

Parent Council for Deaf Education Inc



2003 Annual Report

Mission

To work with parents and families of Deaf and Hearing Impaired children, regardless of their background to promote their rights in all aspects of their lives from birth to the end of tertiary education

Main Objectives

- To work for the furtherance of the education and welfare of all children and youth who are deaf/hearing impaired.
- To heighten public awareness of the abilities and needs of deaf/hearing impaired youth and their families.
- To liaise with Government officers, teachers, parents and other relevant people to monitor and review the provision of services for deaf/hearing impaired youth and their families.
- To monitor and make accessible to members, the activities of the various organisations, authorities and persons engaged in the education and welfare of deaf/hearing impaired youth through “Where Do We Go From Here?” publication and quarterly journal “Sound News”.

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VICE-PRESIDENT'S REPORT

2003 has been a frustrating, but overall productive, year for Parent Council for Deaf Education. Much of the focus this year has been on representation of PCDE on Working Parties, Round Table discussions and Parent Advocacy.

Unfortunately, ongoing computer problems have meant that Sound News has not been able to be produced and because of this PCDE has not been able to keep its members informed of what has been happening during the year. PCDE is very grateful to Brian Bigalow for his ongoing efforts, free of charge, to get the computer problems solved and the computers up and running again.

Due to PCDE being unable to honor its commitment to keeping its members up-to-date we are offering current members complimentary membership to counterbalance the above mentioned difficulties. We are looking forward to a very active and fruitful 2004.

Though we have been unable to keep members informed via Sound News PCDE has been active in a number of areas and continues to be invited to participate in discussions relating to Education and Service provision pertaining to people who are Deaf/Hearing Impaired.

For the past year and half our Project Coordinator, Steve Ripley, has been involved along with other Deafness focused organisations in discussions regarding good practises in education of deaf/hearing impaired children. The results of these discussions and research has recently been published and I would like to thank Steve for the many hours he spent in meetings prior to the final draft of this publication. The publication *Literature Review of Good Practice in the Delivery of Educational Outcomes for Students who are Deaf or Hearing Impaired* can be obtained by contacting The NSW Department of Education and Training.

Steve has continued to meet with a number of parents and educational facilities in the area of support and advocacy when issues threatening programs or continuity of services has arisen. Many parents are still unsure of their children's rights when schools decide to cut or discontinue support for their deaf/hearing impaired children.

As an avenue of promotion we have taken part in a number of fairs/expos by holding information stalls at the Hearing Awareness Week Expo in August, as well as the Holroyd Festival, Granny Smith Festival, Willoughby Street Fair and Neutral Bay. Thank you to Robyn, Louise Jones, Craig Maynard, Maria Salmon-Foong and Margaret Colebrook for looking after the stalls. We now have a banner to display at future fairs/expos.

Early in the year – at the request of a number of parents Craig Maynard, Youth Coordinator, conducted Auslan classes for children and their parents. We will be holding another class during 2004.

PCDE's youth group, "Silence Breakers", is growing stronger and now has a number of leaders in training under the watchful eye of Craig. The youth group is now also doing its own fundraising. PCDE continues to be involved with the Deaf

Society of NSW's initiative, Deaf Specific Services Youth Working Party. Many thanks to Craig for his personal time in attending meetings and arranging/participating in the youth activities.

PCDE once again held a Bowl-a-thon, followed a few weeks later by a family BBQ. PCDE would also like to thank the Lions Club of Cabramatta for their donation of \$2,000 towards a camp for deaf/hard of hearing youth.

PCDE organised and chaired a meeting in early September with deafness related organisations involved with deaf/hard of hearing children regarding concerns over the government's intention to open audiological services so that there would be a choice for people from 0-death as to whether they are serviced by Australian Hearing or private sector. This has been an ongoing information loop between these organisations, with a workshop being held at the beginning of November, and the process is still ongoing.

PCDE supported the 2nd Forum on Early Identification under the direction of Sue Rayner. We look forward to receiving information regarding the proceedings of this Forum.

An updated version of "Where Do We Go From Here?" is in the final stages and will be going to print shortly.

PCDE Management Committee and staff attended a talk by Gaming and Racing so that they had a better understanding of the legalities of running a charitable organisation, hence then being able to give its members a better service.

On the office front, PCDE farewelled Robyn Longford, Administrator, in September as she moved to Queensland. PCDE will miss her expertise and wish her all the best in her new home. Chris Gruntar started in September as PCDE's new Administrator, and is settling in to her new position. Welcome Chris!

After 5 years, Steve will be leaving PCDE at the end of November. Steve brought with him a wealth of knowledge, having previously worked at the Deaf Society of NSW, Theatre of the Deaf, Australian Association of the Deaf and, The Royal Blind Society of NSW, as well as overseas. Steve has worked hard in building up a networking system between deaf related organisations and PCDE, as well as continued support for parents in advocating for the rights of their children in education. He has also worked in updating and creating new policies for PCDE, in line with DADHC funding requirements.

PCDE will find your shoes hard to fill, Steve. Of course, more importantly, we will miss Bevan, your Guide Dog.

Lastly I would like to thank the members of the Management Committee for all their hard work and support during 2003.

PROJECT COORDINATORS REPORT

In 2002 changes occurred with Government funding which impacted on the missions and objectives of a number of Advocacy services for people with disabilities. PCDE was not largely affected by those changes – though we were placed in a position where we had to review our policies and ensure they were in line with DADHC and Disability Action Standards. 2003 has seen a number of changes to service provision and consultation processes in which PCDE participated.

Much of my work this year has focused on meetings, working parties and consultation groups. As well, I have sat alongside parents as they met with school Principals and teacher to advocate on behalf of deaf/hearing impaired children for continued or much needed support in accessing quality and equal education.

When Federation for Junior Deaf Education was established some 41 years ago, it provided a platform not only for lobbying for appropriate education and services but also for parents to learn to advocate on behalf of their deaf/hearing impaired child. It was a strong support group in many ways than one. Today we see a large number of parents who are able, self advocates, challenging and questioning the decisions made by others involved in their child's education or service. However, not all parents are able to do this and it is for those people that PCDE holds an important place.

PCDE is more than an Information service, PCDE is more than a consultancy agency, PCDE is more than a Lobbying body. We have once again become an organisation working with parents who ask for personal support. This to me is the real essence of an Advocacy organisation. Not simply advocating on behalf of a group of people but supporting the individual parent in their ongoing battle with schools that refuse to take their child because they do not have the resources or because theirs would be the only deaf/hearing impaired child in the school. Or, their child's program is being cut due to the fact the child has now being implanted and therefore requires less support.

I have been approached by and advocated on behalf of a number of parents whose children are deaf/hearing impaired and have additional disabilities such as blindness, Downs Syndrome, CHARGE syndrome and the likes. PCDE, due to these contacts is now networking with other organisations providing services to children and teens whose disability includes deafness/hearing impairment.

A recent issue has arisen regarding a government decision to allow privatisation of services currently provided by Australian Hearing Services. PCDE hosted a discussion time with participants from various deafness related organisations to look at perceived issues which could eventuate from such a decision. I represented PCDE at a recent State Forum/Hearing in which invited participants aired concerns about the proposed decision. It was evident at this Forum that parents themselves were not invited to express concerns. The Forums were hastily arranged which did not allow much time for organisations to seek individual parent representation.

One of the most frustrating things for me this year has been the difficulties PCDE has faced with its computers. Continual technical problems has caused many hours of wasted down time and effectively caused disruption to the publication of Sound News as well as impeding

regular email and internet usage. Technology is a wonderful tool – while it functions according to need. I look forward to the incoming Management Committee’s directives in solving an ongoing issue with PCDE computers.

I would like to say a big thank you to the outgoing Management Committee for this past years work. Louise Rakowski and Craig Maynard for their ongoing support and work behind the scenes as well as representing PCDE in their respective areas – Parent and Youth. Louise Rakowski also needs to be thanked for standing in for Chevoy Brown, President. Maria Salmon-Foong provided some much appreciated ideas and support but had to retire from the Management Committee 2 months ago due to ill health. Maria has, however, continued to show her support. Louise Jones for ongoing support via email and telephone discussions when she was unable to attend meetings and Nicola Moulden for continuing as Treasurer.

Robyn Longford, Admin Officer, left PCDE this past August to move to Queensland. We wish her well in her new venture. In her place we welcome Chris Gruntar who has quickly orientated herself to the workings of PCDE and has become the office Detective. If we can’t find something, we just ask Chris. Welcome aboard, Chris!

This is my last report as Project Coordinator of PCDE. I wish the incoming Management Committee all the best in the coming year as you work together for all parents and families who have deaf/hearing impaired children. As a team much can be achieved.

Steve Ripley
Project Coordinator

MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE

President
Chevoy Brown

Vice- President
Louise Rakowski

Secretary
Louise Jones

Treasurer
Nicola Moulden

Public Officer
Craig Maynard

Ordinary Committee Members
Craig Maynard
Marie Salmon-Foong

ASSOCIATE ORGANISATION REPRESENTATIVES

Lorraine Mulley
Deaf Society of New South Wales

Nina Quinn (*regional manager*)
Australian Hearing

Chris Rehn
Children's Cochlear Implant Centre (NSW)



**INDEPENDENT AUDITOR'S REPORT
TO THE MEMBERS OF PARENT COUNCIL FOR DEAF EDUCATION INC**

Scope

I have audited the accounts of the Parent Council for Deaf Education Inc., being the Profit and Loss Account, Balance Sheet, Notes to and Forming Part of the Accounts and Statement by the Committee, being a special purpose financial report for the year ended 30 June 2003. The Association's Committee members are responsible for the preparation and presentation of the financial report and the information contained therein. I have conducted an independent audit of these accounts in order to express an opinion on them to the members of the Association on their preparation and presentation. No opinion is expressed as to whether the basis of accounting used, and described in Note 1, is appropriate to the needs of the members.

My audit has been conducted in accordance with Australian Auditing Standards to provide reasonable assurance as to whether the accounts are free of material misstatement. My procedures included examination, on a test basis, of evidence supporting the amounts and other disclosures in the accounts, and the evaluation of accounting policies and significant accounting estimates. These procedures have been undertaken to form an opinion as to whether, in all material respects, the accounts are presented fairly in accordance with Australian Accounting Concepts and Standards and statutory requirements so as to present a view of the Association which is consistent with my understanding of its financial position and the results of its operations.

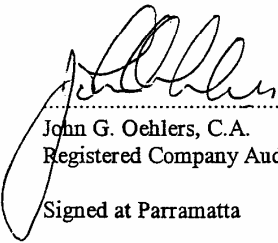
The audit opinion expressed in this report has been formed on the above basis.

Audit Opinion

In my opinion, the accounts of the Association are properly drawn up:

- (a) So as to give a true and fair view of:
 - (i) the state of affairs of the Association as at 30th June 2003 and,
 - (ii) The result of the Association's activities for the year ended on that date
- (b) in accordance with the provisions of the Associations Incorporation Act 1984.
- (c) in accordance with applicable Accounting Standards.

JOHN G. OEHLERS
CHARTERED ACCOUNTANT


.....
John G. Oehlers, C.A.
Registered Company Auditor

Signed at Parramatta

Dated: 1 September, 2003

THE PARENT COUNCIL FOR DEAF EDUCATION INC.

BALANCE SHEET

AT JUNE 30TH 2003

	<u>2003</u>	<u>2002</u>
CURRENT ASSETS		
Cash	13,958.66	29,181.23
Other assets	956.31	487.46
TOTAL CURRENT ASSETS	14,914.97	29,668.69
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NON - CURRENT ASSETS		
Investments	39,631.52	18,418.92
Property plant & equipment	2,300.45	1,495.45
TOTAL NON CURRENT ASSETS	41,931.97	19,914.37
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TOTAL ASSETS	56,846.94	49583.06
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CURRENT LIABILITIES		
Creditors & borrowings	14,033.85	9,395.42
TOTAL CURRENT LIABILITIES	14,033.85	9,395.42
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NON - CURRENT LIABILITIES	0.00	0.00
TOTAL NON CURRENT LIABILITIES	0.00	0.00
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TOTAL LIABILITIES	14,033.85	9,395.42
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NET ASSETS / LIABILITIES	42,813.09	40,187.64
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REPRESENTED BY:		
ACCUMULATED SURPLUS	\$42,813.09	\$40,187.64
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THE PARENT COUNCIL FOR DEAF EDUCATION INC.
INCOME AND EXPENDITURE STATEMENT
FOR THE YEAR ENDING JUNE 30TH 2003

	<u>2003</u>	<u>2002</u>
<u>INCOME</u>		
Ageing & Disability Dept Funding	68,638.00	63,356.00
Member's Subscription	4,415.00	4,197.95
Donations & Corporate sponsors	2,897.00	3,742.13
Advertising	1,400.00	1,100.00
Raffles	644.00	0
Publications / Activities	0	9,825.14
Miscellaneous Income	81.00	.04
Interest Received	1,322.90	961.92
<u>TOTAL INCOME</u>	<u>79,397.90</u>	<u>83,183.18</u>
<u>EXPENDITURE</u>		
Salaries	52,414.31	40,988.97
Superannuation	3,136.51	2,729.12
Insurances	3,087.21	4,629.70
Depreciation	537.00	1,785.82
Activities	2,185.78	12,291.87
Bank charges	57.46	286.93
Rent	1,382.74	1,040.00
Telephone & Internet	1,969.72	1,555.43
Repairs & Maintenance	1,870.78	1,303.10
Meeting Expenses	193.50	312.73
Conference Attendances		
Electricity	524.54	1,260.00
Printing & Stationery	1,845.89	1,201.60
Postage	762.91	796.69
Sound News	2,422.00	4,098.00
Interpreter	1,920.00	1,310.69
Memberships	408.19	113.64
Staff Training & Amenities	41.69	478.27
Staff Procurement	0	915.69
Software	787.00	0
Filing Fees	56.00	72.00
Sundries	65.91	379.67
Provision for LSL & L. Entitlements	739.67	9,099.10
Website Costs	363.64	500.00
<u>TOTAL EXPENDITURE</u>	<u>76,772.45</u>	<u>87,149.02</u>
<u>EXCESS EXPENDITURE OVER INCOME</u>	<u>2,625.45</u>	<u>(3,965.84)</u>

DONORS 2002 / 2003

Auslan class

Ann Porter

David Anderson

Mr S Rayner

Stephen Anich

Deva Ritchie

JW & CF Doonan

Hathryn E Staddort

Margaret Horley

Dr R S White

Mel (Bowling

Our special thanks to John G. Oehlers, Chartered Accountant, Parramatta, who kindly donated his services as auditor for PCDE.

**And to
BRIAN BIGALOW
For all his voluntary work providing IT support.**

PCDE Receives Recurrent Funding from The Department of Ageing, Disability & Home Care