

Parent Council for Deaf Education



ANNUAL REPORT

2006

Our structure

Parent Council for Deaf Education Incorporated (PCDE) is a non-profit organisation with an elected Management Committee. Their work is entirely voluntary. Members of the Management Committee contribute a wealth of knowledge and experience to the development of our future directions. Office bearers are elected at our Annual General Meeting each November.

PCDE employs a Project Coordinator who is responsible for overseeing and implementing the

organisation's services and plans.

We receive a grant from the NSW Department of Ageing, Disability and Home Care and rely heavily on our member subscriptions and donations to keep our work going. The majority of our members are parents of deaf children along with service providers and organisations.

In 2006, the Management Committee passed a resolution to adopt the Parent Council Charter developed by

Deaf Children to provide support and expertise to the committees of Parent Groups nationally, through a National Parent Network.

This decision was taken in recognition of the fact that volunteer efforts alone will not provide parents with the outcomes they are seeking. Through this partnership, the Management Committee believe Parent Council for Deaf Education will be well placed to respond to the challenges facing today's parents.

OUR MISSION

Our mission is to work with 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.

Our history

In 1961, Mr. Brian Brecht, of Burwood OD Parent Group, called a meeting of parents of the other four Opportunity Deaf Classes in NSW and the Federation of Junior Deaf Education (FJDE) was formed in 1961 with the aim of demanding improved opportunities for deaf students. Mr Brecht was the first President.

Meetings were held regularly in school halls around Sydney and Wollongong. More classes were opened and as the Federation membership grew, meetings moved

further afield although finances were a constant concern. At one meeting Mr Kevin Summerell, the Treasurer, reported the Federation had sixpence in the bank.

In 1980, the Federation received its first major government subsidy from the Department of Youth and Community Affairs. 1982 saw the organisation registered as a charity and on 15 September 1989, Parent Council for Deaf Education became incorporated under the Associations Incorporation Act, 1984.

For 45 years, PCDE has been addressing the needs of families with deaf and hearing impaired children. This has been achieved by providing families with support and information and advocating on their behalf for improved services and opportunities for children with a hearing loss.

We look forward to carrying on this proud tradition of parents who have gone before us and continue to work with families, teachers, other organisations and Government departments as we approach our 50th anniversary.

President's Report

It is with some pride that I stand here today and say, "We did it!!" We have managed to turn around a situation that appeared insurmountable and today PCDE is back on track and ready to embark on its next exciting phase. This has been a year of rebuilding the organisation, consolidating its financial status and working towards once again being able to provide New South Wales families with the support, information and advocacy services they expect from a peak body.

I mentioned at the Deferred Annual General Meeting in April that the new Committee intended to look forward and not apportion blame. However, the financial situation the 2006 Management Committee inherited did put the future of the organisation in considerable doubt and a large part of the year has involved negotiating with the Department of Ageing, Disability and Home Care and some major creditors to ensure the ongoing viability of PCDE. We have spent many long and frustrating hours sorting out our tax obligations and all tax payments and fines are now up to date and are reflected in the Balance Sheet as current liabilities. These payments will be reflected in the 2006/2007 Profit and Loss Account as they

were paid after 30 June 2006. We have attempted to recoup some of the fines and interest charges incurred prior to our election and have had some good news from the Australian Tax Office this week which the Treasurer will discuss in his report.

I must acknowledge the immense assistance our partnership with Deaf Children Australia has been over the year. Without their time and expertise, I am unsure this enthusiastic but novice Management Committee could have navigated the system or weathered the gruelling year. Thank you to Veronica Pardo for her many hours of assistance and the Board of Deaf Children Australia for their commitment to creating a National Parent Network. Their vision for families of deaf children has provided the opportunity for NSW families to once again have a strong parent voice.

Partnerships are crucial for PCDE. Thank you to all our partners - service providers in NSW, our funding body, the Department of Ageing, Disability and Home Care, and the families who have continued to support us. A special mention to Belinda Alano from DADHC, the Royal Institute for Deaf and Blind Children and Prof. Greg Leigh for their ongoing support.

Recruitment of a suitable Project Coordinator who had the skills to rehabilitate the organisation was protracted but we now have a delightful young woman, Kelly Norton, at the helm as our new Project Coordinator. She has considerable experience working with the Deaf community and families of deaf children. She has also recently participated in the Youth Forums undertaken by Deaf Children Australia across the country and this has provided her with new insight into the issues confronting young deaf people in Australia. Moreover, Kelly grew up in Alice Springs and knows, from personal experience, the challenges living in rural and regional areas provides for families. So Kelly's decision to join our team at PCDE is a better outcome than we could ever have hoped for earlier in the year. She is a wonderful addition to our organisation and the Management Committee welcomes Kelly on board and looks forward to working with her into the future.

Our office has once been operating since mid-August on a part-time basis. Ann Porter agreed to a short contract to get the web site up and running and put other systems in place for Kelly's arrival. Our website is a work in progress and we now have PCDE news,

THE FUTURE

- **New team**
- **Financial stability**
- **New vision and enthusiasm**

President's Report (continued)

information, membership forms and our newsletters available online. In the future, we will be highlighting issues that are important to families and how our members can assist us to make a difference. We have produced three newsletters over recent months, keeping our members up-to-date with our progress and are now looking to return to four Sound News publications a year.

Our strategic plan for 2006 was to ensure a viable financial future for PCDE. And we have achieved this. We are now able to implement a plan for the coming year in the knowledge we are no longer in the tenuous position of a year ago. We look forward to working with families and service providers to achieve our goal of promoting opportunities and equity of access to services for families of deaf and hearing impaired children in NSW, irrespective of their chosen method of communication through support, information and advocacy.

I was reading an article in the Good Weekend about Amnesty International and a comment made by their secretary-general, Irene Khan, grabbed my attention and it has stayed with me. Hopefully it will resonate with you and if we all do our bit, no

matter how big or small it may be, positive change for our deaf children is an achievable goal. She talks about why Amnesty had shifted from individual advocacy to systemic advocacy, a course that we have embarked upon at PCDE. She states, "At the end of the day, of course the individual matters, because the test of systemic change is whether or not it's made a difference to people's lives. But if you only make a difference to an individual, you are just dealing with the symptom". It is our aim at PCDE, through systemic change, to make a difference to all families with deaf and hearing impaired children in NSW.

All the best to the incoming committee and I wish you an exciting and productive year ahead. A VERY big thank you to the committee members who have walked this journey with me. We are all from diverse backgrounds but we had a common aim; raising great kids to reach their fullest potential. I think we can be proud that with diversity and openness, great things can happen. We are proof of that. This has been a team effort and has provided practical evidence of the potential of committed parents to make a difference. I hope that this can inspire you and your family.

I will be stepping down from the Management Committee. I think it is time to relax and enjoy my two young children, safe in the knowledge that PCDE will continue to support my family, and others just like us, in the years ahead. We are at the beginning of our journey as a family, and at some point I hope to rejoin an invigorated and exciting Management Committee for PCDE and once again do my small bit. Thank you for the honour of being your President.

Berenice Ferguson
President

On behalf of the wonderful parents that are the PCDE Management Committee

Financial Accounts

PARENT COUNCIL FOR DEAF EDUCATION INC

PROFIT AND LOSS ACCOUNT

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 30TH JUNE 2006

	<u>2006</u>	<u>2005</u>
	\$	\$
OPERATING SURPLUS/(DEFICIT)		
BEFORE INCOME TAX	5,398.61	(54,619.33)
Income Tax Expense	0.00	0.00
	-----	-----
OPERATING SURPLUS/(DEFICIT)		
AFTER INCOME TAX	5,398.61	(54,619.33)
	-----	-----
ACCUMULATED SURPLUS/(DEFICIT)		
AT THE BEGINNING OF THE YEAR	2,093.03	56,712.36
	-----	-----
ACCUMULATED SURPLUS/(DEFICIT)		
AT THE END OF THE YEAR	<u>7,491.64</u>	<u>2,093.03</u>

PARENT COUNCIL FOR DEAF EDUCATION INC

BALANCE SHEET

AS AT 30 JUNE 2006

	<u>2006</u>	<u>2005</u>
	\$	\$
CURRENT ASSETS		
Cash	43,879.77	5,188.79
Other Assets	300.00	1,418.96
TOTAL CURRENT ASSETS	<u>44,179.77</u>	<u>6,607.75</u>
NON-CURRENT ASSETS		
Investments	0.00	22,120.26
Property, plant & equipment	1,237.00	1,392.00
TOTAL NON-CURRENT ASSETS	<u>1,237.00</u>	<u>23,512.26</u>
TOTAL ASSETS	<u>45,416.77</u>	<u>30,120.01</u>
CURRENT LIABILITIES		
Creditors & borrowings	37,925.13	28,026.98
TOTAL CURRENT LIABILITIES	<u>37,925.13</u>	<u>28,026.98</u>
TOTAL LIABILITIES	<u>37,925.13</u>	<u>28,026.98</u>
NET ASSETS/(LIABILITIES)	<u>7,491.64</u>	<u>2,093.03</u>
REPRESENTED BY :-		
ACCUMULATED SURPLUS	<u>7,491.64</u>	<u>2,093.03</u>

PARENT COUNCIL FOR DEAF EDUCATION INC

INCOME AND EXPENDITURE STATEMENT

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 30 JUNE 2006

	<u>2006</u>	<u>2005</u>
	\$	\$
<u>INCOME</u>		
Ageing & Disability Department Funding	74,668.00	72,741.20
Members' subscriptions	0.00	2,296.91
Donations & Corporate Sponsors	5,730.50	0.00
Advertising	0.00	200.00
Fund Raising	836.25	0.00
Miscellaneous Income	0.00	256.36
Interest Received	360.93	1,487.40
TOTAL INCOME	<u>81,595.68</u>	<u>76,981.87</u>
<u>EXPENDITURE</u>		
Activities	8,975.74	14,114.06
Administration	1,874.73	945.77
Bank Charges	270.64	607.17
Depreciation	505.00	453.00
Electricity	0.00	633.89
Filing Fees	87.00	0.00
Insurance	7,610.71	1,525.77
Interpreter	2,157.94	7,904.08
Meeting Expenses	864.89	366.36
Memberships	339.00	430.08
Postage	605.82	337.27
Printing & Stationery	2,251.14	2,300.30
Rent	1,289.26	2,181.74
Repairs & Maintenance	2,915.26	10,370.45
Salaries	24,660.42	73,099.24
Superannuation	2,126.61	3,982.75
Staff Leave Entitlement	642.50	0.00
Software	2,435.00	72.73
Sound News	1,261.91	1,080.00
Staff Training & Amenities	436.36	3,401.85
Sundries	90.91	2,936.25
Telephone & Internet	236.23	4,858.44
Website	14,560.00	0.00
TOTAL EXPENDITURE	<u>76,197.07</u>	<u>131,601.20</u>
EXCESS OF EXPENDITURE OVER INCOME	<u>\$5,398.61</u>	<u>(\$54,619.33)</u>



Parent Council for Deaf Education

Block D
361-365 North Rocks Road
North Rocks NSW 2151

PO Box 4748
North Rocks NSW 2151

Phone: 02 9871 3049
TTY: 02 9871 3025
Fax: 02 9871 3193
E-mail: pcde@bigpond.com

ABN: 47 618 685 904
CFN: 11530

PROJECT CO-ORDINATOR

Kelly Norton has recently joined us as Project Co-ordinator. She has considerable experience working with families and young deaf people in both the Northern Territory and Victoria. She studied Anthropology and Auslan at La-trobe University and Auslan at Chisholm TAFE.

Kelly has worked at the Deaf Blind Association and has spent 3 years on the Helpline at Deaf Children Australia. This experience has provided the foundation for her understanding of the needs and concerns experienced by families of deaf children throughout Australia.

Thank you to our donors

Parent Council for Deaf Education Inc. relies on tax-deductible donations and Government grants to maintain our support, information and advocacy services for families. We acknowledge with gratitude this invaluable support.

Our special thanks to John G Oehlers, Chartered Accountant, Parramatta, who has again kindly donated his services in auditing our accounts.

and

David Appleby, of David Appleby Graphic Design, for his time and skill in making our web site a reality.

Our 2006 team

PRESIDENT

Berenice Ferguson has a two year old son who was diagnosed with a moderate bilateral loss through the SWISH program. He wears hearing aids. Berenice is a psychologist specialising in children, adolescents and families.

VICE-PRESIDENT

Gabrielle Hill has three children, two profoundly Deaf sons and an older hearing daughter. Their family is bilingual and bicultural with Deafness a celebrated part of life. Gabrielle is a teacher with a passion for literacy.

SECRETARY

Vicki Cox is the mother of two girls who were both born profoundly deaf. Both have received cochlear implants and attend a Hearing Support

Unit. Vicki works as a Speech Pathologist with children who have a range of special needs.

TREASURER

Bruce Porter is the father of three girls. His youngest daughter was diagnosed with a unilateral hearing loss when she was 4. She lost the hearing in her other ear at age 7. She is fully integrated into a mainstream high school. Bruce is an economist and works for an investment bank.

ORDINARY MEMBERS

David Clarke lives on the North Coast of NSW near Lismore and was one of the forces behind the PoDs (Parents of Deaf) based in Lismore. David has three children. His

preschool age son is deaf and communicates using Auslan.

Kate Kennedy is a Sydney based working parent of three children in primary school, two of whom have a hearing loss. Kate is passionate about being an informed advocate and assisting other families to achieve positive outcomes for their children.

Tracy McGee has a twelve year old daughter who is profoundly deaf and communicates using Auslan and Signed English. She is fully mainstreamed in her local primary school. Tracy is actively involved in the Coffs Harbour Deaf Community and works part-time as a community worker on the Coffs Coast for the Deaf Society of NSW.