

# Sound News

Parent Council for Deaf Education  
Summer 2010/ 2011



## PCDE's Family Fun Day: 14th November 2010

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## President Report

The Parent Council for Deaf Education (PCDE) held another successful Family Fun Day on Sunday 14 November at the Royal Institute of Deaf and Blind Children (RIDBC) in North Rocks. In ideal weather, we could enjoy a great BBQ lunch, swimming, and (for the children) a jumping castle, face painting, and lolly scramble. The Day concluded with our Annual General Meeting for those who could stay or come for this event only.

At the AGM, the four current Executive Committee Members and one of the (*inappropriately labelled*) Ordinary Members was re-elected to our Management Committee of seven. Two new (*not so*) Ordinary Members were elected – Ann Porter and Leesa Cluff – following the resignation of Katrina Marshall from the Management Committee in August, and the reassigning of Aileen Ryan prior to the AGM to form a subcommittee for parents of children with additional needs beyond hearing loss. Members are invited and encouraged to join this subcommittee or to help form other ‘interest group / issues based’ subcommittees. I thank Katrina and Aileen for their valued contributions on the Management Committee, noting in particular Aileen’s four years on the Committee including for part as Vice President.



PCDE’s Family Fun Day 14th November. More pictures of the fun day are on back cover

Several of you may know Ann Porter as she is the creator of the on-line parent forum, “Aussie Deaf Kids”. She was previously an active member of the PCDE Management Committee, and we welcome her back especially in view of her considerable expertise in the Deafness sector, most recently as the Acting CEO of the national peak body, Deafness Forum. Ann is the mother of three, including a daughter who is profoundly deaf (initially with a unilateral



President—Mark Burfield

loss). Leesa Cluff is the mother of two, including a son who is profoundly deaf. She is a member of the Stakeholders Committee of Deaf Children Australia.

As I reported to the AGM, “... This has been a year of reflective consolidation for PCDE, leading into and following its Vision Day on 30 May 2010 – the second in three years. Under the guidance of an experienced facilitator, the Management Committee members and staff could more clearly recognise the strength of PCDE as an independent, unbiased, family-friendly source (and where necessary referral point) for information, support and advocacy for parents and their children who are deaf or hearing impaired/hard of hearing. Following on from the previous Vision Day in October 2007, the issue of a name change was discussed more in-

tently at and after this year’s Vision Day...”. I explained the rationale for this in some depth in my previous President’s Report for Sound News. “... The proposal is to change our name to: **Parents of Deaf Children**, but a tagline (if any), new logo, and indeed final confirmation of this name change choice, is still pending...”. If you can offer any support to the process of changing the name and the related re-branding issues, please do not hesitate to let us know.

Since my previous Report, some events I have attended include an Audiology in the Classroom Seminar with Cheryl DeConde Johnson (President of ‘Hands and Voices’ in the USA), Classroom Access Project Demonstration for hearing impaired students at Cerdon College (a joint venture with Media Access Australia and the Catholic Education Office Parramatta); a Board Retreat of Deaf Children Australia (DCA) in Frankston, Victoria; and Cochlear Implant Club and Advisory Association (CICADA) AGM at the Sydney Cochlear Implant Centre in Gladesville. Though I could not attend myself, PCDE again successfully co-sponsored some events at the NSW Parliament House following the National Week of Deaf People in October, including a Panel Discussion on Deaf Education and a Student Tour/Role Play/BBQ.

Together with my oldest child, Anita (11), who is profoundly deaf, and another family, we went on a tour of the Cochlear HQ in Lane Cove – a surreal and fascinating experience. This was particularly pertinent as Anita is about to have a second implant – she was only two when she had her first implant, and we had not previously done this tour. Incidentally, the Cochlear HQ is in the process of moving to a new ‘Hearing Hub’ next to Macquarie University.

I sincerely thank the 2009-2010 Management Committee for their valued contributions, passion and support, and look forward to their continuing involvement. I also deeply thank our personable Staff for their thorough work, enthusiasm, and initiative, often in challenging circumstances: Kate Kennedy (Information and Advocacy Coordinator) and Anna Iacono (Administrative Assistant - going on maternity leave in early 2011 as she is expecting a new addition to her family – congratulations!). I also thank Juliet Schumacher who did a wonderful job as editor of ‘Sound News’ prior to her resignation in March 2010. Thanks also to the parents who have participated in the POD group meetings and PCDE events. Parents and their children who are deaf or hearing impaired/hard of hearing are of course at the core of our *raison d’être*.

As I said last year, I welcome any queries and feedback, including notification and information on issues of concern, constructive criticisms, offers of support, cries for help, etc. etc.

Mark Burfield

President ■

## Staff Report

Well, it's that time of year when we look back on achievements of 2010 and start to plan for 2011.

I feel particularly proud of the work we have done with connecting parents.

Over the past year, with help of a number of individuals and organizations (you know who you are!) we have organized many great opportunities for parents to get together and get informed.

These have included:

Australian Hearing Information Night at POD Northern Sydney

Cool Kids Cool Parents Workshop at POD Macarthur, Leumeah.

Beating Bullying Workshop at POD Central Sydney

Parent Feedback Session for SWISH Evaluation, POD NS.

AI Live Demonstration and Morning Tea at AI Media, North Ryde.

School Readiness Night at POD Macarthur, Parramatta.

Hearing Awareness Week Party at POD NS.

Australian Hearing Information Morning Tea at POD Macarthur

Deaf Friendly Parenting workshop at Taree.

School holiday activities including a play in park and Powerhouse Museum visit.

**We also need to enlist the help of parents... word of mouth is a great marketing tool and we are looking to harness the efforts of parents.... So spread the word!**

### Advocacy

Part of PCDE's job is to put the spotlight on the need for improved services and resources for deaf students in NSW. In 2010 we contributed a number of submissions to government inquiries including the Senate Community Affairs References Committee Inquiry into Hearing Health in Australia. We look forward to the following recommendations being taken up by the Commonwealth:

Eligibility for Australian Hearing support until the age of 25 (as opposed to the current eligibility cut off at 21).

Education providers to develop standards for interpreters working in educational settings.

Supply and maintenance of Sound-field systems in classrooms for all new classrooms.

In October PCDE, The Deaf Society of NSW and Deaf Australia NSW worked together again to promote and run the 2<sup>nd</sup> annual "Deaf Awareness at NSW



Kate Kennedy

Parliament" event on 21<sup>st</sup> October 2010. This event, hosted by NSW Parliament, helped raise the profile of the Deaf community and was a forum for discussion and advocacy on deaf education. It was a great week of activities and we look forward to this being part of the annual National Week of Deaf People calendar.

### Getting the WORD OUT.

We are passionate about "getting the word out" about this great organization but we also need to enlist the help of parents. We need parents to be champions of PCDE. Word of mouth is a great marketing tool and we are looking to harness the efforts of parents who have joined us, to get the word out there through different avenues, so spread the word!

Kate Kennedy

PCDE Co-ordinator, Information and Advocacy

Kids,

We need your wonderful artwork to put on the cover of our upcoming issues of Sound News.

**Win a Jessica Mauboy CD!**

PCDE will give away a Jessica Mauboy, *Been Waiting* CD to the artist of our next issue

Please send your artwork to PCDE, PO Box 4748, North Rocks, NSW 2151 or email them to [pcde@bigpond.com](mailto:pcde@bigpond.com) in jpeg format.

## What's On

### Captioned Movie

"Tron: Legacy"

Event Cinemas, Level 4, Westfield's Parramatta

9th January 2011 at 3pm

Bring money for food and tickets

<https://sites.google.com/site/deafdudes/home/events-for-2011>

### Surfing January 2011

Where: Manly

When: 21st January 2011

<https://sites.google.com/site/deafdudes/home/events-for-2011>

### 34th Annual Residential Workshop Program for Families and Professionals

The Shepherd Centre's program offers a series of short courses, individual and group sessions to provide educational and practical information on developing listening and spoken language.

Upcoming dates are:

When: Thur 10—Sat 12 March 2011

Venue: Clan Lakeside Lodge, Terrigal

Register before 21 January 2011

When: Thur 16– Sat 18 June 2011

Venue: Tocal College, Maitland

Register before 15 April 2011

Cost: \$75 per day for families (\$225 total)

Enquiries: Ph: 9351 7888

Email: [enquiries@shepherdcentre.com.au](mailto:enquiries@shepherdcentre.com.au)

### Museum of Contemporary Art



### Annie Leibovitz: A Photographer's Life 1990 - 2005

On now until 27 March 2011

Following a record-breaking tour of the US and Europe, this hugely popular exhibition has opened in Sydney and showcases nearly 200 commercial, documentary and personal works, as selected by the artist. Alongside intimate personal moments are portraits of well-known figures including Brad Pitt, Demi Moore, Hillary Clinton, Patti Smith and Mick Jagger.

Admission \$15, Concessions \$10, MCA Members free

Children 12 years and under free

Family (2 adults and 3 children aged 13-17) \$40

[WWW.MCA.COM.AU](http://WWW.MCA.COM.AU)

### Sydney Auslan Social (SAS)

Meet new people at a social group for Auslan.

Broadway Shopping Centre

Food Court Level 4

Every 2 weeks on Saturdays 11am—2pm

<http://www.facebook.com/home.php?#!/group.php?gid=131767960081>



Looking for something to do with the kids over the school holidays?

### See the latest movies at your local cinema.

Check out captioned session times at the following cinemas

<http://www.greaterunion.com.au/movies/opencaptions.asp>

[http://www.hoyts.com.au/Movies/Offers/Open\\_Caption\\_Movies.aspx](http://www.hoyts.com.au/Movies/Offers/Open_Caption_Movies.aspx)

<http://www.villagecinemas.com.au/Session-Times/Open-Caption-Films.htm>

## Emergency Contact Details:

### Emergency Call 106



The 106 emergency relay service enables people who are deaf or have a hearing or speech impairment to contact emergency services through their TTY (also known as a teletypewriter or textphone) or modem. It is a dedicated text-based emergency relay-service with direct access to fire, police and ambulance services. It is available 24 hours a day, everyday.

#### How it works:

- Dial 106. This is a toll-free number. You will be asked if you want police, ambulance or fire (type FFF).
- The relay officer will stay on line to relay your conversation with the emergency service. Confirm your location.
- Do not hang up. Wait for a reply from the emergency service.
- If you wish to use speak and read (voice carry over) or type and listen (hearing carry over) let the relay officer know to set up the correct mode.

- This service is not available via speak and listen (speech to speech relay). These callers can dial 1800 555 727 and then ask for Triple Zero (000) or dial '000' directly.
- This service cannot be accessed by text message (SMS) on a mobile phone.

### NRMA Roadside Assistance



24 hours a day, country and metro areas - deaf / hard of hearing text to 0437 13 11 11.

NRMA have a SMS service available for Roadside Assistance.

Text your registration number, make and model of vehicle and your location. NRMA will text you back with more info.

# Everything for the Hard of Hearing



Specialists in products for the telephone, TV, radio and social functions to suit hearing impaired and Deaf people.



For more information on any of our products or services, visit our website at

**[www.printacall.com.au](http://www.printacall.com.au)**

or contact us on any of the following:

Ph: 02 9809 2392 | Fax: 02 9809 2345 | TTY: 02 9809 1283  
[sales@printacall.com.au](mailto:sales@printacall.com.au) | 2 Doig Ave., Denistone East, NSW 2112

## Jesse's Story

Written by Sarah Lysaught, Jesse's mum.

Like many hearing parents who are told their child has a hearing loss, it came as a shock. I don't know where it came from but my very first instinct was that I had to meet other parents. Through some luck we were put in touch with the Deaf Society of NSW, and through them we were put in touch with a Parents of the Deaf support group in the nearby town of Lismore. Walking into the room full of parents, children and Deaf adults, signing and talking was completely overwhelming. But in the corner I spotted a mother disciplining her son in Auslan and I had a sense of calm with the understanding that no matter what, Jesse was going to be okay.

Not long after this meeting we decided to move to Lismore so we could attend Auslan classes and be closer to the Deaf Community. Shortly after we moved we were told Jesse's moderate to profound hearing loss was now completely profound and we had to decide whether or not Jesse was to get an implant. Again my instinct kicked in and something inside me told me it was wrong for my son. My heart ached. We spent the next 12 months using Auslan to communicate with Jesse

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*"Jesse sat down at a table surrounding by other Deaf children all signing, he turned and looked at my husband and I. The look said everything - this was where he had to be."*

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Jesse

while also gathering information and talking to anyone that had any connection to Deaf. We were walking around with only one thing constantly on our mind. Eventually we decided to go ahead with a cochlear implant and give him a chance to access the hearing world to the best of his abilities. This decision was fuelled by our concerns about him being able to communicate with our non-signing family and how he would cope in a mainstream class with only sign language.

We stopped signing with the intention of giving the cochlear implant the best chance to work. Unfortunately after a year of weekly flights

to Sydney and daily therapy sessions Jesse's biggest progress was that he could hear us say his name. We made the solid decision that language was more important than speech and reverted back to signing.

In March last year we attended RIDBC for an event and decided to visit Roberta Reid Preschool. As soon as we walked in Jesse sat down at a table surrounding by other Deaf children all signing, he turned and looked at my husband and I. The look said everything— this was where he had to be! Although it took a few months to put together, the decision to move to Sydney was very easy.

After a very successful 3 terms spent at RRP Jesse has developed socially and with his communication. We are about to move from Sydney to Brisbane in preparation for Jesse to attend Toowong State School's bilingual/bicultural program next year.

We are excited to see Jesse start school and have the opportunity to be educated in the rich language environment Toowong has developed. We are very proud of what we have done for Jesse and of every accomplishment he has made.



Jesse with Bronwyne and Jodie at Robert Reid Preschool

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# It's NOT a Sprint..... It's a Marathon

## A Parent's Perspective on the Cochlear Journey

From <http://cicircle.blogspot.com>

"CI Circle News is the Official News Site of the Paediatric Cochlear Implant Parent Group"

Ok, so you have made it through surgery, have your team in place to help you with your auditory goals, and it all went by in a complete blur!

Now you are ready to go! Give me goals, GIVE ME MORE GOALS! Let me get language in this child, not today, not yesterday, must get language in, must get language in.... MUST GET LANGUAGE IN!

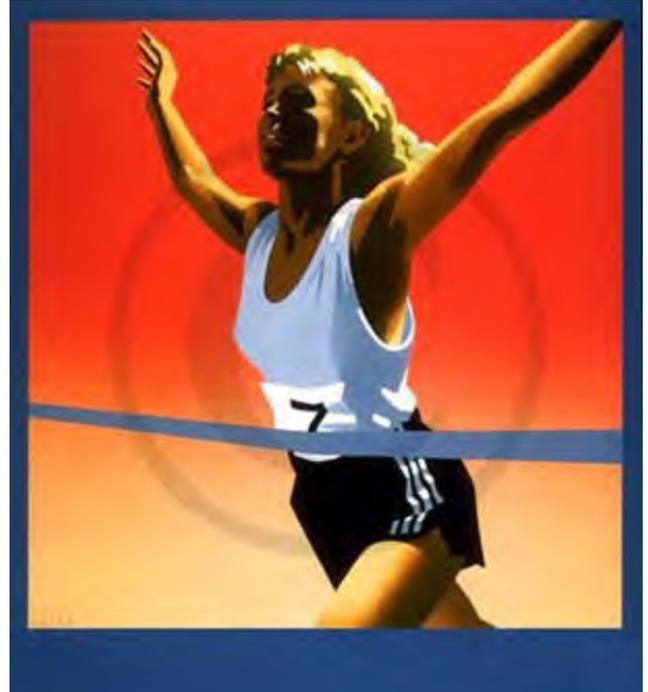
Yes, it is true that the major part of the cochlear implant process is the work you do with your child after the surgery: the learning to listen, the providing opportunities for new language development etc.

BUT you are not a machine that one can program and then let loose to do your thing. You are a man/woman, a husband/wife, and a parent, often times, more things to more people than just your child with a hearing loss. Don't forget the many roles you have and the fact that you are not a machine!

As one very wise mother told me very early in our journey, **"it's not a sprint, it's a marathon."** You can't keep going at this frenetic pace all the time, you will inevitably burn yourself out and then what good are you to the family you love? If on the occasional day you wake up and you feel like life just dropped a huge concrete block on you, roll with it. Don't beat yourself up over the fact you should be doing this or that listening activity with your child. Cut yourself some slack, head to the park with your beautiful child and just eat ice-cream together or enjoy whatever other favourites you might have. Time spent just being, is also very important.

You know that if you feel like you are having a bad day and try to ignore it to work on those goals, your child will sense your heart isn't it, and you will just be wasting your time. Let it go for a day, recharge and get back to work with gusto the next day.

Don't forget too that there are many ways to provide listening opportunities for your child that don't involve sitting



your child down and working through specific things. There are many, many ways to tap into their interests and "play with them". Well, that is how they see it, meanwhile you are building in language without them even noticing - that might be the topic for another blog, another time : - )

We parents have a built in guilt switch and so we beat ourselves up every time we feel we are not doing enough. At the end of the day all you can do is your best and your best will differ at different times with the things that life throws at you from time to time. Work with your team, let them guide you with their professional opinions on how your child is doing, not based on an off the cuff comment from another parent who probably has no clue.

Be kind to yourself and know that your child is already blessed, he/she has parents who care enough to educate themselves as much as they can, this is why you are here reading this. Your child already has the best advantage of all— YOU.



## Art Therapy @ St Ives High School

The Hearing Support faculty at St Ives High School introduced art therapy as part of their Year 9 program in 2010.

Students meet once a fortnight with an art teacher/art therapist for a 75-minute session of creativity and personal expression. Hearing impaired students can be particularly visually aware and can communicate well with images.

The group of students at St Ives High have created individual and collaborative works of art including verbal discussion and creative journaling.



The structure of a session includes the introduction of a specific theme or image followed by 45 mins of individual creative time where the art therapist works alongside the students, also creating an artwork. The students are encouraged to work individually but can ask for guidance at any time.

The artworks are then displayed on a table and the students move around them, appreciating each artwork.

The group has learned to appreciate art without making positive or negative comments. Instead they thank each other for the time they have spent together and the works they have created.



However, students are invited to verbally express how they feel about their own artwork or theme and their individual creative experience.

Artworks are then named and dated and filed into the students' A3 display folders.



Different themes that the group have looked at this year include personalised title page collages, personal tree and surroundings, the life cycle of a plant or flower, automatic chance drawing (similar to the concept of Mr Squiggle) and a collaborative group mandala.



Communication has been an important part of the art therapy sessions. Students write down words they cannot pronounce or draw pictures to explain what they are saying.

Journaling and writing stories relating to their artworks have also given a richer context and meaning to their work as well as building their literacy skills. Verbal discussion has created respect and understanding within the group and students willingly share their thoughts and insights about their own creative process.

Benefits of this program include:

- continuing to build the students' art skills
- relief from standard curriculum and teachers
- creative and accepting environment
- personal expression
- social awareness
- emphasis on the process rather than the finished product

## Art Therapy @ St Ives High School



- refinement of motor skills and physical dexterity
- improved communication
- students' pride in their art
- visual springboards for verbal communication
- encouraged 'sense of self' and personal style
- appreciation for others' artworks
- bonding through collaborative pieces



The program has been successful, therapeutic and a positive experience for all involved and will be offered to Hearing Support students from other year groups in 2011.

If you are interested in more information about Art Therapy please email [rebeccasmith150@det.nsw.edu.au](mailto:rebeccasmith150@det.nsw.edu.au).

### 'Kool Kids'

India and Samira are dressed ready to perform in their end of year dance concert. They love Jazz dancing and performing on stage!

India was also part of her school senior dance group and they performed at the local Westfield Shopping Centre. Both girls are profoundly deaf and have bilateral cochlear implants.



**Is your child doing something wonderful and you'd like to brag about it?**

Did he score a goal in footy? Are they just too darn cute?? Maybe you have a student who would like to see his/her pic in print along with a few words of encouragement or congratulations.

Whatever you're celebrating, share it with us and we will publish it in Sound News.

Please send your photo and description to [pcde@bigpond.com](mailto:pcde@bigpond.com)



## POD Information Sessions

POD sessions take a break over the Christmas period but will resume in February 2011.

Dates for 2011 will be posted early next year so make sure that you are on our mailing list and are notified of dates, venues and details of any special events.

### Parents, Why Not Join a POD Group?

POD is your local parent support group which allows you to connect with other parents of deaf and hearing impaired children and gather information and ideas on all sorts of topics. Parents are a great source of support and reassurance too.

If you are not on our email distribution list, and would like to receive regular updates on POD groups and information sessions in your area, please contact [anna@pcde.org](mailto:anna@pcde.org) or phone 02 9871 3049.



MERRY CHRISTMAS TO ALL OUR READERS,

We wish you all a safe and happy Christmas



### "Equity for deaf people"

- Deaf-friendly Families program
- Sign'n'Tots Auslan Playgroup (in partnership with the Ephpheta Centre)
- Parent to Parent Support program (in partnership with PCDE)
- School holiday activities and camps for young people
- Individual support and referral
- Independent living skills training
- Auslan interpreting services
- Courses delivered in Auslan
- Auslan courses
- Employment Services
- Deaf Awareness Training



Level 4, 69 Phillip Street, Parramatta  
 PO Box 1060, Parramatta NSW 2124  
 Tel (voice): (02) 8833 3600 Fax: (02) 8833 3699  
 TTY: (02) 8833 3691 Email: [info@deafsociety.com](mailto:info@deafsociety.com)  
[www.deafsocietynsw.org.au](http://www.deafsocietynsw.org.au)

## POD Mid North Coast is coming soon !

If you live near Taree  
and would like to join a  
POD group for a chat,  
support and information,  
contact PCDE to join  
their mailing list and  
keep up to date with  
upcoming events.

## Christmas Gift Ideas and Stocking Fillers

### Some ideas for a Deaf Friendly Christmas!

#### Alarm Clock \$110.00

This Oricom Alarm Clock shaker will wake you. An attractive unit with several options– alarm, vibrating pad for under pillow waking and flashing light. It is very easy to set and you can even attach a phone to receive a warning that your phone is ringing. A very clever unit. Available from Australian Hearing



#### Music player connection \$89.00

Music Link Freedom stereo plugs into any 3.5mm Music player jack and enables sound to go directly into your hearing aids. Can be used with your computer, laptop and mobile. An adaptor may be needed for some phones. White only. Great sound and neat design. Available from Australian Hearing

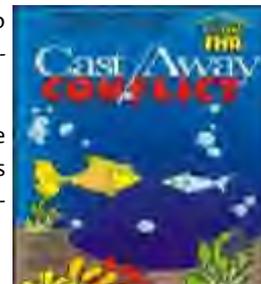


#### GO Fish \$35.95

Children have always loved to play the popular card game, Go Fish. A special version of Go Fish has been designed to help improve social and emotional skills in character, responsibility, friendship, anger, conflict and feelings.

*Play-2-Learn Go Fish - Cast Away Conflict* provides players with the skills needed to manage conflict in an appropriate and socially acceptable way. By practicing strategies such as apologising, compromising, and listening, players learn to adopt behaviours that can enhance their relationships at home, at school, and within the community.

To order go to [www.thebrainary.com](http://www.thebrainary.com)



#### Wristwatches with a inbuilt vibrating or flashing alarm feature.

The Earlink web-store has a range of vibrating watches for both male and females with prices starting from \$42.00.

Go to <http://www.earlink.com/products.asp?cat=33> for their full product range.



#### Auslan on iPad

An iPad app with 150 key signs of Auslan is available from RIDBC. Each Auslan sign is presented with a photo of the hand shape used to form the sign and video clip demonstrating how the sign is produced. The application is designed for the Apple iPhone, iPod Touch and iPad.

The first 150 words are free, however the full version with more than 500 signs, phrases and sentences can be downloaded from the Apple iTunes store for \$49.99

For more information call 1300 131 923 or visit [www.ridbc.org.au/auslantutor](http://www.ridbc.org.au/auslantutor)



## Maintenance of Hearing Aids and FM's over the School Holidays



*Simone Punch, Clinical Leader NSW/ Vic at Australian Hearing, provides some tips for parents for the maintenance of hearing aids and FM's over the school holidays.*

Your kids will hopefully be making the most of time out of school by enjoying the beach and the outdoors over the holiday season.

Here are some tips for keeping devices in working order in these environments:

Avoid getting your hearing device wet in rain or at the beach. If the hearing aid does get wet and doesn't work try immediately taking the battery out with the battery door open and place in the sun for a short period of time. Devices totally immersed in water are likely to need major repair or replacement.

If you are holidaying somewhere humid and hot, aids can sometimes suffer damage from condensation or sweat. You can put your child's hearing aids in a moisture protection or dri-aid kit each night. If you don't have a moisture protection kit, you can get one from your hearing centre.

Occasionally heat or humidity can make moisture bubbles appear in earmould tubing causing poor quality or no sound. If a visual inspection reveals bubbles in the tubing, use an air puffer to blow these out. If you



do not have one that was issued with your first set of hearing aids you can purchase an air puffer from your hearing centre.

If applying sunscreen or insect repellent to your child etc consider removing his/her hearing aids while you do this as chemicals can damage them.

Don't expose your hearing device to extreme heat. Hot car gloveboxes or boots can be a culprit when it comes to broken devices.

Put your hearing device in its case when it is not being used to keep it away from sand, dirt and water!

### Holiday emergencies

Australian Hearing is national, this means that we have over 100 hearing centres around Australia. If you are enjoying a holiday away from home over the Christmas Season and are unlucky enough to need emergency batteries, repairs or other services, you can call 131 797 from anywhere in Australia and be connected to your nearest local hearing centre.

We also have a hearing aid troubleshooting guide on our website at [www.hearing.com.au](http://www.hearing.com.au)

### Devices are still useful on holidays!

Don't forget FM systems are useful outside of school as well as in! Children can use their FM's with the TV and music devices over the break. They can also be great for hearing adults in the front seat when on long car journeys. Ask your audiologist how if you need more information.

MusicLink headphones can also be great for travel. In conjunction with T setting on hearing aids they can be used with iPods or on airplane seats for watching movies. Ask at any hearing centre about trialling or purchasing these.



### Devices that are not used frequently over the break

If you have a Phonak Campus S FM transmitter that will not be used over the holidays it is advised that you either take the battery out of the device or leave it plugged into its charger to keep the battery in working order.

You may wish to consider checking your child's devices and accessories are charged and working well at least 2 weeks before school starts again. This will allow time for FM units and hearing aids to be repaired, if needed, before your child's first day back.

### Christmas Closure

You may wish to ensure your child's hearing aids have had all necessary repairs, and batteries to last you over the Christmas closure period.

Australian Hearing earmould manufacturers and hearing aid companies also close over Christmas. So some earmoulds orders and hearing aid repairs may not be completed until after Christmas and New Year period.

Most Australian Hearing centres in NSW will be closed from 5pm on the 23<sup>rd</sup> December and will re-open on the 5th January 2011.

And finally Australian Hearing wishes a happy and peaceful Christmas and New Year for you and your families.



## Looking for ways to keep your children happy this summer?

We have found the best Place to locate and buy captioned DVD or games: [http://www.ezydvd.com.au/mech/p\\_search.zml](http://www.ezydvd.com.au/mech/p_search.zml)

Under the Power Search it is easy to filter for content that has either "English - HI" (4,273 total items) or "English" (7,872 total items) in the Subtitle data field. These options can be even further analysed by date of release, type of platform (DVD, PS3, etc etc) - so it is quite an easy way to research and acquire accessible DVD's and other multimedia content.

Note: The Power Search option is also useful for locating audio description titles for the Blind / visually impaired.

*(This info kindly forwarded by Michael Lockrey for all those to need some ideas for a happy and peaceful summer with the kids.)*



The logo for 'aussie deaf kids' features the words in a colorful, rounded font. 'aussie' is in blue, 'deaf' is in red, and 'kids' is in yellow. There are two yellow smiley faces above the 'i' in 'aussie' and the 'i' in 'kids'.

Online information and support  
for families raising a deaf child  
in Australia

[www.aussiedeafkids.org.au](http://www.aussiedeafkids.org.au)



Relevant and meaningful information on raising a deaf child.

Online parent to parent support— a vibrant community where families share ideas, information and support.

Monthly e-newsletter— keeping families up to date and informed.

## Technology– Cybersafety for Families

The internet has become an integral part of life. It is a powerful resource, enabling people of all ages to learn and communicate.

But there are risks. Knowing how to use the internet safely is essential to having a positive online experience. For parents and their children, it is important to know how to apply these skills at home, at school and in public places such as the library and internet cafés.



*Children need parents and family members to help them become cybersmart.*

*The best protection is parental supervision and guidance*

### Spend time online

The internet can be a fun family activity– check out safe sites with your kids! Compile a favourites list, which you can visit again and again.

Teach children that information on the internet is not always reliable. If it sounds too good to be true, it probably is!

### Set rules

Make sure your children know what information they can give out and where they can go on the net. Limit time in chat rooms, particularly for younger children. Encourage the use of chat rooms that are moderated (that is, where messages are screened by an adult before they are made public).

Chatting on the net is very popular, particularly with teenagers. It can be a great way to meet and talk with people across borders, time zones and backgrounds. Children who are hearing impaired often use chat rooms more than other children

as their form of communication.

However, a lot of real world risks also exist online, especially in chat rooms. Most people online are friendly and polite but some can be unfriendly and rude. Be aware of this and encourage your children not to respond to any communication that makes them uncomfortable. If this occurs, they should leave the site immediately. Encourage them to tell you if anyone says something that makes them feel uncomfortable or scared.

### Be involved

Put the internet computer in a public area of the home. Areas like the living room are ideal, rather than a child's bedroom. Talk to your children about their experiences online– the good and the bad. Get to know which chat rooms they are visiting and who are they are chatting with. Maybe even be their friend on their favourite social network site!

Help your child set up their profile to make sure that they don't put too much personal information online.

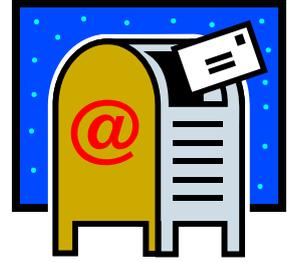
Check the privacy settings for each service and find out how to report abuse. Hopefully you will never need to do this but it's good to be prepared.

Talk to your child about what they like about social networking websites, what some of the dangers are in using them and teach them ways to be safe. You may be able to create some house rules together.

### Talk to your children

Let them know its ok to tell you if they come across something that worries them. It doesn't mean they're going to get into trouble. Kids need to be confident that they can talk to you about what's happening, without being afraid that they're automatically going to get into trouble.

If your child wants to meet someone



they have met online, you should find out about the person to see that they are who they say they are. You may like to talk to them and their parents by phone first, and accompany your child to the meeting.

### Filters

Filter software is a useful tool for managing children's access to the net, along with active supervision by parents and setting household internet-use rules.

Different filters work in different ways. Some are better than others at blocking particular types of content. The Internet Industry Association provides a list of family friendly filters on its site at [www.ii.net.au](http://www.ii.net.au)

### Webcam

Only tell real-life friends or family that you have a webcam. Don't show it on your online ID.

If someone asks your child to do or watch something upsetting or wrong say no! Tell them to close the conversation straight away and tell a parent or an adult they trust.

### Spam

Spam is electronic 'junk mail'- unwanted messages sent to your email account or mobile phone. The best response is to delete and never respond to spam messages.

To reduce spam, protect your email address and mobile phone number online, use filtering software and boost your internet security.

This is only a short list of tips for internet safety. For more information, go to the Australian Communications and Media Authority cybersmart website, [www.cybersmart.gov.au](http://www.cybersmart.gov.au) or phone 1800 880 176.

The cybersmart website now includes a comprehensive guide to online safety and six new cybersafety brochures for parents.

## Our mission:

**‘To empower parents in NSW to support their children who are deaf or hearing impaired in reaching their full potential through information, support networks and representation.’**



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Enquiries, comments and sug-  
gestions are welcome.

Note: We use the term ‘deaf’  
to mean all types of deafness.



PCDE's Family Fun Day 14th November 2010