

Breaking the Sound Barriers

9 DEAF SUCCESS STORIES



MEDIA RELEASE - For Immediate Release – 9 June 2010

New book breaks barriers for parents of deaf children

Parents faced with the daunting task of bringing up a hearing impaired child now have a source of some sound advice – a new book that helps break down the sound barrier.

Breaking the Sound Barriers: 9 deaf success stories published by Deaf Children Australia is now being widely promoted across the US and the UK by Australian author, Julie Postance, eager to share its insights with families of deaf and hard of hearing children.

More than 95% of deaf and hard of hearing children are born to hearing families who have little or no experience with deafness. Julie wrote the book in response to the hundreds of calls to Deaf Children Australia's Helpline each year from parents of deaf and hard of hearing children. Most reported feeling alone and confused about what to do when raising a deaf child.

Breaking the Sound Barriers: 9 deaf success stories is a collection of interviews capturing the struggles and successes of parents of deaf children who have 'broken barriers' in terms of raising their children, and deaf adults who have achieved remarkable things in their lives. Each explores what helped and what hindered them and offers a wealth of practical advice to other families of deaf children about navigating the challenges of hearing loss. Packed with invaluable strategies to tackle barriers related to early intervention services, education, and communication, this book demonstrates that deaf people can, with the right support, be, do and have anything they want in their lives.

The book has so far been very well received in Australia and the US. Mother, Janet Murphy says: "My name is Janet and I have a little boy, Hugh who is deaf. I read the book cover to cover and found it absolutely fantastic – very inspirational and very reassuring, full of lots of practical information which I'm sure will be invaluable to us as we progress along our journey. It has certainly been the 'therapy' I needed."

The CEO of Deaf Children Australia, Damian Lacey says, "Raising a deaf child can be a challenging experience and parents of deaf children have to deal with many important issues. This book will be an invaluable resource for parents of deaf children."

Deaf Children Australia is a national not-for-profit organisation representing the needs of 16,000 deaf and hard of hearing children and their families across Australia.

Julie Postance is the author of *Breaking the Sound Barriers: 9 deaf success stories*. A trained journalist, ghostwriter and marketing professional, Julie has worked for Deaf Children Australia since 2005, raising awareness of deafness in the community. During that time, she has interviewed hundreds of families of deaf and hard of hearing children, which formed the basis of stories for publication in national and local media.

***Breaking the Sound Barriers: 9 deaf success stories* (\$19.95 – ISBN 978-0-9805953-0-7) can be purchased at www.amazon.com or www.breakingthesoundbarriers.com. For more information or to request an interview, please call Julie on +61400197616 or email julie@breakingthesoundbarriers.com**

