



For Immediate Release

Hear and Say new book tells the story of 25 years of providing 'Sounds of Hope'

Hear and Say has released a new book 'Sounds of Hope' just in time for Christmas. The book shares the story of 25 years of giving the gift of listening and speaking to Queensland babies and children through the stories of the young adults who were early children in the program, parents, supporters, donors and staff.

The Hear and Say story began on 6 July 1992 in a small one-roomed office in the Brisbane suburb of Auchenflower. It began with a vision that its founder, Dr Dimity Dornan AO, had which was to give babies born deaf a listening and speaking future so that they could reach their potential.

Dr Dimity Dornan, said, in those early few years it was me working with just six children and their parents, out of my husband Peter's physiotherapy rooms.

Twenty five years on and today Hear and Say employs over 60 staff working out of five centres and a world recognised Telepractice program, reaching out to families in every corner of Queensland and beyond.

"I am thrilled to be able to tell the story of Hear and Say through the voices of the many people who have been a part of this amazing journey. It has been my great honour to have been a part of this story and to have seen so many children, even those with the most profound hearing loss, grow up to fulfil their dreams for the future," Dr Dornan said.

One of the initial six children in the Hear and Say program was Jamie-Lee Lewis, daughter of the legendary King, Wally Lewis. Wally is the vice patron of Hear and Say and he and his wife Jackie Lewis share their story in the book.

Wally Lewis provides the forward for 'Sounds of Hope' where he writes, Jackie and I were in tears when the cochlear implant was switched on.....the amazed look on Jamie-Lee's face the first time she her sound....it was surely a whole new beginning.

'Sounds of Hope' is written by Madonna King, one of Australia's most accomplished journalists, and is available for sale in soft cover for \$39.95 plus postage and handling, or picked up from the Brisbane Centre in Ashgrove. The books can be purchased on line at hearandsay.com.au. or call Hear and Say on 3850 2111. All proceeds from the book will go toward supporting babies and children with hearing loss.

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For more details and to arrange interviews contact Lois Shuttleworth, Communications Manager, Hear and Say at 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.