals young people want to explore.

We awarded approximately $29,000 in funding to 13 projects, supporting young people across a broad range of activities, here are just a few of the terrific projects to be supported and accomplished by March 2023.

Sion (NSW) and Jaya (TAS) both took part in our art competition which has given both the confidence to further explore their creativity. Sion is creating designs for T-shirts and Jaya is undertaking training to develop a website to sell and market her art.

Imogen Barnes (NSW) is pursuing her dream to take part in the 2023 Paddle Australia Canoe Sprint National Championship and Oceania Canoe Sprint Championships. Hannah Woods (WA) is working toward becoming one of the first profoundly deaf veterinary nurses in Western Australia, and with her grant is undergoing a Certificate III in Animal Handling – Veterinary Nurse, while Jesse Watson (NT), wants to purchase standard whips and compete at the 2022 Australian Whipcracking and Plaiters Association Whipcracking Championships in NSW.

"Thank you so much for this. You have no idea how much this is going to help me.
Ryanna Lawson

Thank you so much! I can't wait to tell you about the course and how helpful everyone is being."
Hannah Woods

Thank you so much for funding my project!! My dream come true!! Thank you for the support."
Sion Takahashi

CREATING NEW OPPORTUNITIES

The Allen & Cecilia Tye Fund helped create new experiences, contributed to individuals achieving their goals, and delivered much needed opportunities for young DHH people to connect, socialise and just have fun with their peers. Coming out of the rolling lockdowns the opportunity to enjoy social interaction once again was more welcome than ever before.

We awarded $31,850 to support a wide range of life changing experiences for individuals through schools. Each created opportunities for DHH people to enjoy rich experiences delivering long term benefits. To follow are a few of the projects supported:



OPENING THE DOOR TO NEW POSSIBILITIES

Nicholas Layton is a professional swimmer and we contributed to the costs associated with him taking part in the National Swimming Competition that took place in May 2022. Nicholas is achieving amazing things in the pool and swam a personal best. We are honoured to support him in his pursuits.

Furlong Park School for Deaf Children sought funding for its Year 12 students to attend a camp at the picturesque 15 Mile Creek Campus Outdoor School in Northeast Victoria, in May 2022. The camp gave the students the opportunity to explore new surroundings, teach and empower them with important life skills, assist with their personal growth, develop, and enhance teamwork skills while having a fun and educational experience.

We also sponsored a family to travel from northern QLD to Brisbane to take part in our Family Camp. This is a rare opportunity for families to meet with other families travelling a similar path and to see their children play, learn and build social skills with their DHH peers.

We ran a free online gathering for DHH children and young people to meet, share stories and connect with deaf mentors to learn coping strategies in lockdown. We ran three sessions for ages 8-11, 12-15 and 16-18 years.

These funds exist to deliver new and exciting opportunities and experiences to young DHH people. We know there are many great individuals requiring additional support, together with the organisations supporting them, we can help ensure opportunities that deliver long standing benefits are made possible.



We encourage people to contact us, so we can explore ways to enrich the lives of young deaf and hard of hearing people.

21

Taine Venables received a 2021 Youth Grant to compete in the 2021 Race of Stars in November. It is an invitation only event to the best Go Kart drivers in Australia.



ART COMPETITION
THIS IS ME

We launched an annual Art Competition in July 2021 to celebrate the creativity of young deaf and hard of hearing (DHH) artists. It is a unique competition committed to supporting, promoting, and nurturing young DHH people in their pursuit of creativity and self-expression.

We invited 12 to 23 year olds across Australia to submit art in a variety of formats to the theme, 'This is me'. It was wonderful to see how each artist creatively executed the theme, delivering insights into what it means to be deaf.

We had three categories:

12- 17 YEARS

WINNER
Ava, NSW with 'Inspired Soul', awarded **$1000**

RUNNER UP
Sion, NSW with 'This is Me,' awarded **$500**

18 – 23 YEARS

WINNER
Maggie, VIC with Maggie, awarded **$1000**

RUNNER UP
Caitlin, VIC with 'Heart beyond the sunset,' awarded **$500**

People's Choice

Charlize, SA with 'Glitter girl' – awarded **$500**

We wanted to offer a significant prize that would give each recipient the chance to further develop and explore their artistic skills. Engaging in artistic pursuits can deliver great benefits including stimulating the imagination, enhancing observation and critical thinking skills, boosting self-esteem through a sense of accomplishment, and reduce stress – all great assets to apply to all aspects of life.

We held an Exhibition and Award Ceremony at the Bluestone on 5 April. More than 80 people attended and more than 450 watched online as we live streamed the event. Actor and advocate for LGBTQIA+ and DHH communities, Nathan Borg, was a great MC.

Our high profile judges: Sue Joe Wright, Irene Holub, and Selwyn Hoffmann handed out the prizes and shared their views on the art featured. All are excited to see the competition grow year on year. Thanks also to Jodee Mundy for being a judge.

ART COMPETITION **2021-2022**
THIS IS me

We learned through parents of participants and the participants themselves how special it was to see their art in an exhibition and to have so many see it and celebrate their work.

To date we know of a few of the artists who are furthering their skills with some applying for Youth Grants to turn their creativity into a commercial venture. This includes creating designs for t-shirts and setting up an online store to market their prints. This is what we want the art competition to become: a platform for dreaming, believing and thriving.



GLITTER GIRL
by Charlize



NATHAN BORG AND ART ENTRANT ELEANOR.

We are currently accepting entries for the next competition with the theme, Heroes and Leaders. Entries close on 22 January 2023. We cannot wait to see what young creatives deliver this time. We have launched a new age category, 8 to 11 years, and are excited to see their self expression shine through.

Many organisations helped us to promote the competition and the exhibition, thank you to all who did. We congratulate everyone that took part in this first of many competitions. Creating art and then showing it to the wider community to be critiqued is an incredibly brave thing to do.

We see this as an opportunity for young people to build their skills and realise their potential. We will connect artists with mentors who can arm them with the creative and business skills to see their creativity open opportunities they didn't realise existed.

MAGGIE
by Maggie





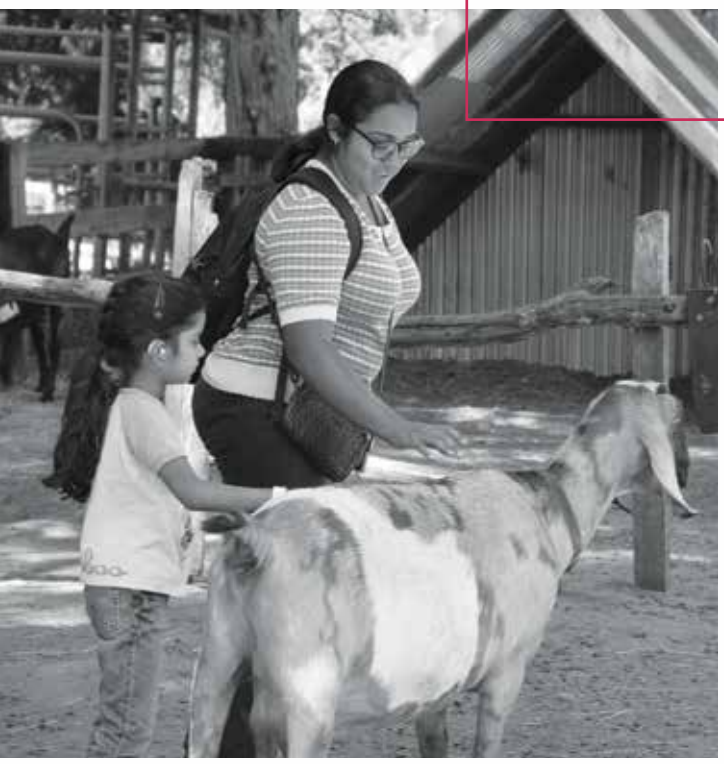
INSPIRED SOUL
by Ava



JUDGES FROM LEFT TO RIGHT:
IRENE HOLUB, SELWYNN HOFFMAN
AND SUE JO WRIGHT

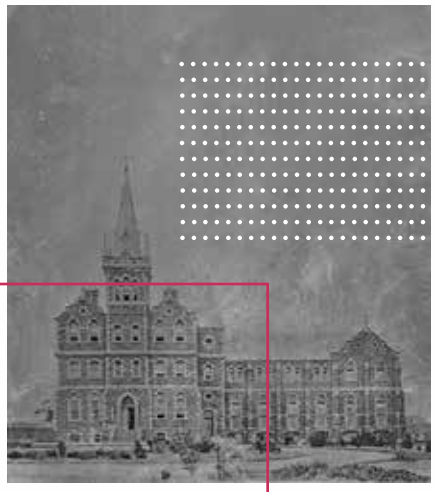
QUEENSLAND FAMILY CAMP





ESCAPE TO THE FARM

HISTORIC BLUESTONE, MELBOURNE





ESCAPE TO THE FARM

More than 600 people took part in our community events to celebrate deaf history, our art competition and to connect with community.

600

Connecting with others is especially meaningful for deaf and hard of hearing (DHH) children, young people and their families, because they are often isolated in their unique experiences. Events that connect them with people who understand their story, their journey, are a critical step to learning from each other, meeting new people and for children to play and enjoy new experiences with kids just like them.

COVID meant we had to cancel many of our face to face events and seek new ways to deliver experiences. We ran an online 'Meet the Barn Animals' with RSPCA Victoria who tailored their event to online, and learned Auslan signs to engage DHH children in the unique presentation.

"The kids loved it! Lots of little squeals and 'awws' when they saw the animals and how cute they were. Lots of great information about guinea pigs and rabbits." Parent

ESCAPE TO THE FARM

Escape to the Farm was held on 19 January 2022 at Collingwood Children's Farm. It was open to young DHH children and their families.

The event was fully booked as families were keen to meet and do something different. We wanted to deliver a fun and relaxing tour of the farm incorporating Auslan.

Families loved the experience, and enjoyed meeting and learning about the animals. Children were able to get up close to the animals which included, goats, horses, guinea pigs, peacocks, sheep, ducks and pigs.

"Thanks for the beautiful day!" Parent



ENRICHING LIVES THROUGH CONNECTIONS

EVENTS



QLD FAMILY CAMP

When Scarlett was asked why is it important to meet other deaf children, she said:

"It just like makes me more happy around deaf children, deaf people, and it just doesn't make me feel lonely by myself with my hearing aids."

The QLD Family Camp took place in September 2021 at PGL Kindilin, Redland Bay.

We were able to significantly reduce the cost per family thanks to a grant from Queensland's Gambling Community Benefit Fund, and the generosity of our donors. This allowed more families to benefit from the short and long term benefits these camps deliver.

The event was fully booked, with 24 families including 52 children enjoying the camp.

The weekend was packed with lots of fun activities including canoeing, flying fox, orienteering, face painting, jumping castle, songs around the campfire and so much more.

There were smiles all around as children and parents had a great time, interacting with each other, sharing their experiences, creating happy memories and for parents to see their DHH child meet and play and learn with kids that share their child's journey.

"Family Camp to my family is so important, it's an opportunity for kids to meet other families and other kids who are just like them.

My daughter's eight, and has a bilateral hearing loss and for her just to be around other kids who it's just normal to wear hearing aids, or to have a Cochlear, or to sign, is so important for her sense of self-worth. " Jo

ROSE DAY

Deaf Children Australia has reinstated Rose Day on 1 December, the day FJ Rose passed away in 1920. It is a day that was observed in the 1920's to commemorate the achievements of our remarkable founder. What he achieved is extraordinary and Deaf Children Australia is privileged to continue his work today and into the future. We were thrilled to have Dr Breda Carty, Coordinator of the Deaf History and Cultural Recognition Program at Deaf Connect and Deaf Interpreter, Chris Dunn share their connection to the Bluestone, and thoughts on Rose. They talked about their incredible careers. Their success speaks to what Rose wanted for all Deaf people - the opportunity to thrive.

"This has been so wonderful. Thank you to all involved :) **Nicky**

The event was run online due to COVID outbreaks at the time. We wanted to highlight the ongoing impact of Rose and how he continues to inspire people. Breda presented her story at the Bluestone and we filmed Chris prior to the day because he was unable to attend on 1 December. Approximately 50 people attended and overall, the event was well received. Attendees were invited to ask Breda questions at the end of the presentation. It opened up great conversations and recollections of FJ Rose and his legacy.

"Thank you DCA, Breda and Chris for your presentations. It is so important to retain history and pass it on to the younger generation. Much appreciated." Kerry



LIFE SKILLS

BUILDING A BRIGHTER FUTURE

HELPING YOUNG PEOPLE TO BE RESILIENT AND INDEPENDENT

A range of workshops and events helped 180 young people develop new skills, explore their potential, delivered opportunities to interact with their peers and to connect with deaf mentors. These occasions create an essential source of social support, a sense of belonging and being valued which helps build confidence, while learning essential life skills.

We delivered:



5,600

HOURS OF SUPPORT DELIVERED

GET CONNECTED

8 TO 11 YEARS AND 12 TO 17 YEARS

This national online workshop has been running for a couple of years and is well received by participants and parents. Social interaction with peers helps build new connections and opportunities to learn from each other's experiences. The aim is for participants to gain access to the Deaf community, learn how to self-advocate, build their confidence, make friends, and connect and learn from the deaf and hard of hearing (DHH) mentors. Participants enjoy the interactive games, learning from the mentors, learning about the Deaf community, and connecting with people like them.

> "The Mentors were great. Good to see friendly role models, especially for children in regional centres who don't meet many!
>
> **PARENT**

> I have learnt the deeper meaning of Self Advocacy, and I learnt more about the Deaf community.
>
> **PARTICIPANT**

180

young people took part in a range of workshops and programs to upskill and connect with peers and mentors.

How can we improve Ready Set Drive? "Nothing, because everything is perfect."
PARTICIPANT

STEPUP2HIGH SCHOOL

This unique online workshop is dedicated to transitioning young deaf or hard of hearing (DHH) people into high school.
It equips participants with the skills and confidence to successfully navigate high school, delving into the techniques to help manage all the new, exciting, and challenging experiences that may surface.
The aim is for participants to increase their confidence, to learn to speak up and manage bullying, the normalisation of hearing devices and how to make friends.
The workshop is led by DHH mentors with lived experience and a commitment to see young people flourish at High School.

"I really liked getting to meet other kids who are also hard of hearing and deaf and getting to talk about it together."

"It's a welcoming community."

"I had fun and made connections with other people."

PARTICIPANTS

READY SET DRIVE

Getting your Ls was held on 12 April 2022. It was a day workshop for DHH people aged 16+ years.

The purpose was to give DHH participants a comprehensive overview of driving theory so they can feel confident getting their Learner's permit. This was the second instalment of our Ready Set Drive program, which ran for the first time in 2021.

Courtenay Rufus facilitated the workshop, from CRUDE Ultimate Driving Education which took place at DCA.

Feedback from the participants demonstrated we met the course objectives:

- Delivery of a comprehensive driving theory workshop
- An introduction to practical knowledge through tyre changing and a dash cam
- Learning about speed, breaking safely, and driving in different conditions via the driving simulator
- Deliver a skill-building, informative, and inclusive workshop to increase the participant's independence
- To create an opportunity for DHH people to socialise.

Ready Set Drive will return in 2023. We would like to run Ready Set Drive in other states, there is high demand for this unique program. Learning to drive is the gateway to gaining independence, it must be available to young DHH people.

"Very informative, covers all areas of driving."

"I want to say great job for planning that event that I enjoyed."

"I enjoyed watching and learning."

PARTICIPANTS





GETTING A FAIR GO TRANSFORMS LIVES

HENRY LIVINGSTONE
NDIS EMPLOYMENT SUPPORTS COORDINATOR

Jayden Lautolo is a 20 year old who was born profoundly deaf into a hearing family that had no understanding of the Deaf community and culture.

Having completed school in late 2020, Jayden went on to study a short course at Chisholm institute - Certificate II Building and Construction. This course covered the fundamentals of the construction industry and allowed Jayden the opportunity to attend a work experience placement as a bricklayer. Although he enjoyed the work, the placement did not amount to ongoing employment as Jayden did not receive ongoing support while at work.

Jayden and his family approached Deaf Children Australia in July 2021, to request support through his School Leaver Employment Supports funding. COVID restrictions at the time meant initial services were delivered via Zoom. It was in January 2022 when restrictions were lifted and I met Jayden face to face to begin the process of discovery around employment.

Jayden was interested in commercial cleaning and catering as well as labouring in the construction industry. With limited experience, placing Jayden into a professional environment was challenging. Employers could not see his potential and focused on the difficulty of communication.

With persistence, Jayden and I found him a job as a labourer at GB Galvanising in Dandenong South. GB Galvanising is a medium sized family business that believes in providing not only high-quality service to its customers but embraces its community and is happy to give everybody “a fair go.”

Jayden was offered a casual role (FT hours) as a labourer. After a couple of weeks spent working out the workplace safety requirements, Jayden began work in June.

School Leaver Employment Supports

“

In his role he is responsible for cleaning and maintenance of the finished galvanised products, the majority of these items are structural beams that are roughly 20 meters long and weigh more than 2 tonnes.
As his support worker, I visit Jayden at his workplace and offer him support with his job, but as he is a proud Samoan man that is twice my size, he tells me I must go to the office as I am small and may get hurt.

Now that Jayden is working, his sense of purpose has increased and his happy go lucky mood shines through, which is a wonderful thing to see. Over time I believe Jayden will outgrow this role and look for more challenging work, but it is a great start for his future.

AUSLAN SUPPORT

My daughter, Jessmie Gill is learning Auslan once a week with Deaf Children Australia. These sessions are not only for Jessmie; the whole family is also learning through her.

I am very pleased we decided to have these sessions for Jessmie. Auslan is her first language and every week she is learning new words, and new ways of expressing herself.

Before starting her Auslan tutoring she was always frustrated. Her personality has changed this year, she is more confident now and she is expressing her feelings. I just want to thank DCA.

Thanks,

Nav

AUSLAN SUPPORT

I really enjoy and love learning Auslan with DCA, I wanted to learn Auslan for Sonny so I could communicate with him, he is growing and it is important for him to communicate with me and my family. We started off with simple one-word Auslan, now we are having conversations with Sonny.

Sonny communicates more with Auslan when he is not well or when we go to new places, or new people are around. When our family wants to communicate with Sonny, they will ask me and I will help with giving them the signs they need to communicate with Sonny.

Khiet Le, Sonny's mum

COMMUNITY SUPPORT

We have enjoyed having DCA Community Support Workers with Sonny in our home. We have had a few Victor, Tayla and currently Simone. Each support worker is different, but they have the Auslan skills to communicate with Sonny and follow his interests. During COVID, Victor was able to continue weekly sessions with Sonny via Zoom. We have Simone who takes Sonny and myself to all Disability Basketball games weekly. This helps Sonny meet new people his age and helps me with communication in Auslan with Sonny. Sonny gets excited and looks forward to meeting his support workers every week.

Thank you,

Khiet Le, Sonny's mum

3,349

More than 3,349 hours of Auslan tuition delivered



DON'T LIMIT YOURSELF

thank you for your amazing support.

ANTANHE ZEWDU AGE: 15

Antanhe Zewdu has received Support Coordination services since 2019. He was born in Ethiopia and relocated to Australia with his family when he was a young boy. He is bilaterally profoundly deaf and, at the beginning, Antanhe was a shy and reserved young man. He started learning Auslan when he was five years old. Initially he relied on his family and Auslan peers from school for his everyday needs including communication and with various appointments.

After Antanhe obtained NDIS funding in 2019, over time our Support Coordinators have helped him access:

Deaf Mentor/Social and Community

Travel Training

Functional English and Math

Auslan for Families

Speech Therapy

Occupational Therapy

Assistive Technology (communication devices)

During lockdowns, Antanhe had to learn to adjust to online supports and he is thriving on the supports provided..

SOUKARANO ABUBAKAR AGE: 20

The Support Coordination team has enjoyed helping Soukarano since 2017. He came to us as a very shy and anxious young person, especially when meeting with new people.

Auslan is his main language and he relied on his family to look after him and communicate for him. Since his NDIS Plan was put in place, Soukarano was introduced to Auslan support workers to do weekly activities with him.

Slowly over time we were able to gain Soukarano's trust and build a support network of regular staff for consistency to help transition him from living in his family home, to exploring outside in his community, through to learning to become independent.

Within the last two years, the Support Coordination team together with allied health organisations, Auslan tuition and a small team of Auslan Interpreters were able to build a rapport with him, develop a deeper understanding of him and his unique Auslan communication.

We successfully applied to the NDIS for specially designed housing together with onsite support and daily living services so Soukarano could live independently in his own home.

We also found him a home only five minutes away from his family. Soukarano is currently transitioning to his new home with family and allied health support. The combination of his new home, weekly Auslan tutoring and DCA Deaf Awareness Training, continues to build his capacity and confidence to be self-reliant.

6,289

hours of NDIS support coordination delivered

FUNDRAISING & PHILANTHROPY

DONOR STORIES

In another challenging year with COVID-19 impacts, restrictions and then high inflation, we are so grateful our supporters have continued to donate to ensure the children and families we work with can continue to access the programs they need.

We had a 29% increase in the number of people who donated to Deaf Children Australia (DCA) last financial year, including individuals, businesses, schools and community groups.

We were delighted to be selected as the charity partner for Hartwell Players production of Tribes, a play about a young deaf person growing up in a hearing family. The production was presented in both English and Auslan with interpreters at all shows creating an innovative and collaborative audience experience. DCA received the ticket sales from the opening night, which was attended by many of our staff and supporters.

DCA was also grateful to receive funding from the Brian M Davis Foundation, Collier Charitable Trust and the William Angliss Charitable Fund (Victoria) towards our Platypus Playhouse Auslan videos, now available for free online thanks to their philanthropic support. We are also grateful to the CMV Group Foundation for partially funding our 2022 Victorian Family Camp.

> I want to support deaf children and their families through education, language, and assistance when required so they can enjoy life with music, dancing, singing, driving, and more.

HANNAH GATES

> I had a grandmother who became deaf as she aged. My grandmother became very isolated from others. I would hope that deaf children won't have to suffer this isolation.

ELISABETH GUINNESS

> I want deaf and hard of hearing children to have a loving environment where progress in Auslan or other programs is celebrated.

DAVID WILLIAMS

> My hope for deaf children is that they have the support and resources to live a full and productive life, within society, accepted as normal and mainstream.

ELENA CAFASO

KEY SUPPORTERS

AgileXperts

Ahmadiyya Muslim Association Seniors

The William Angliss (Victoria) Charitable Fund

Mr Darren Bartlett

Amy Bastings Estate

Mrs Dorothy Baylis

The Beverley Briese Foundation Pty Ltd

Mr Lance Bryant

Crown Resorts Foundation

The Brian M Davis Charitable Foundation

Mr Jonathan Dunlea

Fiat Car Club Of Victoria

Ford Rallye Sport Owners Club of Victoria

Estate of the late Gerald Emanuel Goldberg

Mrs Jennie Gray

Mrs Mavis Harrison

Estate of Margaret R Hellier

Il Gusto Restaurant

Jacobus Business Services

Kasalo Steel Fixing Pty Ltd

Sara Lederman Charitable Foundation

Estate of William & Bessie Lennox

Mrs Rosemary Lloyd

The Keir Family

Estate of Joseph Kronheimer

Mrs Bronwyn Malouf

A C MacBean Bequest

Mrs Rosemary Meagher & the late Mr Douglas Meagher

Melbourne Industrial Plumbing Pty Ltd

Merri Merri Christmas Tree Co.

Mr Ron McNeilly

Lily Maude Payne Charitable Trust

Mr Ian Penney

Mr Brett Phillips

Power House Rugby Union

Mrs Maureen Stevenson

Sun Health Foods Pty Ltd

Mr Darrell Swindells

Estate of Alice L D'Esterre Taylor

Mr Kevin Thomson

The Allen & Cecilia Tye Fund

Urquhart Charitable Fund

George Warman Charitable Bequest

Charles Wright Trust

Estate of Henry Herbert Yoffa

SIGN FOR WORK

Josh gave me hope.
Troy

Job seekers placed in employment in Victoria and Queensland

155

COLLINGWOOD OFFICE

JOSHUA KER
SIGN FOR WORK

Troy's work goals were to be able to make a better living to support himself and his family. Something we all want, yet for some, they meet challenges all along the road to achieving it.

Luckily for Troy, one great decision he made was to contact Sign for Work to seek assistance to help him reach his goal. His Disability Employment Service case manager is Joshua Ker. Together they kicked down the barriers to see Troy land his dream job.

Troy says, "My two biggest challenges were creating a routine and getting back into the swing of working. I had struggled with alcohol.

"Josh gave me hope, confidence and the support to help me change course, it changed my life. I would not have my job at Hyperlocal News if it hadn't been for Josh, he was always there, offering guidance."

Prior to contacting Sign for Work, Troy had tried other Disability Employment Service providers and, in his words, "... they wouldn't give me the time of day."





FROM L TO R - JAKE-HYPERLOCAL NEWS, TROY AND JOSH

SIGN FOR WORK HAS FOUR OFFICES:

VIC
Melbourne
Collingwood

QLD
Toowong
Southport

When Sign for Work says it delivers individual support, it means it. The people they support often talk about feeling as though they have an individual work coach they can speak to.

The specialist skills among the team can support people with a disability, health condition, injury, together with people that are deaf or hard of hearing, at various stages of their career.

Landing someone their dream job is just the beginning. Sign for Work offers a range of supports to help keep a participant in a job. It is a partnership, focused on support and encouragement to see a participant reach their potential.

"Working changed me, I've stopped drinking and I am enjoying the positive impacts of this. My family has noticed a difference too.

"Thank you Sign for Work, especially Josh. I really appreciate your support in helping me find work at Hyperlocal News, Jake and the team have made me feel very welcome," stated Troy.

THE STORY

SOUTHPORT OFFICE

AMANDA
SIGN FOR WORK

Amanda's client is deaf and wears a hearing aid, and struggles with a learning difficulty (expressive and receptive). He is in his mid-30's and was working casual hours for his dad as a floor and wall tiler for many years.

He was unable to complete an apprenticeship, however, through the years of working with his dad, he developed great skills from extensive practical experience. He then began working on his own, further strengthening his knowledge and capabilities.

A combination of factors, such as his dad wanting to retire and COVID impacting on the business, meant the client decided it was time to branch out on his own and try to generate income from self-employment.

With encouragement from Sign for Work, the client obtained his own ABN, tax advice, and began generating work for himself. He learned how to manage the business, keeping track of hours and locations, through to marketing, using various social media platforms.

Sign for Work helped the client source accountancy advice from a local firm so he knew how to keep accurate records of his income and expenditure.

The client has created a really successful little business for himself and is starting to become very well known around the Gold Coast area.

He recently contacted the Sign for Work team to share exciting news that he and his partner can try to have a baby because they can now afford IVF treatment because of his successful business.

He told Sign for Work how its support helped him establish himself and helped he and his partner create a stable income for themselves, so they can afford to have a baby, and afford the medical intervention necessary to fall pregnant.

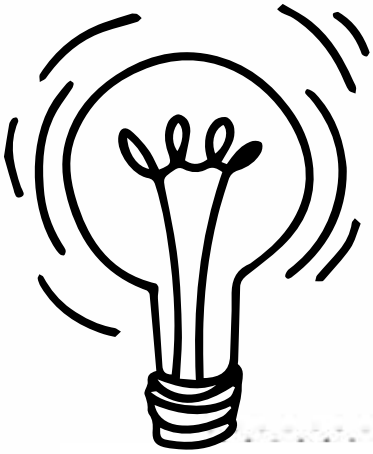
Having this life changing impact on an individual and the repercussion of this positive experience drives the team at Sign for Work. This story is one of the many where their one-on-one support speaks volumes for the care and commitment they invest in each client.

This is heart-warming stuff! We are blessed to play such a powerful role in our client's lives and to be on this journey with them! Having paid work is not just about having more money to create a better life for yourself, it is also about having choices. Here at Sign for Work we are all about making choices possible.

Amanda



Deaf Children Australia.



BRAND EVOLUTION

Creating a world where children and young people who are deaf or hard of hearing (DHH) have every opportunity to reach their full potential is our focus. In addition to arming those we support with the right supports, we raise awareness among the broader community about the skills, experiences, and the challenges young DHH people face.

Through storytelling we can share these experiences and broaden our reach. For example, the Art competition we launched last year was targeted at a broad range of stakeholders, including local government. Councils shared news of our competition extending our reach. This means the broader community are learning about deaf lives and we get to reach more people to engage in our programs.

When young DHH people see an event to support them is getting traction and recognition among their local community, they feel supported, and it boosts their confidence. With the programs we continue to launch we will be building on the capacity for the broader community to learn more about deaf and hard of hearing experiences and to learn about how to be deaf aware. We see this as vital to building inclusive communities.

Consultation with the people we are here to support helped us to refine and define who we are and our role in supporting DHH children, young people, and their families. As a result, we refreshed our brand to reflect a more contemporary look and feel, reflective of the pioneering thinking driving the programs, resources, and events we deliver.

We also rejuvenated our website to improve the user experience, accessibility, and search function. Our marketing collateral has taken on a more bold, fun, and playful approach to engage and to encourage people to want to share our content – it's working.

Deaf Children Australia. | FLYING COLOURS. flyingcolours.org.au

PLATYPUS PLAY HOUSE

GETTING SOCIAL

Our social community continues to grow as we share the experiences of DHH children, young people, and their families. We do this through video, images, and feedback and consultation with the people we are here to support.

The Flying Colours survey, which was key to informing the development of the Flying Colours parent resource, demonstrated 60% of those surveyed (approx. 500), want to learn from the experiences of others.

The launch of Platypus Playhouse and Flying Colours, as well as the development of projects like Blueprint and the Puggles Swim Program, continue to deliver rich content and invaluable insights to what families need, and where they meet challenges. We can then identify a solution, underpinned by research, lived experience, and working in partnership with the respective subject matter experts.

Thank you to all who shared their stories with us and took the time to offer constructive feedback for the purpose of benefiting other young people and their families. Collectively we increased Deaf Children Australia's community and capacity to share and learn together:

47% INCREASE IN OUR INSTAGRAM AUDIENCE

7% INCREASE IN OUR FACEBOOK AUDIENCE

4% INCREASE IN OUR TWITTER AUDIENCE

BLUEPRINT: LEAD BY EXAMPLE

BLUE PRINT

Families told us they worry about finding accessible, mainstream sport and recreational activities where their deaf or hard of hearing (DHH) child can be included. Blueprint: Lead By Example is a fresh take on promoting access and participation, inspired by the lived experience of DHH individuals and is funded by the Department of Social Services - Grants provided as part of the Information Linkages and Capacity Building program.

To gain a deeper understanding of the issues, barriers and challenges, we commissioned a survey, reaching over 4000 sport and recreational clubs and associations nationally. This cohort believes they are inadequately prepared to facilitate inclusion but are keen to know how to do this.

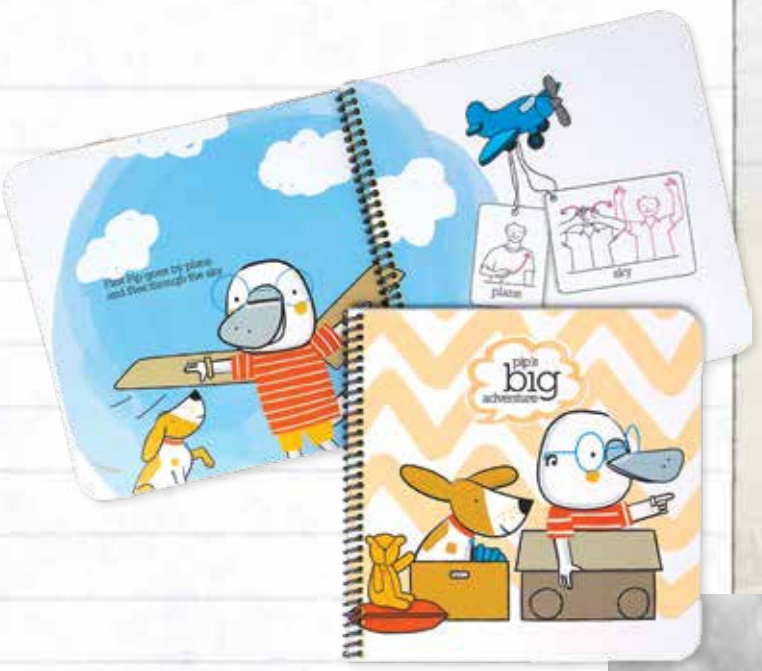
With this intelligence, Blueprint has documented the personal experiences of DHH individuals and their clubs, investigating how they manage communication issues and the benefits each receive from their involvement. The program will showcase these stories via a collaborative Community of Practice and deliver training for community organisations via an interactive webinar. It will cover subjects and information mainstream organisations told us they need to become more inclusive.

We are currently capturing via video, the inspiring stories of individuals across the country, who take part in a range of activities including fencing, swimming, dancing, AFL, Sea Scouts, mountain biking and tennis.

The full suite of Blueprint resources will be available in early 2023.









THE PLATYPUS PLAYHOUSE RANGE

The Platypus Playhouse range of bilingual resources (Auslan and English) was launched August 2021. Research guided our approach to creating the range which includes: story books, finger puppets, tactile learning aids, flashcards, Matcharoo cards, Auslan finger spelling magnets, and Auslan translations (videos) of the story books. Each resource is uniquely developed to facilitate playful and engaging opportunities for a deaf or hard of hearing (DHH) child to begin to communicate and develop contextual connections with parents, siblings, carers, friends and playmates. The range is available through the DCA online store.

We are grateful to the Brian M David Foundation, Collier Charitable Trust and the William Angliss Charitable Fund (Victoria) for supporting the Auslan translations of the story books.

BEST SELLERS:

SPELL WITH ME
Auslan Fingerspelling
Fridge Magnets

PIP'S BIG ADVENTURE
Story Book

PIP AND ANNIE
GO TO THE COUNTRY
Story Book

The Platypus Playhouse Range is in constant development - with a further six books and complementary videos to be released throughout 2022-23. The Platypus Playhouse concept, relevant research articles, useful links, and a Guide for Parents are all featured at:

deafchildrenaustralia.org.au/platypus-playhouse/

PLATYPUS PLAY HOUSE






Aa
Bb
Cc
Dd
Oo
Gg
Xx
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Ll
Rr
Ww



PROJECTS





PUGGLES SWIM

The Puggles Swim Program began to evolve in August 2021. The need for a course such as Puggles Swim was clearly identified by parents of deaf or hard of hearing (DHH) children through the Flying Colours survey. Their feedback specifically highlighted that a) there is very limited support for DHH children to attend deaf-friendly learn-to-swim lessons and b) the advantage for DHH children to learn with their hearing peers, to make friends in the pool and build their confidence was paramount.

Deaf Children Australia (DCA) recognised the need and the potential for an initiative that would have a positive impact on DHH children wanting to learn to swim and made the decision to invest in the program. The other driving force behind the decision, is the national footprint Puggles Swim will deliver.

Since the initial pitch, the DCA Puggles Swim team, together with a carefully selected team of experts formed a Puggles Steering Committee, to begin developing the Puggles learn to swim Program.

The Puggles Swim course will provide swim teachers with the tools and skills to overlay current learn-to-swim classes with deaf-friendly tactics, allowing teachers and swim schools to confidently include DHH children in a mainstream swim class.

The content development of the course is being informed by consultation with members of the Deaf community including elite DHH swimmers, parents of DHH children, and a CODA swim teacher, and we will seek endorsement and input from Australia's governing swim bodies. The result - a three-hour, engaging, online e-learning course packed full of demonstration videos, Auslan signs, information about deafness, technology and more. The course is complemented by a range of relevant, useful resources to support swim teachers who take the course while in the field - at the pool.

The course will be available to purchase by the time this report is published.




Want to
know more?

FLYING COLOURS

Following the launch of the Flying Colours Website in June 2021 the focus has been on continually refining the content, adding stories from families with a DHH child, people with lived experience and research stories. This is informed by the analytics that shows the Content Finder, All About Deafness, Growing Up Deaf, Research Summaries and Service Finder pages, are the most popular with users.
At launch we had 17 lived experience stories - we now have over 30 from young people providing insights into 'growing up deaf' to parents' journeys following the early diagnosis of their child.

2022 is the final year of the three year ILC Flying Colours project. We are pleased to report the Flying Colours website has been embraced by families of DHH children with 3029 new visitors, 6838 page views across the site, and just under 300 repeat visitors through to June 30, 2022.

For the second half of 2022 we are focussing on promoting and encouraging engagement with Flying Colours through social media channels. This tactic has been successful with close to 50% of the acquisition of new visitors coming through Facebook.

We have developed a database of allied health professionals. A clickable map helps families find support close to them. So far over 2,600 providers have been collated across all states and territories - an increase of 51% since November 2021.

Our most recent initiative involves reaching out to remote indigenous communities to provide useful and relevant information about engaging with DHH children. To connect effectively we are collaborating with the Indigenous Literary Foundation. At the core of this initiative is the provision of experiential resources including Platypus Playhouse books, finger puppets and Auslan spelling magnets. Our primary focus will be community playgroups - run by early education teachers and community leaders. In the name of Flying Colours, DCA agreed to donate 50 product packs and printed resources designed for these remote communities. The 50 communities will be providing feedback to DCA so we can develop and refine resources for these communities.

What's This?



FLYING COLOURS.



21-22

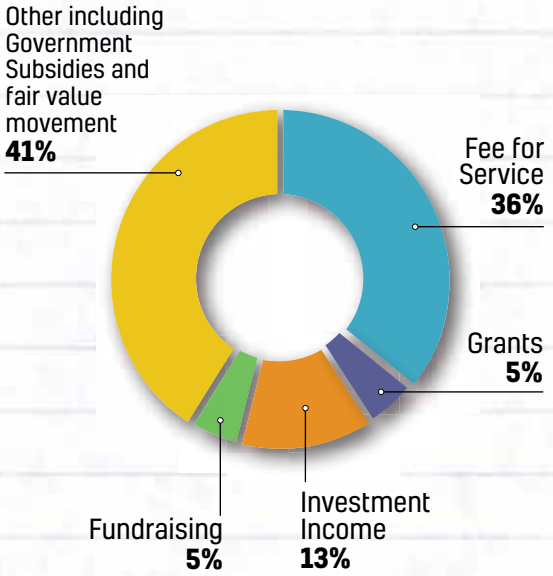
$1.6m

For the financial year ending 30 June 2022, Deaf Children Australia reported an income of $1.6m.

OPERATING RESULTS

DCA's reported financial result was an operating deficit of $5.2m for the financial year ending 30 June 2022.
Again, the impact of COVID-19 presented many challenges in terms of service delivery, and once more DCA was able to adapt to remote and hybrid models.

WHERE THE FUNDING CAME FROM



Income for the year represents a decrease of $8.7m compared to the previous financial year. This is largely due to the performance of DCA's Investment Portfolio.

DCA is continually finding ways to generate more income and structure itself accordingly to ensure there is a positive legacy for the next generation of deaf and hard of hearing children.

OPPORTUNITIES

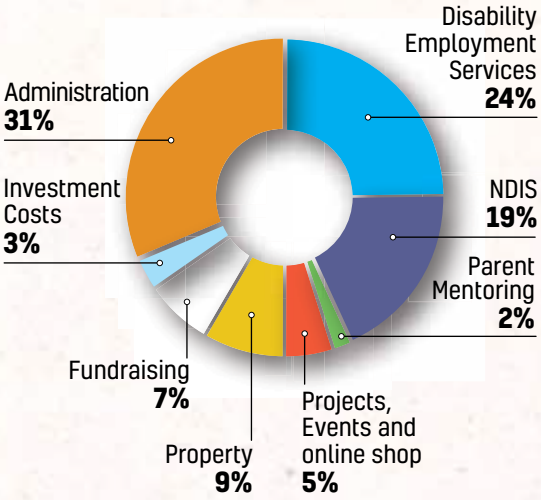
EQUITY

Despite a decline in overall equity of $5.2m during the year, DCA maintains a solid Balance Sheet. As at June 30 2022, there was $30.9m invested in a managed investment portfolio.

21-22

WHERE THE FUNDING WENT

ANNUAL EXPENDITURE 2021/2022 $6.8M



Total expenditure for the year was $6.8m which includes $4.4m of employee expenses, an increase of $0.2m in employee costs compared to the previous year.

DCA has continued to invest in the ongoing development of current and new projects. The Platypus Playhouse range of language resources has been an ongoing focus in FY22, as well as the development phase of the national Puggles Swim Program, a new initiative to be launched in September 2022.

The Board and Executive team will continue to monitor the operational expenditure for savings opportunities.

CHALLENGES

COST PRESSURES

Notwithstanding DCA's strong underlying financial position, like most not-for-profit organisations, the organisation continues to manage significant operational challenges.

DCA has several legacy issues impacting the organisation that continue to be progressed to enable it to meet its strategic objectives. The main consideration here being the maintenance of the Bluestone building.

LEARNINGS

Challenges of the year were in part an extension of the previous year, in terms of impacts from COVID-19 and investment market volatility. The organisation was able to continue to adapt through flexibility and innovation, to provide high level service to participants, to meet the needs of deaf and hard of hearing children and young people in our community. During the year a key focus was the development of the new strategic plan, which will positively impact the operations of the organisation moving forward.

DELIVERING THE BEST SUPPORT

We are constantly improving to ensure we can best support our community.

Deaf Children Australia is committed to ensuring quality and continuous improvement. Our Quality Management Committee is responsible for overseeing our Quality Management Systems. It regularly reviews and amends our policies and procedures.

This helps to ensure both quality and accountability to our stakeholders.

We were an early adopter of the Victorian Government's 11 Child Safe Standards released in 2022, both as a proud Child Safe Organisation and to adhere to Victorian Legislation. Because we deliver services to children and young people across Australia, we extended the 11 Child Safe Standards, organisation wide.

We undergo external quality audits annually. Our current auditors are Global Mark, and through their audits, we can ensure we meet the quality standards required for our work with both government bodies and the wider community.

DCA maintains certification under the International Standard for Quality Management Systems (ISO:9001). Our internal audits help us to strengthen our quality, compliance, and risk management processes - while helping to feed into our continued quality improvement process.

Through our complaint and incident management procedures, and the oversight of committees such as our Health and Safety Committee and our Child Safe Committee – Deaf Children Australia can ensure its work environments and service delivery are safe, compliant, and accountable to our stakeholders.



HERITAGE – MAINTAINING 160 YEARS OF DEAF HISTORY

The iconic Bluestone building we call home is steeped in history, and has both supported and inspired deaf and hard of hearing (DHH) people and the broader community through its 160-year lifespan. It cuts an imposing figure, but at its heart beats purpose, resilience, integrity, knowledge, and a commitment to ensuring young DHH people have every opportunity to thrive.

Maintaining the site is a mammoth task, logistically and financially.

More recently, we received financial support from the Victorian Heritage Restoration Fund to restore the original 19th Century main front gates located at the corner of St Kilda Road and High Street.

The original five-bar gate was a traditional English agricultural gate, designed in 1896. At the time, our iconic Bluestone building was actually considered to be in the middle of the country – we were in swampland at the time!

In the years since, the city has grown around our neogothic building – it is amazing to see such a monument of Deaf history situated in the heart of Melbourne City.

The replacement gates have been designed to match the original gates from 1896. These gates were finished in June 2022, and the project was extended because of COVID. These gates are an iconic part of the history of our building. Nearly all the pieces had to be handmade – with the hand-crafted posts alone weighing in at around half a tonne each!

The original metal capital caps had to be removed and copied and were cast at a foundry in regional Victoria. These iconic caps were designed to be mounted on top of the gate posts, and with a lot of the weather wear they have endured, the Restoration Fund has helped to ensure they will stand the test of time.

To install the gates, our team needed to apply for a Heritage Permit Extension – which our Heritage Consultants from Howden and Wardrop prepared for us. Working alongside Howden and Wardrop, and our Builders from Connell Design and Construction – we were able to design a replacement gate to accurately maintain the spirit of the original design.

DCA continues to ensure as our world changes, the Bluestone building stands as a reminder of the ever-growing history of the Deaf community.

We would like to thank and celebrate all the Heritage Consultants, builders, and staff who helped to design and create our iconic gates – as well as the Victorian Heritage Restoration Fund, who have helped to make this all possible.

1896







Kerry Ferguson | CHAIR
Audit, Finance and Strategy Committee Member



Karen Cleave | DEPUTY CHAIR
Audit, Finance and Strategy Committee Member



Colin Clark | TREASURER
CHAIR Audit, Finance and Strategy Committee



Will de vere Gould | BOARD MEMBER
Governance and Risk Committee Member



Chris Penman | BOARD MEMBER
CHAIR Governance and Risk Committee



Adam Rich | BOARD MEMBER
Governance and Risk Committee Member



Melisa Sloan | BOARD MEMBER
Audit, Finance and Strategy Committee Member



Carol Webb | BOARD MEMBER
Audit, Finance and Strategy Committee Member

Deaf Children Australia is a company limited by guarantee and is governed by a board of directors. Our board meets monthly and maintains two committees to support its governance functions. The Audit, Finance and Strategy Committee meet monthly and is chaired by the treasurer Colin Clark, our Governance and Risk Committee meets quarterly and is chaired by Chris Penman.

MANAGEMENT TEAM

David Wilson
CEO

Angela Woodruff
COMPANY SECRETARY

Noel Henderson
PROPERTY & HERITAGE MANAGER

Frank Nava
MANAGER SIGN FOR WORK

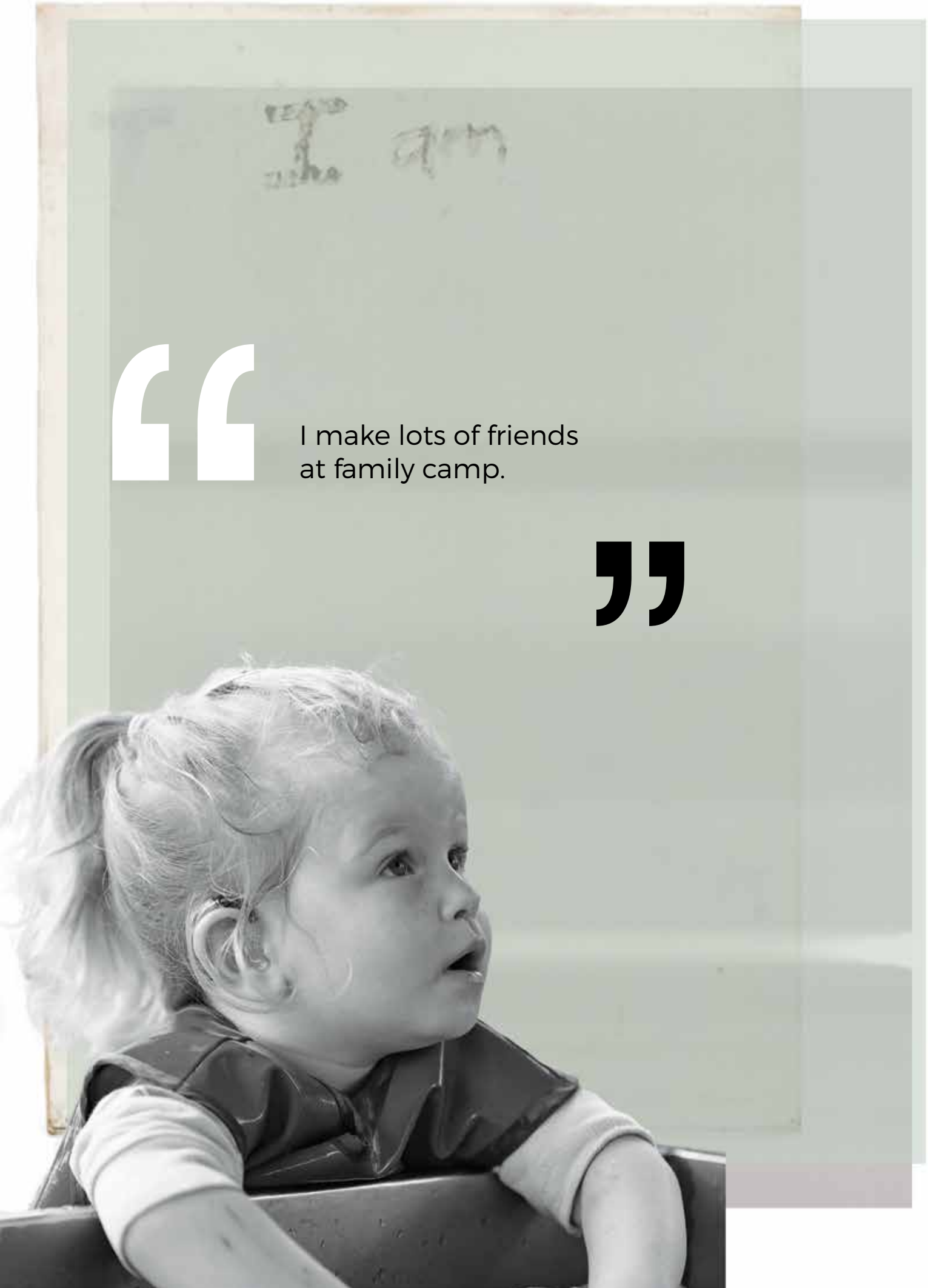
Rachelle Knoche
NATIONAL TRAINING & COMPLIANCE MANAGER

Ele Raimondi
NDIS MANAGER

Lynn Crawford
FINANCE MANAGER

Jane Harris
MARKETING & COMMUNICATIONS MANAGER

Nichole Alfreds
FUNDRAISING MANAGER



“I make lots of friends at family camp.”

Deaf Children Australia.

HOW YOU CAN HELP

LEAVE A LEGACY
A gift in your will.

DONATE
Your donations help change lives.

VOLUNTEER WITH US
We offer a range of volunteer opportunities across our organisation.

WORKPLACE GIVING
Get your work colleagues involved.

FUNDRAISING FOR DCA
Do something amazing big or small, host a community event.

BECOME A REGULAR DONOR
Help DCA support deaf and hard of hearing children, young people and their families.

Phone **1300 219 160** to find out more.

CONTACT DCA

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DCA is a not-for-profit organisation and is a registered charity.