**Becoming a prefect has been one of the highlights of my life. When I nominated myself for the prefect role this year, I did not expect to achieve it. Hear For You and my friendships brought about the unimaginable. I now look forward to the future and to enjoying a fantastic time promoting my school. I'd like to thank my Hear For You mentors, Dave Brady and Kate Locke, for helping me build a positive attitude and my self-esteem.**

Adrian, Year 11, cochlear implantee

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**What teens have said about our programs**

"At my first workshop, I remember feeling extremely nervous and reluctant. Once I'd met the mentors and students, I felt part of something extraordinary. Participating in the Hear For You activities helped improve my confidence, my communication, my career, my leadership skills and my outlook on life. The experience has made a huge difference to my life. It enabled me to recognise that life is full of opportunities, and that you should embrace your deafness and treat it as an opportunity, not a disadvantage."

Isabella, Year 12, cochlear implantee

"Dan was a bit reluctant to go to the first session, but came home so happy it was obvious that he'd had a great day. When he came home from the second day, he was absolutely exhilarated! I can't wait to see what will happen next! Thank you so much for giving Dan this rare opportunity to see the heights that he can achieve and to see what he can be. I am very proud of him and so grateful to you and your team."

Clare Harris, mother of Dan

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**Meet our mentors!**

Hear For You has a dynamic team of young, successful, happy, deaf and hearing impaired mentors, who have been ‘hand-picked’ for their skills, achievements, and innovative ways of learning to deal with their hearing loss. While they all come from different professional backgrounds, they all share one common goal: their passion for improving the lives of young deaf people.

**Lizzie**

Lizzie Eakin absolutely loves being a mentor and helping other young people with hearing loss to be all they can be. Her motto is: "If you strive to achieve happiness in life, you will achieve it!"

Lizzie is the director of a preschool in Sydney, and is married to her soulmate. She is also profoundly deaf and wears hearing aids.

**Nick**

Nick Doyle loves the fact that he has positively impacted the lives of many Hear For You teens. Nick’s motto is: Just Do It! ("Okay, I stole that one from Nike!") Nick is a keen sportsman, financial accountant, is married to his hearing wife, Joanne and is the proud father of his 10 month old daughter. He has been profoundly deaf since birth.

**The Hon John Howard AC**

“I warmly endorse Hear For You as an innovative service for young people with severe hearing difficulties. Its aim is to encourage those with such difficulties to overcome them and realise their goals and dreams. I have met the group’s leaders. They are highly committed and energetic people dedicated to assisting others to surmount their hearing problems.”

John Howard, Australia’s former Prime Minister and Patron of Hear For You, who has had hearing loss since the age of 9.
Benefits to Parents
There are so many benefits to teenagers for you program! We guarantee it!

A wonderful opportunity for your deaf teenager that they will thank you for –

Most importantly, have fun!

Benefits to Teenagers
- Improved confidence and leadership skills
- A really positive identity and outlook on life
- Better social skills and communication techniques
- Support from amazing adult deaf mentors who will help you become successful in your life
- Help with designing your career
- A wonderful network of friends
- Ability to share experiences with others
- The tools to navigate your way effectively in a hearing world.

Program Duration
Each group participates in three workshops spread over two school terms. These workshops, presented by an even gender split of mentors, are held on a Sunday during school term from 10.30am to 3.30pm. A four week gap between each workshop allows time for a break and E-Mentoring.

E-Mentoring
Between workshops, the participants keep in contact with their mentor via online chat. This is a safe process. The participants are given topics at the workshops to take home to think about and discuss online with their mentor. This also gives them an opportunity to discuss any relevant issues with their mentor privately or away from the group workshops. Through these e-mentoring activities, participants will also learn about the responsible use of technology.

Our workshops
Our Hear For You program consists of:
- Meet & Greet / Information Session
- Three group workshops
- E-Mentoring using online one-to-one communication
- Session for parents of participants

The program is tailored to three age-specific groups:
- Years 7 & 8
- Years 9 & 10
- Years 11 & 12

Each group receives a male and female mentor. Groups are kept to 6-8 students so each student gets maximum participation in discussions and quality time with mentors.

Content Level
The topics have been carefully selected to cover critical stages in the teens’ formative years at school and beyond. We provide worksheets expressed in “teenage language”. The level of the content and activities of the program are all tailored to the specific needs of the age group.

Topics
- Identity
- Communication
- Health & Wellbeing
- Drama
- Relationships
- Leadership & Teamwork
- Careers

Parents Session
It takes a team effort to make the Hear for you mentoring program successful. Parents are an important part of the team - their trust, support and commitment complement the program. Parents will get the opportunity to meet the mentors, discuss any relevant issues and develop a combined support network. They will learn about the Hear For You program, share their own personal experiences of raising a deaf child and the specific strategies they used to deal with each challenge. We also invite hearing people to share their experiences of, and provide tips and strategies for, being married to and living with a deaf person.

One of our inspirational guest speakers, Jennie Brand-Miller
We have a group of inspirational deaf guest speakers who share their own experiences and insights. Jennie Brand-Miller lost her hearing gradually from early teenage years. Now totally deaf, she has two cochlear implants. A Professor of Human Nutrition, she is also the author of books which have sold 3.5 million copies. She is also happily married and has two children.

“I was delighted to have the chance to speak to the Hear For You participants with hearing impairment,” Jennie says. “I wanted them to know that hearing loss should not stifle their ambitions. I wished I had had a support group like Hear For You when I was a young adult... I knew I needed support back then but there was no one to turn to. It would have made such a difference.”

Location
The Sydney workshops are held at the Inspire Foundation, The Shepherd Centre and The University of Sydney.

Cost
Great news - our workshops are free! We do however ask for a $250 refundable deposit prior to commencing the program to secure your place.

Interested?
Please fill out the enclosed Acceptance Form and return to Hear For You.
Acceptance Form

Student Details
First Name: ______________________ Last Name: ______________________

Date of Birth: ____ / ____ / ____ Gender: □ F □ M School Year in 2011: ____

Name of School: ____________________________________________________________

Residential Information
Street Address: ___________________________________________________________________

City / Suburb: ____________________________ State: ________ Postcode: ________

Parent / Guardian Details
Full Name(s) of Parent(s): _______________________________________________________

Day Phone: ( ) __________________ Work Phone: ( ) _____________________________

Mobile: ______________________ Email: _____________________________________________

How would you like to be contacted? □ Email □ Post □ Phone □ Other ___________

How were you made aware of Hear For You? ___________________________________________

Audiological Information
Degree of hearing loss: □ Mild □ Moderate □ Severe □ Profound

Do you wear hearing aid(s)? □ Yes □ No If yes, how many? ________

Do you have a cochlear implant? □ Yes □ No If yes, how many? ________

Do you have any other disability in addition to hearing loss? □ Yes □ No

If yes, please explain: __________________________________________________________________

All information collected will remain confidential and only used by Hear For You.
Please either email this form to info@hearforyou.com.au or post to:

Olivia Andersen
Hear For You Ltd
PO Box 122
Northbridge NSW 1560