

DCA ART COMPETITION 2026

APPLICATION FORM

Deaf Children Australia's annual Art Competition was established in 2022, with support from our philanthropic partners, to provide a platform for young deaf and hard of hearing people across Australia to express their creativity.

The competition is available to all residents of Australia who have a permanent diagnosis of hearing loss and are aged 0-23 years. Please check our Art Exhibition 2026 Info Kit for more details on eligibility. **Applicants age is classified by how old they are on 22nd June 2026, when submissions to this competition close.**

To be considered, individual artist applicants must provide proof of permanent hearing loss and proof of age at the same time as this application. Proof of age can be a copy of the applicants birth certificate, Australian passport, or Australian drivers licence. Proof of permanent hearing loss should be an audiogram less than 2 years old, or other proof of permanent hearing loss (eg. a letter from an audiologist or ENT).

Students applying for the Early Education Group Project category must attend the same school or kindergarten. We require a formal letter with full name and date of birth for each student, and written confirmation of the students permanent hearing loss (all children involved must be deaf or hard of hearing).

Before applying, please read the Terms & Conditions and refer to the Info Kit for more useful information on eligibility, entry categories and submission requirements.

APPLICATIONS CLOSE Monday 22nd June 2026 at 11:59pm

If you have any questions, please email the Community Engagement team:

events@deafchildren.org.au

For more information and to download the Info Kit go to:

<https://www.deafchildreinaustralia.org.au/art-competition/>

8 TO 11 YEARS

12 TO 17 YEARS

18 TO 23 YEARS

**EARLY EDUCATION
GROUP PROJECT
(0 TO 11 YEARS)**

Please fill in page 3, 4, 7, 8 and 9

Please fill in page 5, 6, 7, 8 and 9

To participate in our art competition, entrants will need to abide by the following terms and conditions. Please read these carefully before filling in the application form.

1. Applications close at 11.59pm on Monday 22nd June, 2026.

2. All submitted works must be related to this year's theme: "We belong"
3. Your artwork must be your own work. Artist who falsely submit the works of others as their own will be disqualified and barred from future competitions.
4. Entries without the following information provided will not be accepted.
 - **Individual Artists** - application form including the artist statement, copy proof of age, copy audiogram or letter of permanent hearing loss.
 - **Early Education Group Projects** - application form including the artists statement and formal letter detailing artists full names, DOB's and confirmation all artists are deaf and/or have hearing loss. All artists involved in the project should attend the same school/kindergarten.
5. Art Grants are awarded and announced at the celebratory event and on social media scheduled to take place September 2026.
6. A panel of art judges critique all art to determine who is to receive an Art Grant.
7. Artists must submit a physical artwork, unless it's a video art MP4 submission which we will accept via email or WeTransfer.
8. Only one application per person or organisation may be entered for consideration in this exhibition.
9. You must create new application for this contest. Applications to this competition cannot have been previously exhibited in another competition.
10. Completion of the application form indicates permission to photograph and reproduce images of submitted artworks for advertising, marketing and promotional purposes. This may include use in media coverage, news stories, video, marketing materials, publications, websites and future promotion of the Art Competition and Exhibition, as well as the broader work of Deaf Children Australia supporting deaf and hard of hearing children and young people.
11. Artworks must not include promotional material. This includes logos, branding, other forms of visual advertising. Works that contain promotional material may be disqualified.
12. Deaf Children Australia is an inclusive organisation. Artwork that includes ableist, sexist, racist, homophobic, or hateful content will not be considered and will result in a ban from future competitions.
13. Works that include profanity or profane imagery will not be considered.
14. The decision of our judges is final, any attempts made to contest or dispute the results of this competition with either Deaf Children Australia or the judges, will result in instant disqualification and a ban from future exhibitions.
15. Frequent re-submissions of works that breach the Terms & Conditions will result in a ban from future competitions.
16. Deaf Children Australia reserves the unconditional right to postpone or cancel the exhibition and celebratory event at will.
17. Finalists and/or winners of an Art Grant Award will be advised by telephone or email, in confidence, to allow time to arrange to attend the celebratory event. We would like the recipient of an Art Grant Award to attend the celebratory event, but it is not mandatory. If unable to attend, [a video of your acceptance will be requested and required.](#)
18. Prize monies for Art Grants will be paid via electronic payment to the bank account nominated by the artist/entrant or their legal guardian after the winners are announced publicly on our social media in September 2026.
19. DCA recognizes that the authorship and copyright of the works displayed belongs to the artist. Subject to agreement to the contrary, winners of the prize monies for Art Grants in each category (or their parents/guardians on their behalf) grant to DCA ownership of the winning and runner-up artworks and DCA shall have the right to retain, return, display, dispose of or sell the winning artworks at DCA's discretion and to retain the proceeds of any sale. Artworks (other than artworks acquired by DCA under this Clause) will be in DCA possession for 12 months after the event to showcase artwork at the DCA Head Office after which such artworks can be collected from the DCA Head Office (if you are in Melbourne) or arranged to be returned to the artist via an alternative method (at the artist's expense).
20. To the extent permitted at law, each artist consents to DCA carrying out the activities contemplated by these terms and conditions, including any acts or omissions to act, in respect of submitted artworks, the performance or non-performance of which would otherwise infringe the moral rights of an author of copyright material.
21. Deaf Children Australia is committed to protecting the privacy of any personal information it collects, holds, and administers. Deaf Children Australia deals with personal information in accordance with the Commonwealth Privacy Act (1988) and its Australian Privacy Principles (APPs). Go to [deafchildreناustralia.org.au/privacy/](https://deafchildreनाustralia.org.au/privacy/) to find out more about our Privacy Policy.
22. All entrants must comply with the Terms & Conditions of this exhibition and agree to abide by its rules of entry.
23. All entries must not breach the Terms & Conditions of this Exhibition. Entrants understand that submitting artworks that violate its rule may result in a ban from this and future exhibitions.

INDIVIDUAL ARTIST Application

For young artists aged **8 to 23** years exploring the theme “We belong”.

Applicants age is classified by how old they are on 22nd June 2026, when submissions to this competition close.

NAME: _____

DATE OF BIRTH: _____

STREET ADDRESS: _____

SUBURB AND POSTCODE: _____

PHONE: _____

EMAIL: _____

PREFERRED COMMUNICATION METHOD (PLEASE TICK):

- Auslan
 Bilingual - Auslan / spoken English
 Oral - spoken English
 Other, please specify: _____

ARE YOU CURRENTLY STUDYING AT SCHOOL?

- Yes No

IF YES, PLEASE WRITE YEAR LEVEL , NAME AND PLACE OF SCHOOL:

PARENT/GUARDIAN CONTACT DETAILS

(please complete if entrant is under 18 years)

NAME: _____

STREET ADDRESS: _____

SUBURB AND POSTCODE: _____

PHONE: _____

EMAIL: _____

INDIVIDUAL ARTIST Application

Please fill in either section below.

Applicants age is classified by how old they are on 22nd June 2026, when submissions to this competition close.

Applicant (aged 18 or older)

- The information supplied in this application is correct to the best of my knowledge and the artworks submitted comply with the terms and conditions of this competition.
- I understand and agree to abide by the terms and conditions of this competition. I also understand and agree that Deaf Children Australia may use the artwork for publication purposes. This may include photos, videos and images of my artwork, for the purpose of promotions.

NAME (please print): _____

SIGNATURE: _____

DATE SIGNED: _____

Parent/Guardian Declaration of Consent

(required for applicants under 18)

- The information supplied in this application is correct to the best of my knowledge and the artworks submitted comply with the terms and conditions of this competition.
- I understand and agree to abide by the terms and conditions of this competition. I also understand and agree that Deaf Children Australia may use the artwork for publication purposes. This may include photos, videos and images of my artwork, for the purpose of promotions.

I am the Parent/Guardian of: _____

CHILDS NAME (please print)

PARENT/GUARDIAN NAME
(please print): _____

SIGNATURE: _____

DATE SIGNED: _____

PARENT/GUARDIAN CONTACT DETAILS

PHONE: _____

EMAIL: _____

EARLY EDUCATION GROUP PROJECT Application

For Early Intervention, kindergarten or primary schools (0 to 11 years).
This category is for a group of **2 or more** deaf or hard of hearing children
jointly working on **one artwork** submission under the theme "I can..."

SCHOOL / CENTRE / ORGANISATION CONTACT DETAILS

NAME OF PLACE: _____

STREET ADDRESS: _____

SUBURB AND POSTCODE: _____

PHONE: _____

EMAIL: _____

EDUCATOR / PROJECT LEAD CONTACT DETAILS

The DCA Community Engagement team will reach out to verify information given. DCA's Privacy Policy, Child Safe Policy and Quality Policy are available online at deafchildreinaustralia.org.au or by request.

NAME: _____

PHONE: _____

EMAIL: _____

NAMES OF THE CHILDREN WHO COMPLETED THE GROUP ARTWORK:

WHAT EDUCATION SETTING ARE YOU FROM FROM?

- Early Intervention Kindergarten
 Primary school Other _____

A Parent/Guardian consent form is required from each applicant, see page 6.

A Parent or Guardian is required to give consent for their deaf or hard of hearing child to take part in this project. Consent must be submitted for each artist in the group.

Parent/Guardian Declaration of Consent:

- The information supplied in this application is correct to the best of my knowledge and the artworks submitted comply with the terms and conditions of this competition.
- I understand and agree to abide by the terms and conditions of this competition. I also understand and agree that Deaf Children Australia may use the artwork for publication purposes. This may include photos, videos and images of my artwork, for the purpose of promotions.

I am the parent/guardian of: _____
CHILD'S NAME (please print)

PARENT/GUARDIAN NAME
(please print): _____

SIGNATURE: _____

DATE SIGNED: _____

PARENT/GUARDIAN CONTACT DETAILS

PHONE: _____

EMAIL: _____

ARTIST STATEMENT

Your Artist Statement is a short summary of the ideas explored in your artwork under the theme “We belong”. This can be provided in Auslan if you would prefer. To submit an Auslan response, please insert a video link in the email to us along with your application etc.

WHAT CATEGORY ARE YOU APPLYING FOR?

8 TO 11 YEARS

18 TO 23 YEARS

12 TO 17 YEARS

EARLY EDUCATION GROUP PROJECT (0 TO 11 YEARS)

TITLE OF ARTWORK: _____

NAME OF EDUCATION
SETTING/SCHOOL (if applicable): _____

TELL US HOW YOUR ARTWORK ADDRESSES THIS YEAR’S THEME: “WE BELONG”

WHAT IDEAS DOES YOUR ARTWORK EXPLORE WITHIN THE THEME “WE BELONG”?

WHAT TYPE OF ARTWORK HAVE YOU SUBMITTED? WHAT MATERIALS DID YOU USE?
(EG. PAINTING, DRAWING, SCULPTURE) WHY DID YOU CHOOSE THIS MEDIUM?

HOW HAVE YOU SUPPLIED YOUR ARTWORK? WHAT SIZE IS YOUR ARTWORK?

A1 A2 A3 A4 OR CUSTOM SIZE (WITH BLACK FRAME AT OWN COST)

ANY THING ELSE YOU WHAT LIKE TO ADD?

ARTWORK RETURN

All artworks will be retained by DCA for 12 months after the exhibition, to showcase at the DCA Head Office, as covered in Clause 19 of the terms and conditions. They artworks may, following a period of 12 months, be collected from the DCA Head Office (if you are in Melbourne) or arranged to be returned to the artist via an alternative method at artist's own expense.

DO YOU WISH TO HAVE YOUR ARTWORK RETURNED TO YOU?

- Yes, I would like to arrange for my artwork to be returned, at my own expense.
- No, I do not wish to arrange for my artwork to be returned.

If yes, please provide an address for return of artworks below. We will be in touch at the end of the 12 month period to arrange the return of your artwork and payment for postage.

THEME: **We belong** _____

ARTWORK TITLE: _____

FIRST INITIAL AND FULL SURNAME: _____

STREET ADDRESS: _____

SUBURB AND POSTCODE: _____

WINNERS AND RUNNERS-UP

We are offering all winners and runners-up the chance to put your original artwork up for sale at the end of the exhibition. All proceeds will be donated to DCA, helping support programs for deaf and hard of hearing children. This is optional and only applies to winners and runners-up. We will contact winners and runners-up at the time of the exhibition to confirm their choice and discuss arrangements.

- If I am a winner or runner-up, I do **not** wish my artwork to be available for sale.