



Media Release
For immediate release

27 September 2013

NO CHANGE TO EAF FOR DEAF COMMUNITY

Last week, Deaf Australia sent out a media release regarding the Abbott Government's decision to cut the Disability Ministry. We wanted the government to reinstate the Disability Ministry and also confirm their commitment to the Employment Assistance Fund (EAF) because we had heard concerns from our members about a rumour that the EAF may be reduced.

Deaf Australia is pleased to say that the Government, through DEEWR, have confirmed that the Coalition currently do not have plans to change the funding of the EAF program, particularly the Auslan component.

"In my discussions with the Department, I reinforced that the EAF program as a whole is important to Deaf people," said Deaf Australia Acting President Mr Todd Wright, "Deaf people need access to Auslan interpreters as well as access to captioning and notetaking services, and workplace modifications including technology and equipment."

Deaf Australia would like to thank DEEWR for promptly responding to the issues raised in our media release.

The Department has also advised us that eventually the EAF will be moved under the Disability portfolio in the Department of Social Services, under the responsibility of Senator Mitch Fifield, Minister of Social Services.

However, we are still concerned about the Government's decision to axe the Disability Ministry and are calling for this portfolio to be immediately reinstated.

Deaf Australia is the national peak organisation for Deaf people in Australia. It represents the views of deaf people who use Auslan and is a true consumer organisation as only deaf people have the right to vote on Deaf Australia business and to be elected to the Board. Deaf Australia's vision is that deaf people are respected and fully included in the Australian community and the right to use Auslan is legally recognised.

ENDS

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