

FLYING
COL
OURS.
YOUR CHILD.
YOUR JOURNEY.

Deaf
Children
Australia.



*how do i develop
community connections
for guidance,
emotional support
and mentoring for
me as a parent?*

did you know

Over 90% of deaf children are born to hearing parents. Parents who may have never even met a deaf person before let alone know how to raise one.

Being told that your baby has a hearing loss can be very confronting and parents enter an entirely new world of diagnoses, medical appointments, advice and services.

Families often struggle with related issues such as the impact on siblings and wider family members and need support in how to manage their new situation.

Parent mentoring offers a much-needed source of support, advice and comfort at a time when you are getting their heads around a whole new world.



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about parent mentoring

Our Parent Mentor Program helps to link families up to parents with lived experience of raising a child who is DHH.

For parents it is important to be able to communicate with someone who understands what a family goes through, someone that understands the fears, the concerns, the challenges and that will let them know that everything is going to be alright.

Many families are overwhelmed by the news of a diagnosis and the highly medicalized settings they encounter.

Families tell us that when they connect to with a parent mentor who provides a much-needed human face and unbiased support.

Over the past three years, our parent mentors have provided their services to individual families, in group settings and over the phone – with an impressive growth from 934 occasions of service to 3,300 occasions of service in 2021-2022.

3,300
OCCASIONS OF SERVICE

STACEY'S STORY

video from flying colours

flyingcolours.org.au/articles/stacey-i-am-a-parent-mentor-in-queensland





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*hear about parent
mentoring from
other parents*



...speaking to another parent normalized everything for me. I felt connected and I had a sense of belonging. By talking to another parent, I got the gift of empowerment and strength which is what every child needs from their parents.”

PARENT MENTOR BROCHURE

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 that we are nor providing the right support for our son.”

2021-2022 IMPACT REPORT

There was always someone there that knew what it was like to have a child with a hearing loss.”

2021-2022 IMPACT REPORT

I am so glad that I got put onto the Parent Mentor Program because they just listened to me and listened to my story. I am so grateful”
Having a neutral third party to just talk to has been a godsend.”

2019-2020 IMPACT REPORT

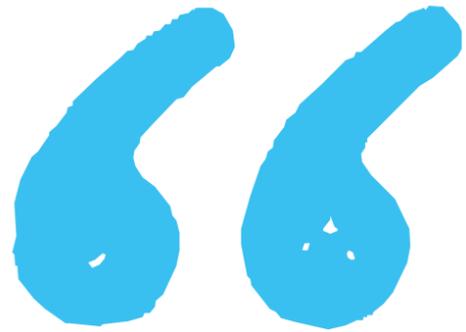
EMMA'S STORY

video from flying colours

flyingcolours.org.au/articles/emma-i-am-a-parent-mentor-in-victoria



a final word



When my second son was diagnosed with a profound bi-lateral hearing loss, it was such a confronting experience. When he was a month old, we spent hours in the hospital struggling to understand all the information being relayed by a string of specialists.

Then we met our Parent Mentor, for the first time since the diagnosis, I thought this is

someone who really knows how overwhelmed you can feel.

We appreciated how fortunate we were to have so much support and technology available, but it was so important to talk with a parent who could put it all into perspective, to help us feel much more positive about our son's future and to feel hope.

now, he is doing so well.

what is flying colours?

Flying Colours is an Australian-first website designed to support parents raising a child with a hearing loss and fully funded by the National Disability Insurance Agency.

SOLVING A PROBLEM.

The overwhelming majority of D/HOH children are born to hearing parents. More often than not these parents have no experience of deafness and are suddenly faced with the complexities of raising a child with a hearing loss.

After the diagnosis, parents are often overwhelmed not only the diagnosis but the wave of medical appointments, decisions and information that they have to digest – all while raising a newborn.

WHY WE CREATED IT.

Although there is endless information available on deafness, we were aware that the parents were often overwhelmed with the quantity of advice and information available.

We wanted to provide an unbiased, curated place for parents who were starting their journey of raising a child with a hearing loss.

what can be found on *flying colours*?

Everything that we thought would help including:

All about deafness. Find out about deafness from parents with a lived experience, young working adults and our Parent Mentors.

Research. Snappy plain English summaries of relevant research.

Social Opportunities. Links to help you navigate your day - meet our Parent Mentors, check out Facebook groups, social groups and more here

Service Finder. An Australia-wide clickable map with relevant professionals and service providers.

Stories. Stories and videos of parents who are raising a children with a hearing loss.



*thank
you*

deafchildrenaustralia.org.au