[Your Name]
[Your Address]
[City, State, Postcode]
[Email Address]
[Date]

Dear [MP’s Name],

I am writing to express my strong support for continued funding for Deaf Australia, the peak advocacy body representing Deaf, Deafblind, Deaf and Disabled, and hard of hearing people who communicate primarily in Auslan. Deaf Australia is the only advocacy body that is genuinely representative of who they advocate for, with the board and staff all Deaf and hard of hearing in Australia. I am a stakeholder, representing [who/what organisation] and I see the significant role and impact Deaf Australia has on the Deaf community. Deaf Australia plays a crucial role in advocating for the rights, needs, and interests of the deaf community who use Auslan, and its defunding will have severe negative consequences.

Deaf Australia’s work is critical for several reasons:

1. **Advocacy and Representation**: Deaf Australia is the peak organisation advocating for policies and practices that ensure equity in access and opportunities for Deaf and hard of hearing individuals. It represents the deaf community in government consultations, policy-making processes, and public discourse, ensuring their voices are heard and considered.
2. **Education and Awareness**: The organisation provides essential resources and information to both the Deaf community and the broader public about the importance of Auslan, Deaf culture, and the unique challenges faced by Deaf people. This helps to foster a more accepting and understanding society.
3. **Support Services**: Deaf Australia offers support and guidance to Deaf people and their families, helping them navigate educational, employment, and social systems that are often not designed with their needs in mind. This support is vital for improving the quality of life and opportunities available to Deaf Australians.
4. **Language Preservation and Promotion**: Auslan is a vital part of Australia's cultural heritage. Deaf Australia plays a key role in promoting and preserving Auslan as a living, vibrant language, ensuring that Deaf people can maintain their cultural identity and communicate effectively.

If Deaf Australia were to be defunded, the consequences would be dire:

* **Loss of Advocacy**: Without a dedicated peak advocacy body, the specific needs and rights of Deaf and Hard of Hearing people may be overlooked in policy decisions, leading to increased marginalisation and inequality.
* **Diminished Support**: Deaf people and their families would lose a critical source of support and guidance, making it more difficult for them to access necessary services and resources.
* **Reduced Awareness**: Public awareness and understanding of Deaf culture and Auslan would likely decline, exacerbating social isolation and discrimination against Deaf people.
* **Threat to Auslan**: The promotion and preservation of Auslan would suffer, potentially leading to a decline in its use and recognition, which would be a significant loss to Australia's linguistic and cultural diversity.

For these reasons, I urge you to ensure that Deaf Australia continues to receive the funding it needs to carry out its essential work. The well-being and rights of Deaf, Deafblind, Deaf and Disabled, and hard of hearing Australians depend on the continued advocacy and support provided by Deaf Australia.

Thank you for your attention to this important matter.

Sincerely,

[Your Name]