



5 December 2017



## Hear and Say Children 'Rocket to Success' across Queensland

Thirty children with hearing loss from across Queensland have 'Rocketed to Success' moving from the Early Intervention program ready to start at their local primary school next year.

With celebrations held across all five centres children and their parents were bursting with joy knowing that their time spent at Hear and Say learning to hear, listen and speak has placed them in the very best position for the next stage in their lives – 'Big school'.

Jessica Balfour-Oglivy, Clinical Manager Listening and Spoken Language, said that this was a special day not just for the children and their parents but also for the Hear and Say Team. We never truly say goodbye to these children, their parents or their siblings as they continue to be part of our ever growing 'Hear and Say Family'.

"These children came to us as babies or toddlers with their parents' hopeful that they could have a listening and speaking future, and we are so proud that we have been able to achieve this," Ms Balfour-Oglivy said.

Celebrations at each of the centres have included recognition of Hear and Say community champions and volunteers, and no Christmas party is the same without a visit from the 'big man' himself with all children receiving a picture book.

Hear and Say is also thrilled to announce the release of a new book titled 'Sounds of Hope'. Written by Madonna King, one of Australia's most accomplished journalists, this book shares the story of 25 years of giving the gift of listening and speaking to Queensland babies and children.

The 'Sounds of Hope' is available for sale in soft cover for \$39.95 plus postage and handling, or can be picked up from the Hear and Say centres from December. Orders can be placed online by going to [hearandsay.com.au](http://hearandsay.com.au) and enquiries made by calling Hear and Say on 3850 2111. All proceeds from the sale of 'Sounds of Hope' will go toward supporting babies and children with hearing loss.

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For more details contact Lois Shuttleworth, Communications Manager, Hear and Say at [lois.shuttleworth@hearandsay.com.au](mailto:lois.shuttleworth@hearandsay.com.au) or 0481 212 420

### About Hear and Say

Established in 1992 by Dr Dimity Dornan AO, Hear and Say today provides services and programs to children, young adults and families across five centres as well as a Telepractice programs reaching out to rural and remote families. Hear and Say also provides the 'Hear to Learn' School Hearing Screening Program and paediatric hearing services - as a child's hearing can change over time.

Our aim is to help all children to hear, listen and speak so they can attend a regular school, have wider career choices and can more fully participate in their community. Hear and Say interfaces state-of-the-art hearing technology (digital hearing aids and implantable technology such as cochlear implants) with the Auditory-Verbal Therapy approach.

As a not-for-profit organisation Hear and Say must raise more than \$10,000 each year, for up to five years, to fill the funding gap so that one child with hearing loss can learn to listen and speak. Hear and Say is committed to using clinical research to measure outcomes and its success lies in the vital role that parents/caregivers play in teaching their children to listen and speak.