

Canberra Deaf Children's Association Newsletter



February 2009

Welcome the New Look Newsletter!

2009 - bigger than ever

Following a successful 2008 we are looking forward to an even more successful 2009. Our aim is to continue to build up our membership so that we can provide support to as many families as possible.

Canberra Deaf Children's Association (CDCA) is aiming to organise more functions for mums, dads, carers and whole families so that we can establish a great support network for families here in the ACT.

We also will continue to assist families to be the best advocate for their child, by providing resources and information. We look forward to strengthening our



relationships with other organisations and embarking on new partnerships where possible both here and interstate.

I look forward to seeing you all in 2009. I am always open to ideas and suggestions from our

membership about what they want from the CDCA, and remember that all members are welcome to attend committee meetings at any time.

Luke Halpin, President

Canberra's best playgrounds

Kids need to play, and Canberra is full of good playgrounds. Suggestions for the best ones are:

- John Knight Memorial Park
- Braddon Primary School
- Forde
- Belconnen Markets
- Black Mountain Peninsula

There are many others, all over town. Many with suitable equipment for deaf kids - no long plastic slides that generate plastic, plenty of colour etc.

Take the kids out and tell us which are your favourites.

Christmas parties



CDCA Board

President: Luke Halpin (6254 8659 or 0411 051 958)

Vice President / Webmaster: Wendy McMullen (6284 8143)

Treasurer: Kate McKenzie (6259 7194)

Secretary: Alex Turner (6161 8083)

Newsletter Editor: Lachlan Leslie (0407 784 655)

Events Coordinator: Sonia Hay

Committee Members: Kerrie Kent, Rod Pymont

Email via Website: www.canberradeafkids.org.au

Life Events in 10 words or less

A family pet died recently, bringing home the difficulty of going through life's issues with a hearing impaired kid. Particularly when their language skills aren't up with other brain abilities. How do you explain a concept like death in 10 words or less?

What is CDCA?

The Canberra Deaf Children's Association (CDCA) is a non-profit community organisation that endeavors to provide support and information to parents and families on issues affecting deaf and hearing-impaired children. This includes all sorts of hearing loss such as sensorineural, conductive and unilateral.

We also provide information to other interested people in the community, teachers and students.

CDCA acts as a lobby group to relevant Government Departments and other Organizations on behalf of Deaf and Hearing Impaired children, their parents and their families.

Membership is open to parents, relatives and friends of deaf and hearing-impaired children.

Membership includes borrowing rights for the Toy and Resource Library and a newsletter issued six times a year.

Why buy, when you can borrow?

You would be amazed at the stuff that is just waiting for members to borrow from the Toy Library. The Library is in the Deafness Resource Centre, and is open by appointment. Please contact Alex Turner on 6161 8083 to access the library. Alex is really keen for members to use the library and promises to return all messages on those rare occasions she doesn't answer the bat phone. Most items can be borrowed for a month.

Our library contains:

- captioned videos with a good variety of titles,
- books and games for children of all ages,
- Reference books and other resources for parents and families.

Online Resources:

Aussie Deaf Kids (new site)

Online support and information for parents of deaf & hearing impaired children in Australia. Share experiences, ideas and concerns with other parents who really understand how you feel.

www.aussiedeafkids.org.au

Deaf Children Australia

The Deaf Children Australia Helpline is an information, support and referral service for families of Deaf and Hearing Impaired Children and young Adults. The Helpline number is 1800 645 916. DCA has begun providing advocacy and information services across Australia via the national Helpline.

www.deafchildreinaustralia.org.au

Parent Council of Deaf Education

PCDE statement: Our mission is to work with parents and families of deaf children and young people, regardless of their background, to promote their rights in all aspects of their lives from birth to the end of tertiary education.

More information on PCDE can be found at their website www.pcde.org.

The National Deaf Children's Society

www.ndcs.org.uk

Listen Up

<http://listen-up.org>

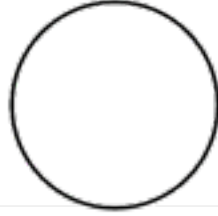
Facebook

Strange but true. The social networking phenomenon also includes parents talking about their deaf kids. A search for 'deaf kids', 'hearing aids' or 'cochlear implants' will turn up a surprising number of groups from all over the world and locally.

www.facebook.com

CDCA Kids Page

It's been hot lately. How about some cool colouring in?



CDCA Membership 2009

The yearly membership contribution is \$20.00. Membership is available to parents, relatives, professionals and friends. Financial members receive newsletters up to six times a year and are eligible to borrow the CDCA toys, resources, games, books etc. Your contributions enable us to buy new resources for the library and assist in the running of the Association. Please make cheque payable to *Canberra Deaf Children's Association* and mail to:

**The Treasurer
Canberra Deaf Children's Association
PO Box 2291
Tuggeranong ACT 2901**

Please complete the following form and return with your payment so we can maintain up to date details.

Parent's/Carer's Name:			
Address:			
Email:			
Home Phone:		Work Phone:	
Mobile:		Fax:	

Please include all children in the family

Child's Name	Date of Birth	Hearing Loss