



Landmark merger creates Australia's largest service provider for the Deaf, hard of hearing and deafblind community

Today, Thursday 1 October, sees the official commencement of the merger between Deaf Services and the Deaf Society, creating Australia's largest whole-of-life service provider for Deaf, hard of hearing and deafblind community.

The new organisation, which will continue to operate under the name Deaf Services and the Deaf Society, will bring together 680 staff across New South Wales, Queensland and the ACT, with a Northern Territory office in the pipeline.

Brett Casey, former CEO of Deaf Services, will lead the new organisation as CEO, and says the benefits of this union have already begun to be experienced by the community.

"We have been working hard since the merger was ratified in March to begin delivering immediate benefits to more Deaf Australians, as well as amalgamating systems and processes to bring together the best of both organisations," Mr Casey said.

Mr Casey singled out initiatives and services throughout NSW, QLD and the ACT including Auslan-centric aged care, seniors group interpreting and expanded community grants, as well as the upcoming expansion into the Northern Territory and said there was even more to come.

"We've already seen the impact of our combined resources and what can be achieved. We intend to hit the ground running on October 1 to deliver even more.

"Crucial to the success of our merged entity will be the recognition of the history and culture of both contributing organisations.

As part of our commitment to this, and to celebrate the merge we are today announcing a \$50,000 establishment fund for a Deaf history and cultural recognition program, with our foundation committee to be announced soon," Mr Casey said.

October 1 will also see former Deaf Society CEO Leonie Jackson officially begin her new role as Executive Manager, Advocacy and Strategic Partnerships. Ms Jackson says a larger national profile will allow the organisation to exert greater influence over federal and state governments to the benefit of the Deaf community.

"Deaf Services and the Deaf Society will have an unparalleled opportunity to represent and advocate for all Deaf Australians, and stand with the community on the issues important to them." Ms Jackson said.

"I look forward to representing the interests of our community and for our new organisation to become a national leader in equity and meaningful social change."



Despite the commencement of this new organisation with a national scope, CEO Brett Casey said that one thing that will not change is the quality of day-to-day service to clients, participants and partners.

“Our motto throughout the merger process has been business as usual, but business done better,” Mr Casey said.

“Both organisations were born from and for the Deaf community, and we will continue to honour this connection, while increasing both our services and the representation of the Deaf community.”

Deaf Services and the Deaf Society.

The Deaf Society

Established in 1913 in NSW, the Deaf Society worked in and for the Deaf community with a vision of Equity for Deaf people. The Deaf Society was headquartered in Parramatta with seven offices across NSW and the ACT, providing a wide range of supports and services.

Deaf Services

Deaf Services was a leading Queensland based not-for-profit organisation providing support to Deaf and hard of hearing Australian's from nine offices across the state. It delivered programs and supports to enable the Deaf community to live full and independent lives since 1903.

The intention to merge the two organisations was first announced on February 11, 2020 and ratified on March 6, 2020.

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Deaf Services and the Deaf Society

In February 2020 the Boards of Deaf Services Limited and the Deaf Society announced their intention to merge and form a new entity - Australia's largest provider of whole-of-life support for the Deaf, hard of hearing and deafblind communities.

With shared history, vision and strengths, as well as over 200 years of proven community support, Deaf Services and the Deaf Society stands with the Deaf community - delivering services across the east coast as well as Auslan interpreting and advocacy nationally.

Prior to this merger announcement Deaf Services Limited and the Deaf Society were the leading providers of support for the Deaf community in Queensland and New South Wales / ACT respectively. Both organisations are registered service providers under the National Disability Insurance Scheme (NDIS) and Deaf Services is a nationally recognised provider of home care for seniors.

For more information visit www.deafservices.org.au and www.deafsociety.org.au

Media Opportunities:

Comment is available from Mr Brett Casey, CEO Deaf Services

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