



## Education

The service provides a variety of online training modules, in-services and face to face workshops.

The topics provide information on:

- understanding the culture of Deaf people
- language and assessment issues
- hearing loss and the implications for mental health
- how to book interpreters and why it is important to use them.

**Online training** modules for all QHealth staff include:

- 'Introduction to Deafness and Mental Health'
- 'Deafness and Mental Health, intermediate level'
- 'Deafness for Administration Staff'

Modules can be accessed via [MSH Learn](#). Simply type Deafness in the search bar.

The face to face online workshop is accessed via Eventbrite. Please see our website for more information.

## Therapy and counselling

The service offers brief therapy and counselling. The team works with other

health professionals, e.g. psychologists, to assist them in providing culturally and linguistically sensitive sessions and services that meet the needs of Deaf and hard of hearing people.

## Contact us

**Telephone:** (07) 3317 1080

**Mobile:** 0419 023 883

## Postal Address

PO BOX 8336  
Woolloongabba QLD 4102

## Address

Woolloongabba Community Health Clinic  
Level 2  
228 Logan Road  
Woolloongabba QLD 4102

## Website:

[Deafness and Mental Health Statewide Consultation Service | Queensland Health](#)

## Opening Hours

Monday – Friday  
8.30am – 4.30pm

# Deafness and Mental Health Statewide Consultation Service



## About the service

The Deafness and Mental Health Statewide Consultation and Liaison Service strives to promote appropriate and accessible mental health care for Deaf and hard of hearing people throughout Queensland. It is the only service of its kind in Australia.

Our mission is to assist people who are Deaf or hard of hearing to access culturally-affirmative and inclusive mental health care and treatment.

This is facilitated through:

- offering education and training to professionals and organisations
- supporting mental health clinical staff and other service providers
- support for Deaf and hard of hearing people accessing Metro South Mental Health as well as other Hospital and Health Services
- ensuring culturally sensitive and inclusive strategies for professionals providing services to people who are Deaf or hard of hearing
- Comprehensive consultation and liaison services.

## Consultation

The service offers assistance to mental health teams and private mental health practitioners who are treating adults who

are Deaf or hard of hearing and may be experiencing symptoms of a mental illness. This can be provided as a face-to-face service or via video conference.

Consultations focus on:

- being sensitive to a person's individual communication and mental health needs
- Comprehensive joint, deafness and mental health assessment
- exploring treatment plans.

## Resources

Resources and training programs have been developed to assist mental health professionals to provide appropriate, accessible and equitable care to Deaf and hard of hearing people.

This includes the *Deafness and Mental Health Guidelines for Working with People who are Deaf or Hard of hearing (2017)*, and educational booklets on Alcohol, Anxiety, Bipolar, Cannabis, Depression, Domestic Violence, Medication Safety, Methamphetamine, Relationships, Schizophrenia and Sexual Health.

You can access these resources by contacting us or visiting our website [Deafness and Mental Health Statewide Consultation Service | Queensland Health](#)

## Hearing loss and mental health

Around one in six Australians experience some degree of hearing loss<sup>1</sup>

The size of the signing Deaf community is estimated to be between 6500<sup>2</sup> and 15 400 people<sup>3</sup>.

Up to 70 per cent of adult Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people have hearing problems and deafness, often relating to poorly managed childhood infections<sup>4</sup>.

1. Access Economics, Listen Hear! The Economic Impact and Cost of Hearing Loss in Australia. 2006.  
 2. Johnston, T., Whither the Deaf community? Population, genetics and the future of Australian Sign Language. American Annals of the Deaf, 2004. 148(5): p. 358-375.  
 3. Hyde, M. and D. Power, The use of Australian Sign Language by Deaf people. 1991, Griffith University, Faculty of Education, Centre of Deaf Studies and Research, Nathan: Brisbane.  
 4. Burrow, S., Galloway, A. Weisssofner, Natalie. (2009) Review of educational and other approaches to hearing loss among Indigenous people. Australian Indigenous Health Bulletin, 9 (2): 1