



CELEBRATING

NATIONAL WEEK OF DEAF PEOPLE 2026

WHAT IS NWDP?

National Week of Deaf People is a national celebration of Australian Sign Language: the language of Australia's Deaf community. Held every year from 21 September to 27 September 2026 it's a moment to recognise Auslan's cultural significance and the role it plays in the lives of thousands of Deaf Australians.

Deaf Connect is Australia's largest Deaf services organisation and employer of Deaf people in Australia. This NWDP, we're inviting schools like yours to get involved.



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WHY IT MATTERS FOR YOUR SCHOOL

Every student deserves to feel included in the classroom, yet many schools miss simple ways to communicate well with deaf and hard of hearing students and parents. These gaps can affect learning, friendships, and confidence during formative childhood stages.

Deaf Connect provides professional development opportunities for schools and staff to help bridge these gaps.

Your school may benefit from our Deaf Awareness Training and our Auslan in Schools (LOTE) program.



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DEAF AWARENESS TRAINING (DAT)

Deaf Awareness Training helps your staff communicate confidently with deaf and hard of hearing people. For schools, that means better everyday interactions with students, families, and colleagues. For deaf students, this means better access to supports so they can achieve their goals and set themselves up to reach their full potential.

Deaf Connect delivers Deaf Awareness Training through live sessions (face-to-face or online via Zoom) and self-paced online modules. Classes are led by deaf trainers and delivered in Auslan, with professional interpreters providing access for everyone.

The benefit?

- **Breaks down communication barriers** between staff and deaf students
- **Strengthens cultural awareness and inclusivity** within the learning environment
- **Makes lessons and activities more accessible** for everyone
- **Strengthens your reputation** as an inclusive learning community

+ more!



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LANGUAGES OTHER THAN ENGLISH (LOTE)

Auslan in Schools (LOTE) program gives students the opportunity to learn Australia's national sign language through an authentic, immersive language-learning experience delivered by culturally Deaf educators.

Deaf Connect partners with primary and secondary schools across Australia to deliver curriculum-aligned Auslan programs that support language acquisition, intercultural understanding and meaningful engagement with Deaf culture.

Designed for students in Years 1-10, our programs align with the Australian Curriculum: Languages and provide schools with a complete teaching, assessment and reporting solution.

Delivered face-to-face or online, Australia-wide.



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HOW TO PARTICIPATE

- 1 Display the Auslan Alphabet poster in your classroom
- 2 Print activity sheets for students to work through during class/freetime/lunchtime
- 3 Share NWDP post on school social media page
- 4 Share NWDP email banner in school newsletter
- 5 Discuss Deaf Awareness Training (DAT) and Auslan in Schools (LOTE) program information during next staff meeting
- 6 Book a Deaf Awareness Training PD session or enquire about our Auslan in Schools (LOTE) program

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USING YOUR SOCIAL TILE

Your NWDP social tile is ready to post. Here's how:

1. Download the social tile from the link provided in your kit email.
2. Post to your school LinkedIn, Facebook, Instagram or other social channel from September 21 to September 27.



3. Use the caption below:

We're proud to recognise NWDP: a national celebration of Australian Sign Language and Deaf culture. At [School Name], we're committed to inclusion in all its forms. #NationalWeekofDeafPeople #NWDP #DeafAwareness @DeafConnectAU

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USING YOUR EMAIL BANNER

The NWDP email banner is sized to fit standard email headers (640 × 360px).



To use it:

1. Download the banner from the link provided in your kit email.
2. Insert it at the top of your internal newsletter or staff email for a week from September 21 to September 27.
3. Optional: link the banner to deafconnect.org.au/nwdp for staff who want to learn more.



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TAKE IT FURTHER

Want to learn more? We'd love to help.
Make an enquiry today.

For Deaf Awareness Training and Auslan in Schools (LOTE) program enquiries:



Reach us at
auslan@deafconnect.org.au



or visit our website:
deafconnect.org.au



WE'RE CELEBRATING

NATIONAL WEEK OF DEAF PEOPLE

21-27 September 2026



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Find the hidden words below in the grid of letters.
Words can be found in any direction.

B	I	D	E	N	T	I	T	Y	P
D	C	U	H	A	G	A	F	R	H
E	R	B	O	C	D	I	U	M	A
A	W	A	R	E	N	E	S	S	N
F	U	G	I			A	O	I	D
P	H	S	N			U	H	U	S
S	C	U	L	T	U	R	E	C	H
K	I	D	W	A	H	I	S	M	A
T	B	A	U	I	N	E	D	K	P
H	I	N	C	L	U	S	I	V	E

AUSLAN
AWARENESS

CULTURE
DEAF

IDENTITY
INCLUSIVE

HANDSHAPE
SIGN

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NATIONAL WEEK OF DEAF PEOPLE 2026

COLOURING IN PAGE

