



Parent to Parent Program, Deaf Children Australia

The Parent to Parent Program is offered at no cost to families as a support for parents of a child who is diagnosed with a hearing loss. The benefit of speaking to another parent who has an older child with a hearing loss can be invaluable. They can provide support and information and know what it is like to be in the same position. We hope parents benefit from this relationship and that it is a positive experience

When a child is born deaf or with a hearing loss, the impact of this on the family can lead to a variety of emotions from fear, confusion, uncertainty, to grief, isolation, despair, vulnerability. Families have reported that the support and contact with other families with deaf children is very important to their well-being.

The aim of DCA's Mentor program is to bring together parents of babies and children who have a newly diagnosed hearing loss, with "experienced parents" called, Support Parents for the purpose of support, practical information, linkage to support networks and early intervention service providers.

Through DCA's mentoring programs new parents are:

- 1) Supported to develop positive approaches that help with communicating with their child
- 2) The support parent will help to find service providers so parents can gather as much information as possible
- 3) The support parent will be someone to talk to. They have travelled the same journey with their child and really understand parents' concerns. They will be able to talk things through with parents and provide emotional support and understanding
- 4) They will facilitate introductions to other parents in similar positions who can also offer support.
- 5) They will offer unbiased information about deafness, communication and education as requested

Life Stories Program Deaf Children Australia

The Life Stories Program offers families the opportunity to meet adults who have grown up with a hearing loss who are living fulfilling lives, and have constructively met the unique challenges their hearing loss has presented to them. It gives families the opportunity to learn from these adults and to develop broader understandings about deafness.

Deaf and hard of hearing adults may also provide information to the family and child with a hearing loss about life situations that they have encountered. For example, families may want to discuss employment, education, family life, relationships or personal feelings. By having access to this information, the family can be educated about and empowered to deal with a range of different situations.

[Parent to Parent Support brochure](#)

[POD Qld flyer](#)

[Deaf Children Australia](#)