

Question: As we know, parents are also a big barrier in some situations where they don't want their child learning Auslan despite the Educators best efforts. How can we get the parents on board with these Rights in these situations?

It is important to acknowledge that grieving can be a long process, in denial of their deaf child's access requirements. The important thing is to be gentle, to encourage the idea of bilingualism – showing studies where it is clear that bilingualism has far greater benefits compared to monolingualism. Introducing parents to diverse deaf adults. Remember on most occasions, their deaf child is the first deaf person they've encountered in their lives so it can be a very new and raw experience for parents and they also need to 'educate' (and possibly defend to) their extended family members and that is exhausting itself. We as Deaf and Hard of Hearing role models (regardless of our profession) can show examples of many people and services that incorporate Auslan and remind them that no one has said that they regretted learning Auslan, but have regretted not learning the language earlier. It would be good for the parents to meet and mingle with parents who were once like them, a bit like peer-coaching of shared and lived experiences on their level (hearing to hearing) before they start to trust Deaf and Hard of Hearing people.

Question: do you have one good research article that you refer people to that shows the evidence that sign language supports spoken language development?

There are a lot of information out there, particularly on Instagram which is backed up with profound research and references. Accounts such as *Language1st* and *Rising the Bests* who advocate and promote the importance of language development while acknowledging that some families wish to go down the spoken language stream as well (bilingualism with signing and speaking). There is this article also; [Learning a Sign Language Does Not Hinder Acquisition of a Spoken Language | Journal of Speech, Language, and Hearing Research \(asha.org\)](#)
Aussie Deaf Kids website has this information on their website <https://www.aussiedeafkids.org.au/early-exposure-to-sign-language.html> and I have attached one of the latest research that also discusses the myth of sign language being harmful to spoken language.

Question: in the next 6 months or 12 months in Australia, what changes do you think we could expect to see. All sounds too good to be true.

Unfortunately, 6 months will be too soon to see any changes. However, there is a parliament inquiry into Victorian education right now, and Deaf Victoria/Bendigo Deaf Hub is making movements towards advocating for deaf voices in educational matters as well for AATD Victoria. There is a lot of people having conversations about this and more so since our webinar which is great, continue having those and keep the Rights of the Deaf Child at hand in your profession (for those who work in the Education or Allied Health sector).

Question: What changes can we make with the new articles? Especially with the health professions such as Drs, OT, Speech path etc

Sharing this document with government bodies and advocacy agencies will lead to raising more awareness, and create a ripple effect to hopefully affect the medical professions and change the perception of deaf people and children.

Question: Can you share the names of the 3 documents that you said that can be powerful to advocate with?

legal documents to assist the Declaration on The Rights of Deaf Children – attached them as links below: the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities (2016), The Convention on the Rights of the Child (1991), as well as the Disability Inclusion Act (2014)

<https://social.desa.un.org/issues/disability/crpd/convention-on-the-rights-of-persons-with-disabilities-crpd>

<https://www.unicef.org.au/united-nations-convention-on-the-rights-of-the-child>

<https://legislation.nsw.gov.au/view/whole/html/inforce/current/act-2014-041>