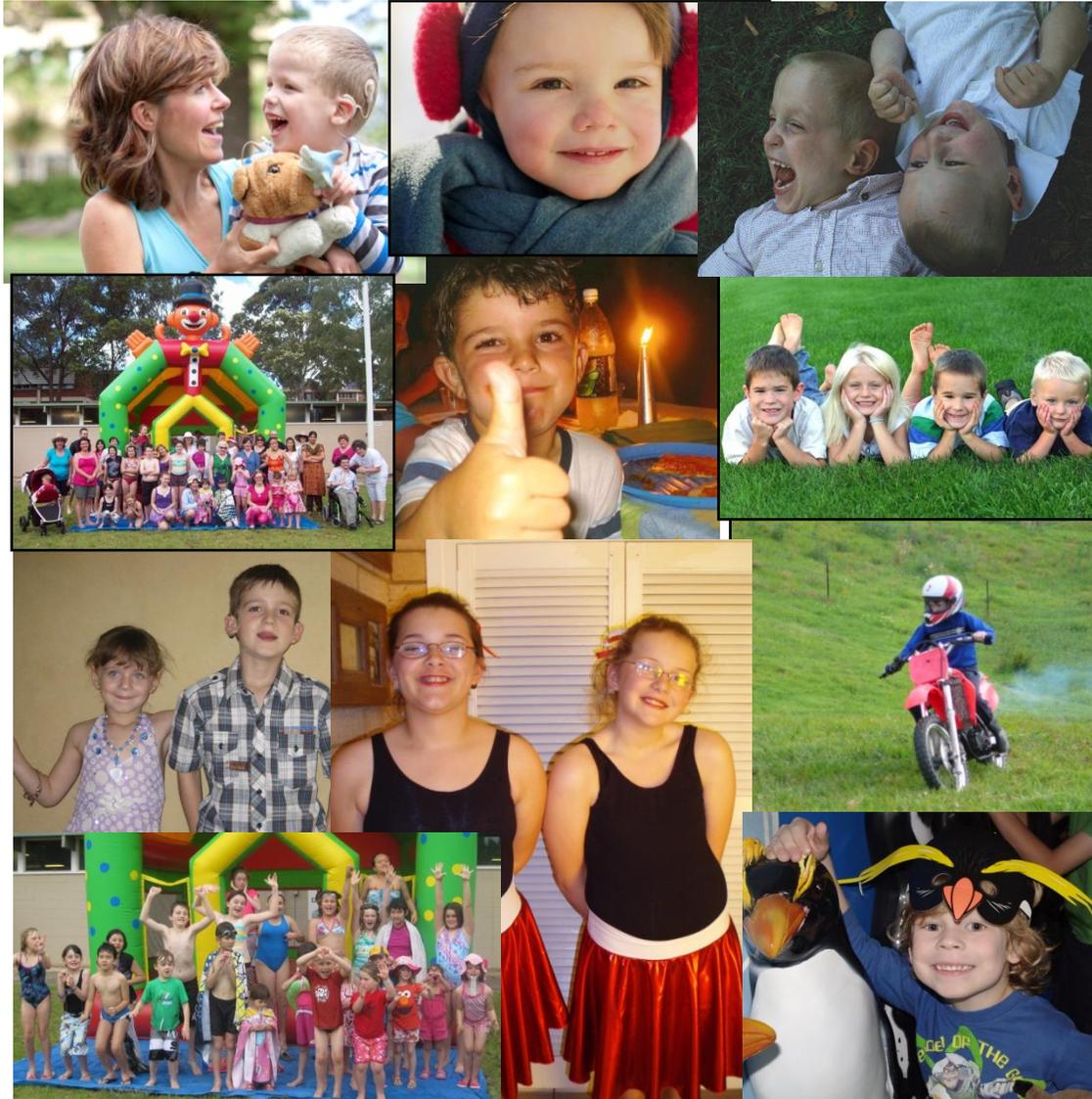


Parent Council for Deaf Education



ANNUAL REPORT

2011

Introduction

Every new baby brings changes to family life, but babies with hearing loss bring a series of additional challenges for parents.

Parent Council for Deaf Education, also known as **PCDE**, is a non-profit organisation based in NSW dedicated to supporting parents of children who are deaf/hearing impaired.

PCDE aims to provide families with independent and unbiased information and support. PCDE collaborates with parents, professionals, other organisations and government departments to promote equity of access to services and opportunities for families of children who are deaf/hearing impaired, irrespective of their chosen method of communication.

PCDE is governed by a board of parents and supported financially by NSW Department of Ageing, Disability and Homecare and Deaf Children Australia.

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President's Report

This is the fiftieth year that the entity we now know as the Parent Council for Deaf Education (PCDE) has been in existence. We are preparing to celebrate this milestone at a 50th Anniversary function on Sunday 11 March 2012. This function will also launch the re-branding of PCDE as the **“Parents of Deaf Children”**.

As I reported in the President's Report for last year's AGM:

“... The reason for a name change is that ‘education’ alone, as emphasised in the current name, is not necessarily the predominant issue of concern to our (potential) membership base. This has become the case especially since the introduction of universal newborn hearing screening in NSW (in December 2002) such that many children are now diagnosed with a hearing loss much earlier, and also with improved and continually improving technologies to assist in hearing...”. Our name is therefore perceived as a barrier to the (earlier) involvement of parents whose children are diagnosed as deaf or hard of hearing. “This was certainly my own experience, so the issue of a name change has been dear to my heart for several years.

I acknowledge the ongoing financial contribution of ADHC, our funding body, and also of Deaf Children Australia. With this recurrent funding, we are able to plan and implement a comprehensive range of information and support services for families in NSW.

A focus for PCDE over the last year has been to develop key partnerships within the NSW deaf sector to build capacity, share resources and link parents to a wider range of information and activities. As a result, PCDE undertook to formalise some of these partnerships with:

- Establishment of a new PCDE Professional Advisory Panel comprising of key professionals in the sector who can provide specific expertise and guidance in key areas that relate to families, such as education, technology and advocacy. I thank and acknowledge the panel of experts who have volunteered their time to PCDE: Professor Greg Leigh (Renwick College), Anne McGrath (Media Access Australia), Kate Matairavula (Deaf Society of NSW), Simone Punch (Australian Hearing) and Sharan Westcott, (Sydney Cochlear Implant Centre)
- Signing of a 'Memorandum of Understanding' with the Deaf Society of NSW, to build closer ties with this key service provider for deaf services in NSW.
- Participation at regular interagency meetings with other organisations in the sector.

A PCDE subcommittee was initiated for parents of children who are deaf or hard of hearing with additional needs. Resources permitting, I hope PCDE can progressively increase the degree of its focus to this cohort as it constitutes a significant portion of our (potential) membership base.

There were four Management Committee meetings this year, hosted at the homes of different members. I sincerely thank the 2010-2011 Management Committee for their valued contributions and support: Leonie Jackson (Vice President), Vicki Cox (Secretary), Amanda Li (Treasurer), Leesa Cluff, Anna Messariti, and Ann Porter.

I also deeply thank Kate Kennedy, our Coordinator, for her exemplary work and dedication, assisted by Gloria Simunovich (Administrative Assistant). Amongst many other things, they have together produced the quarterly ‘Sound News’ publication to high standard. Our staff have also been informally but substantially supported by Ann Porter especially since the co-location of her Aussie Deaf Kids office. Thanks also to the parents who have participated in the POD group meetings and PCDE events.

Mark Burfield,
President

Treasurer's Report 2011

PCDE's financial position remained consistent over the past year. Our ongoing funding from ADHC and support from DCA ensured that PCDE remained in a strong financial position.

The balance sheet showed the accumulated surplus at the end of the 2011 financial year at \$26,326.57, an increase from the previous year of \$20,988.02. There will be adequate surplus funds to finance expenses related to rebranding of PCDE in the coming year.

PCDE's income in 2011 mainly consisted of funding from ADHC totaling \$84,091.61. The amount included an increase of \$2,050.61 from the previous year due to indexation. There was also an increase in the income from membership and advertising of \$909.17 bringing the total for the 2011 year to \$3252.73. A good indication that there was an increase in our membership base and that PCDE has lifted its profile and attracting more advertising income.

Expenditure has fallen slightly compared to the previous year, with a total of \$102,623.79, which was \$2,014.92 less than the expenditure in 2010. The subsidy provided by DCA has also fallen by \$3,327.2 to \$20,423.63.

Despite some major changes in the accounting system at DCA the financial side of PCDE in the past year ran fairly smoothly. I'd like to thank Margherita Riccioni, Caroline Doutre, Julie Chaplin, Elani Kokkinakis and Lyn Rose from DCA for all their help and support through the year.

In conclusion, I'd like to present the financial reports to the meeting. PCDE is in a stable financial position with the partnership with DCA as well as ongoing ADHC funding secured until 2012.

Resolutions

With that I recommend that the financial reports as prepared by Julie Chaplin and Lyn Rose be accepted and a vote of thanks to be given to Julie Chaplin and her team at DCA for their work with PCDE in the past year.

Amanda Li,
PCDE Treasurer.

Coordinator Report 2011

It is my pleasure to present the annual report to our membership and supporters and in particular to highlight some of the achievements made over the past 12 months.

POD Groups

The POD network continues to grow with three new PODs opening at the instigation of local parents: in North West of Sydney, on the Central Coast of Sydney and on the mid north coast of NSW. This now makes up a network of 6 POD groups in NSW, adding to existing PODs in Northern Sydney, Central Sydney and Macarthur. I would like to thank the parents who regularly attend these POD meetings and generously share their experiences, insights and ideas.

Along with regular POD sessions, parents have also been able to participate in a range of activities, including movie nights, information sessions, parenting workshops and panel discussions.

Information Sharing:

This year PCDE presented to parents on a range of subjects relating to parenting and educating deaf children. Some of the places we visited were: RIDBC Matilda Rose EI Centre, The Catherine Sullivan Centre, family pizza night at Burwood Public School, Australian Hearing Greville St, The Shepherd Centre School Readiness Program.

Teachers and audiologists play key roles in the lives of deaf children and their families. PCDE acknowledges the role that these professionals have in linking parents to our organization and we spent some time this year informing them about our organization and the need to refer families onto our services. We presented to 4 groups of itinerant teachers and to various AHS offices within the Sydney region over the course of the year.

Parent to Parent Mentoring

The Parent to Parent Mentoring program continues to support families at the time of diagnosis or any time on their journey. I would like to acknowledge the support of the Deaf Society of NSW and in particular Theresa Thompson, who coordinates this program. PCDE and DSNSW work together to train and match parents for this program and our ongoing collaboration has resulted in service that meets the needs of parents at a crucial time. We are looking to train more parent mentors in 2012.

Advocacy

PCDE continues to support families to advocate for their child and we continue to advocate on behalf of families for systemic issues that relate to parenting or educating deaf children.

This year we lobbied on behalf of families on a range of issues and policies and we met with parliamentary ministers and government departments, both state and federal to raise specific issues that impact on families with deaf children.

Sound News:

Distribution of Sound News, our quarterly magazine is one way that we engage with our parent community. We do however acknowledge the growth of social media in the lives of our membership and so have also added Facebook to the mix and are building this up as a way of communicating with parents.

I would like to acknowledge and thank Gloria Simunovich who stepped into Anna's role as a maternity leave position. Gloria, despite having to learn on the job about deafness and parents needs, has done a fantastic job and has continued to keep crucial deadlines and has worked hard to ensure that the quality of content and format of SN continues to be of a high standard.

We acknowledge all those who have contributed to our magazine over the year, particularly those parents who have shared their personal stories with us – it is this input that makes the magazine a great resource for families, who love to hear from others about their experiences.

Key Relationships.

PCDE continues to build good working relationships with other organizations and professionals in the sector, as we strive to further our reach and impact. The formation of the PCDE Professional Advisory Panel will provide PCDE with specific expertise and support from professionals in the sector. We acknowledge with gratitude our new advisory panel and look forward to an ongoing professional relationship.

With the signing of an MOU with the Deaf Society of NSW this year, we have also made a strategic decision to formalise our close working relationship with this key provider of services for the deaf community in NSW, in order to share information and resources.

Deaf Children Australia continues to support PCDE with management support and ongoing financial support for program delivery. I would like to thank Damien Lacey, CEO, Margherita Riccioni, Manager, Children Youth and Family Services and more recently Caroline Doutre, the Manager of Government Relations with DCA, who have provided us with valuable support and guidance over the course of the year.

In conclusion, I would like to acknowledge the active support given to PCDE staff by the Management Committee of PCDE. We are lucky to have such committed and enthusiastic parents volunteering their time and expertise. I would like to particularly single out Mark Burfield, our fantastic President and also Ann Porter of Aussie Deaf Kids. Mark is always there for the staff of PCDE and is a tireless campaigner for our organization. The arrival of Ann and Aussie Deaf Kids at Dara House has meant ongoing support and guidance on the ground. I thank them both for their support and contribution.

I look forward to an exciting year ahead as we prepare for our 50th Birthday celebrations and a new name and brand for PCDE.

Kate Kennedy
PCDE Co-ordinator, Information and Advocacy

Management Committee and Staff

Mark Burfield – President

Mark is the father of four young children. The first was born profoundly deaf in 1999, received a cochlear implant in 2001 and a second in 2010, and is currently in a public school hearing support class. Mark's concern is the maintenance and improvement of services for the hearing impaired in the education system and beyond. He is President of the P&C Association at his children's school, State Commissioner for Scouts with Special Needs, and works as the Secretary and bookkeeper of the "Family Federation for World Peace and Unification, Australia" and "Universal Peace Federation Australia".

Leonie Jackson - Vice President

Leonie is a Deaf bilingual adult who is also a mother of two young boys, one being deaf. Her active 4 year old, who is a hearing aid user, attends a bi-lingual Auslan/English preschool program as well an auditory verbal preschool at RIDBC. Leonie is a qualified teacher of the deaf and is currently working for Ai-Media as the head of Education Access. She is a strong advocate for the best educational fit for every deaf/hearing impaired child, using all possible avenues and tools available.

Amanda Li – Treasurer

Amanda is the mother of three children. One of her children is Deaf and attends a bilingual Auslan/English school in Sydney's North West. "I've had very little experience with deafness prior to my daughter's diagnosis, it hasn't been easy and it has certainly opened my eyes to the state of our education system. I believe that parents are the best advocates for their children and by becoming involved in PCDE, I'd like to provide support and information to other parents and help them achieve their goals for their children." Amanda practises as a dentist part time, she has recently completed Certificate IV in Auslan and will go on to further study to become an Auslan Interpreter.

Vicki Cox – Secretary

Vicki is the mother of two girls who were both born profoundly deaf. Both have received cochlear implants and attend a Hearing Support Unit. "Prior to children, I had a career in marketing but the difficulties my two children encountered inspired me to return to university to complete a Master of Speech and Language Pathology." Vicki now works as a Speech Pathologist with children who have a range of special needs.

Leesa Cluff – Committee Member

Leesa is the mother of two boys one of whom is deaf with additional needs. Leesa is currently a mentor with the Parent to Parent Support Program, run by the Deaf Society of NSW and has been involved in the stakeholder committee with Deaf Children Australia. She is currently on the management committee of Cubby House Toy Library for children with additional needs.

Ann Porter – Committee Member

Ann has been actively involved in parent support groups since 1996 when her daughter lost her hearing. She founded Aussie Deaf Kids in 2001. Aussie Deaf Kids provides online support and information to families raising a deaf child. Ann has a Bachelor of Science in Occupational Therapy and a Masters in eHealthcare and is a founding member of GPOD (Global Coalition of Parents of Children who are Deaf or Hard of Hearing). She is on the Board of Deafness Forum of Australia and the Australasian Newborn Hearing Screening Committee.

Anna Messariti – Committee Member

Anna Messariti is currently on the management committee of PCDE. Her son Xavier, who is twenty months old, has a bilateral mild to severe sensorineural hearing loss that is predominantly moderate. Xavier was diagnosed when he was 13 days old and has been aided since he was five weeks old. Xavier has also been assisted by early intervention strategies since his hearing loss was identified and is displaying age appropriate language development. Professionally, Anna has a history of working in theatre, film and radio. She is an Executive Producer and Producer for ABC Radio National, working across five of its Performance and Features programs. She co-founded muchadofilms and has produced a number of short films and documentaries. Anna's work in theatre spanned more than a decade, during which she directed many new Australian plays. She has also been a secondary school drama teacher in Sydney and also worked as a drama tutor for La Trobe University.

Kate Kennedy – PCDE Co-ordinator, Information and Advocacy

Kate is a parent of three school age children, two of whom have a hearing loss. She was a PCDE Committee Member for three years prior to taking the role of Information and Advocacy Co-ordinator. In her professional life, Kate has worked in the IT training arena for many years and has had her own small business in the past. She feels strongly about the need for unbiased information and support for parents of deaf children so that they can make informed choices about their child's future.

Gloria Simunovich – PCDE Administration Assistant

Gloria's mother is deaf in one ear and moderate to severe hearing loss in the other and wears a hearing aid, and is working at PCDE to raise awareness and share information with families. Gloria works on Mondays and Tuesdays.

Gloria is the mother of two boys, Ivan, an active young 3 year old and Gabriel who is a lively one and a half year old.

PCDE Balance Sheet

PARENT COUNCIL FOR DEAF EDUCATION INC

BALANCE SHEET

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 30 JUNE 2011

	<u>2011</u>	<u>2010</u>
	\$	\$
CURRENT ASSETS		
Cash at Bank		
Cheque Account - St George	27,164.61	15,087.94
Gift Fund 471 Account - St George	19,161.28	19,160.19
Fundraising Account - St George	3,572.38	1,769.99
TOTAL CURRENT ASSETS	<u>49,898.27</u>	<u>36,018.12</u>
TOTAL ASSETS	<u>49,898.27</u>	<u>36,018.12</u>
CURRENT LIABILITIES		
Creditors		
Reimbursements to DCA	21,710.70	15,030.10
Net GST Payable	1,871.00	-
TOTAL CURRENT LIABILITIES	<u>23,581.70</u>	<u>15,030.10</u>
TOTAL LIABILITIES	<u>23,581.70</u>	<u>15,030.10</u>
NET ASSETS/(LIABILITIES)	<u>26,316.57</u>	<u>20,988.02</u>
EQUITY		
Accumulated Surplus at the start of the year	20,988.02	12,837.11
Surplus/(Deficit) for year	5,328.55	8,150.91
ACCUMULATED SURPLUS	<u>26,316.57</u>	<u>20,988.02</u>

PCDE Income and Expenditure Statement

INCOME AND EXPENDITURE STATEMENT FOR THE YEAR ENDED 30 JUNE 2011

	<u>2011</u>	<u>2010</u>
	\$	\$
<u>INCOME</u>		
Department of Ageing, Disability & Home Care Funding	84,091.61	82,041.00
Memberships & Donations	2,720.91	2,343.56
Advertising	418.18	0.00
Fundraising Income	113.64	0.00
Other Grant Income	-	4,500.00
Interest Received	184.37	154.23
Deaf Children Australia - subsidy/(contribution)	20,423.63	23,750.83
TOTAL INCOME	107,952.34	112,789.62
<u>EXPENDITURE</u>		
Bank Charges	156.75	149.43
Cleaning	1,300.28	-
Client Support Services	835.13	
Committee Expenses	116.38	1,790.45
Depreciation	2,977.00	2,600.00
Entertainment	255.91	
Equipment	-	1,060.00
Insurance	5,622.66	4,724.60
Interpreting	4,088.13	1,386.37
Office & Meeting Expenses	232.04	9,173.81
Membership Fees Paid	117.26	
Motor Vehicle Expenses	2,069.59	3,666.36
Printing, Postage & Stationery	5,999.06	8,107.49
Program Expenses	-	
Publications and Information Resources	1,098.64	-
Recoveries	5,543.00	-
Rent & Utilities	1,772.70	2,116.78
Salaries	57,560.70	52,811.22
Superannuation	5,071.06	4,474.56
Workers Compensation	1,043.25	-
Staff Training & Amenities	136.36	127.27
Telephone & IT	2,639.89	5,813.42
Travel and Accommodation	1,627.03	-
Sundry	2,360.96	6,636.95
TOTAL EXPENDITURE	102,623.79	104,638.71
SURPLUS/(DEFICIT)	\$5,328.55	\$8,150.91

Acknowledgements

Parent Council for Deaf Education relies on a government grant provided by Department of Ageing, Disability and Home Care (ADHC) to provide support, information and advocacy services for families. We acknowledge with gratitude their financial support and also that of Deaf Children Australia. We also rely on memberships and tax deductible donations.

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