



**JOHN PIERCE CENTRE**

*Spirit of the Deaf Community*

John Pierce Centre  
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*Dear Friend of the John Pierce Centre*



Thank you for your wonderful support over recent years. 2020 was always going to be a big year for JPC, our 40<sup>th</sup> anniversary year, but no one could have imagined just how challenging it would become and the acute need for connection and support that we now face.



In our 40th year, we reflect on our service and know that many of our community members have been with us since our establishment. Over this time, we have met the needs of many Deaf Victorians - from children to seniors - and we have been a part of their growth. Activities and programs focus on groups of different interests. Signee Tots playgroup has our youngest community members, focusing on Deaf role models, fostering social bonds and language acquisition. School age children and families stay connected through holiday programs and special events. Into adulthood, we offer Ladies' Get Together, Deaf Men's Group, Deaf Art, and our seniors program, Pankina. The groups mix and come together for Mass and special occasions. We also assist community members with pastoral and tailored support.

Our dedicated staff and volunteers are varied, both hearing and Deaf, each with their own unique skills and experience. This allows us to adapt and meet the needs of our community as they progress through life, and as situations change.



This has been particularly evident during the Coronavirus pandemic. Aware of the need to continue support and connection to people already vulnerable to isolation; we have rapidly discovered new ways to engage with our community and deliver our programs. Over just a few weeks, JPC have negotiated a partnership with the Catholic Archdiocese of Melbourne to provide our Auslan interpreter and Deaf consultant at the televised Sunday Mass from St Patrick's Cathedral. Group activities are being delivered through interactive online videos and email; and video messages of faith and reflection in Auslan have been developed by the Deaf pastoral team and Chaplain to be posted regularly online. Both staff and our community are learning new skills and utilising technology to maintain connection.



We have adapted and evolved during the global pandemic, just as we have over the last 40 years, always striving to provide the best service to our community. At the same time, the core of our service remains unchanged, connection through Auslan, with a focus on spiritual and community development, driven by our mission "to empower Deaf people to live life to the full".



*Your gift will be a lifeline that ensures JPC's Pastoral Care and Family Support Service can reach even the most isolated Deaf people.*

All donations will be gratefully received – donations of \$2.00 or more are tax deductible. Please see the envelope attached, or if you prefer to go online, please visit: [www.givnow.com.au/jpcdonations](http://www.givnow.com.au/jpcdonations)

With grateful appreciation,

**Carmel Phillips**  
JPC Executive Manager

