

POLICY STATEMENT

What is a POD group?

POD groups are coordinated by PODC but run by local parents/carers of children who are deaf or are deaf with additional needs. These parents are interested in getting together to share information, make connections with and support each other at a local level. Parents of children with a hearing loss know that raising a deaf child (including those with additional needs) from babyhood to toddler years, into adolescence and beyond, provides unique challenges and rewards.

A POD group can offer families, opportunities to share experiences, ideas and knowledge and social interaction with other parents and their children. POD groups offer informal support, access to information through workshops and discussion, support for parents in effectively advocating for their children and systemic lobbying for improved services.

PODC is committed where possible to provide a safe and supportive environment that provides access for families, including those who are deaf and those from a CALD background, and those from an Aboriginal or Torres Strait background.

Families of children who are deaf with additional needs are welcome at POD and where possible, PODC will endeavour to meet the unique needs of individual families with regards to access of venue and language needs etc.

PROCEDURES

PODC will support a local POD group if a minimum of 5 families are interested in gathering regularly.

If a parent is committed to running a POD group, PODC will provide a POD start up pack which will include:

- Group values (word doc)
- POD brochure
- Slide show on setting up a POD

Once the group is up and running, PODC can offer the group:

- Coordinator support and induction for POD leader/s
- Contact with other POD groups for ideas, sharing and advice.
- Public liability insurance coverage.
- Promotion of group and activities,
- Coordination of speakers
- Access to relevant current information on parenting and educating a deaf child.
- Venue hire (if required)

PODC: Parent support group policy

Policy context: This policy relates to	
Standards or other external requirements	Standard 1: Rights Standard 2: Participation and Inclusion
Legislation or other requirements	
Contractual obligations	ADHC Funding Agreement 2013-15

DOCUMENTATION

Documents related to this policy	
Related policies	1.1 PODC Service Charter 1.1.2A Service Provision – INFORMATION Policy 1.1.2B Service Provision – ADVOCACY Policy
Forms, record keeping or other organisational documents	

Reviewing and approving this policy		
Frequency	Person responsible	Approval
Every two years	Coordinator	President

Policy review and version tracking			
Review	Date Approved	Approved by	Next Review Due
1	April 2015	President	April 2017
2			
3			