



# Parent to Parent Support

Someone who understands

Providing the Right Supports For You and Your Child

## POD Groups

You might also want to connect with other families who share similar experiences. POD Groups are active, supportive and welcoming networks of families who have a child or children who are deaf or hard of hearing. All children are welcome regardless of preferred communication methods or hearing devices and equipment they use.

So, whether you are just starting out or have many years experience, you are very welcome to join your local group.

There is no cost to join in, and POD gatherings are all inclusive, fun family activities.

## Contact

Anyone can access Deaf Children Australia's services without the need for a referral. If you would like to chat to a Support Parent or find out more about the Parent to Parent Program or POD Groups, please contact us.

**E:** [dcaqueensland@deafchildren.org.au](mailto:dcaqueensland@deafchildren.org.au)

**W:** [www.deafchildrenaustralia.org.au](http://www.deafchildrenaustralia.org.au)

**F:** [www.facebook.com/DeafChildrenAustralia](https://www.facebook.com/DeafChildrenAustralia)

**P:** 07 3548 8917

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Toowong QLD 4066





After learning your child is deaf or hard of hearing, you may have many questions. Deaf Children Australia (DCA) can help through our free services - Parent to Parent Program, Life Stories Program, National Helpline and Information Services.

It can be reassuring to speak with another parent who has travelled a similar path, and can provide unbiased information and support during this time.

Our Parent to Parent Program is available statewide across Queensland. Trained Support Parents are available to meet with families at hospital visits, through phone contact or one on one home visits. Support Parents can also meet in your community, at Early Intervention Centre playgroups or parent group events such as POD Groups. Support Parents can provide group or one on one support.

## Here for Families



## Positive Futures

### **A mum explains how she and her husband were feeling after their son's diagnosis:**

"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 comprehend all the information being relayed by a string of specialists. Then we met our Support Parent and 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."

## Building Connections

### **A mum who has accessed Deaf Children Australia's Parent to Parent Program explains how her family's journey changed after connecting up with a Support Parent:**

"My son's hearing loss was identified at the Newborn Hearing Screening. We just kept plodding along from one specialist to the next but there were some defining moments on our journey – like when an audiologist organised a Support Parent to ring me. Finally someone actually understood exactly what I had been through.

Importantly, speaking to another parent normalised 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 every child needs from their parents."

