

Deaf Australia Fundings

Friday 24 May 2024

Statement from Shirley Liu, Acting CEO of Deaf Australia

Deaf Australia has diligently worked over the past three years to achieve significant milestones through systemic advocacy, negotiations with government, and representation within various disability organisations. Our efforts have focused on ensuring access to interpreters and securing representation for deaf individuals and Auslan in government discussions and decisions. Our ultimate goal is to enhance the quality of life for all members of the deaf community.

During this period, Deaf Australia has heavily relied on government funding to support both our project and advocacy work. This year, we applied for three distinct grants: ILC: SCP – Information Linkages and Capacity Social and Community Participation, ILC: ICB – Information Linkages and Capacity Individual Capacity Building, and DRO – Disability Representative Organisation funds for systemic advocacy work. Regrettably, we have recently been informed that our applications for these grants were unsuccessful. Consequently, this has created uncertainty regarding Deaf Australia’s future operations, necessitating the unfortunate decision to reduce our staff, effective by the end of June 2024.

Despite this setback, Deaf Australia remains a dedicated member of the Australian Federation of Disability Organisations (AFDO). Through a consortium of six member organisations, we have secured limited funding that will allow us to continue some of our essential work. However, this funding is insufficient to maintain all our staff. We will persist in our advocacy efforts with AFDO, addressing the impacts of these funding cuts on Deaf Australia and other disability advocacy organisations. The consortium, which has now expanded to include a seventh member organisation, will collaboratively work on a campaign to increase government funding for our organisations, with efforts visible on social media in the coming weeks.

We extend our heartfelt gratitude for your continued support and will keep you informed about the ongoing status of Deaf Australia and our operations. We are privileged to serve our community and remain committed to continuing our mission into the future.

Thank you.

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About Deaf Australia:

Deaf Australia was founded in 1986 as a not-for-profit organisation that represents all Deaf, Deafblind, and hard of hearing people, and others who are fluent and knowledgeable about Auslan. The focus has and continues to be on developing access to information and accessible communication. We work with Australian governments and collaborate with key stakeholders to make sure that Australia complies with the United Nations Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities. The UN Convention and the National Disability Strategy guides our work; we aspire to achieve equity for Deaf people across all areas of life.