



1 May 2018

Social skills program builds confidence for local kids with hearing loss

An important part of the work that children's charity Hear and Say provides for kids with hearing loss is social skills development.

One such program is COMET, which stands for Communication and Education through Teamwork, and is provided to students aged 8-11 years who have a hearing loss.

Held over the recent school holidays at the Hear and Say Townsville Centre, COMET is a three-day social skills program designed to promote self-confidence, social interaction skills and resilience in young people built around themes such as communication, self-esteem and trust.

The Hear and Say Townsville Centre reaches out to North Queensland families, and this year COMET attracted students from Mackay and Cairns in addition to local children.

Amy Russell, Listening and Spoken Language Specialist at the Townsville Centre said, that COMET is designed to be fun and engaging for each student, with group and confidence building activities.

"As a charity, Hear and Say is reliant on community support to conduct many of its specialist programs which is why we were thrilled that the City of Townsville and Quota came on board to support this year's COMET in Townsville," Ms Russell said.

For more information on Hear and Say and the work they do in the Townsville community and across North Queensland can be found at www.hearandsay.com.au or call 3850 2111.

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For more details and to arrange interviews contact Lois Shuttleworth, Public Relations Specialist, Hear and Say at lois.shuttleworth@hearandsay.com.au or 0481 212 420

About Hear and Say

Established in 1992 by Dr Dimity Dornan (2018 Queensland Senior Australian of the Year), Hear and Say is a Queensland-wide charity supporting children and young adults across five centres, as well as via a Telepractice program for rural and remote families. Our current programs and services include audiology, listening and spoken language therapy, school hearing screening, social skills programs, and physiotherapy and occupational therapy support. Hear and Say is also committed to clinical research and professional development.

Our aim is to support all children to hear, listen and speak so they can attend mainstream school, and fulfil their potential across all areas of life. Hear and Say combines state-of-the-art hearing technology (such as digital hearing aids and cochlear implants) with specialised listening and spoken language therapy.

Almost 100% of children who have graduated from our early intervention program in the past five years have entered mainstream schools, and are speaking at a level equivalent to their typically-hearing peers.

As a not-for-profit organisation, Hear and Say must raise over \$10,000 each year, for up to six years, to fill the funding gap for one child with hearing loss to listen and speak.