



August 2026

Deaf Herald

AUGUST UPDATE

Welcome to the Deaf Herald | August 2026

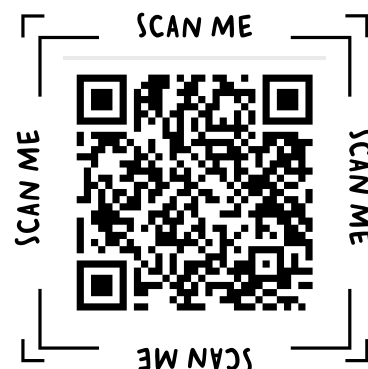
In this edition, there's plenty happening across our community! From an update on the Census happening tonight, to a wrap-up of the Australian Deaf Games and the latest news about Deaf Festival Sydney, we've got lots to share.

Enrolments are now open for our courses for Deaf adults in NSW, plus we'll share updates from a recent community meeting in Parramatta, Auslan Storytime, and the Parent Handbook.

We hope you enjoy catching up on everything happening across our incredible Deaf community!

Scan the QR code here to view our stories and read past versions of the Deaf Herald.

www.deafconnect.org.au



CENSUS 2026

I SIGN
@HOME

Represent Auslan in the Census

CENSUS 2026: MAKING AUSLAN COUNT

The Census is a mandatory survey that every household in Australia has to complete. This took place on Tuesday, 11 August.

This year there was an important question for people who use Auslan. We encouraged every person who signs at home to write Auslan as their answer for question 21.

The more people who wrote Auslan as the language used at home, the more the Government can understand, value and invest in our Deaf community for decades to come.

WHAT IS THE CENSUS?

The Census is a nationwide count of every person and household in Australia, conducted every five years by the Australian Bureau of Statistics.

The form asks questions about demographics (languages used, age, ancestry, birthplace), living situations, income, and education.

Census data is vital for planning and funding Australia's future. It also informs decisions on where to build essential infrastructure like hospitals, schools, and roads.

The more accurately our Deaf community is represented in the Census, the more we can be considered when important funding decisions are made.



Check out our website for more information
www.deafconnect.org.au



RECAP: AUSTRALIAN DEAF GAMES 2026

From 4–11 July, the Sunshine Coast became a Deaf Space.

A space where we belonged. A space where we connected.
A space where we celebrated our community and shared our culture.

As Principal Games Sponsor, Deaf Connect was proud to be part of the Australian Deaf Games 2026 and witness the incredible achievements, connections and memories created throughout the week.

Events like the Australian Deaf Games provide an important space for us to strengthen our Deaf community. To share our culture and connect with others. To unite as one and face one another with friendly yet fierce competition!

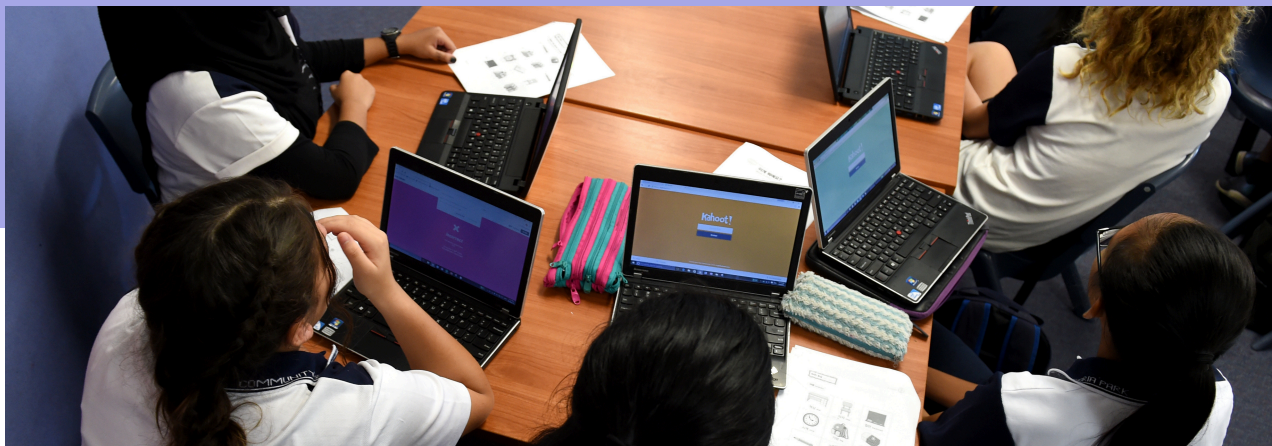
As the 2026 Games come to a close, we extend our thanks to the Games Organising Committee, National and State Sporting Associations, volunteers and fellow sponsors for helping bring this incredible event to life.

Thank you to everyone who made ADG 2026 such a huge success. Head to our website to enjoy a video from throughout the week.

See you in Bunbury in 2030!



Check out our website for more information
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COURSES FOR DEAF ADULTS - NSW

Courses for Deaf Adults are a great way to gradually build your foundational skills. You will gain practical knowledge and skills that you can use in everyday life.

From Healthy Living to Maths and Money, there is plenty to learn. These classes are also a fantastic opportunity to connect with your local community.

Do you want to learn a new skill or try a new hobby? Enrol today! We look forward to seeing you in class.

How to enrol:

Contact us by email or text message with your name and email address or phone number.

Email: studentservices@deafconnect.org.au

SMS: 0447 370 941

Visit our website to learn more!



Check out our website for more information
www.deafconnect.org.au



IT'S ALMOST TIME FOR DEAF FESTIVAL SYDNEY 2026!

Deaf Festival Sydney is back on 29 August in Sydney Olympic Park!

Featuring a range of stalls and performances, the festival will bring the community together for a day of connection and celebration.

Keep an eye on the Deaf Festival Sydney website and social media channels for updates on the stallholders and performers who will be part of this year's event.

Learn more at deaffestivalsyd.org.au.



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MEET THE WINNER OF DEAF CONNECT'S AUSTRALIAN DEAF GAMES GIVEAWAY

To celebrate the 2026 Australian Deaf Games, Deaf Connect and Deaf Lottery gave one lucky person the chance to win nine nights' accommodation at our Portobello by the Sea apartment.

The lucky winner was Zena from Toowoomba, who travelled to the Games with her husband and twin daughters. And there was an extra special part of the experience – it was Zena's first Australian Deaf Games!

Zena spent her time watching and supporting the Queensland teams, with netball and futsal standing out as some of her favourite events.

"The best events I saw in the Games, well, they would have to be netball and futsal. They were very interesting and exciting games."

For Zena and her family, having somewhere close by to stay made the experience even better.

We're so glad Zena and her family had the chance to experience the Australian Deaf Games together and make some special memories along the way.



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EXECUTIVE TEAM MEET AND GREET IN PARRAMATTA

Recently, our Executive Team hosted a community meet and greet with local staff and community members at the Parramatta Office.

It was a great chance to connect, share perspectives, and discuss what matters most with our community.

Discussions covered how our services are supporting community needs today, opportunities for future service delivery, and ideas that will help shape Deaf Connect's next five-year Strategic Plan.

The event also marked the first Executive Leadership Team Quarterly Meeting for our new Chief People and Culture Officer, Gemma Cooper.

A big thank you to everyone who joined us, shared their experiences, and helped make the afternoon such a success.

We look forward to continuing these conversations in different states.



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