

DEAF FINITELY

stop  
and  
go

## Stepping Ahead

A PROGRAMME DESIGNED TO HELP  
DEAF AND HEARING-IMPAIRED STUDENTS  
MOVE SUCCESSFULLY FROM SCHOOL INTO  
FURTHER EDUCATION, TRAINING OR WORK



# DEAFINITELY Stepping Ahead



<b>Introduction</b>	<b>1</b>
<b>Who are we?</b>	<b>2</b>
And why this programme is right for you.	
<b>DEAFinitely Stepping Ahead programme</b>	<b>4</b>
The programme itself and how we make sure the programme is right for you	
<b>Start Stepping Ahead</b>	<b>6</b>
Everything you need to know about the first meeting	
<b>Your hopes and dreams</b>	<b>8</b>
How we will work with you to make your dreams come true	
<b>Frequently Asked Questions</b>	<b>9</b>
Answers to your questions	
<b>Your Rights</b>	<b>10</b>
What you need to know	
<b>Student Referral Form</b>	<b>11</b>
Start stepping ahead by filling in this form	
<b>About Deaf Aotearoa New Zealand</b>	<b>13</b>

If you are 16-21 years old\*, funded by ORRS<sup>†</sup> and coming up to or already in your last year of school, this brochure's for you!



## What is DEAFinitely Stepping Ahead?

DEAFinitely Stepping Ahead is a programme specifically designed for D/deaf<sup>1</sup> or hearing-impaired students in their last year or two of school who are thinking about further education, training or looking for their first job.

Its aim is to help you be sure that your next steps are the right ones by checking you:

- know all the services available to you and know how to access them;
- can quickly and easily organise NZSL interpreters and people who can work with you;
- can easily access Deaf Awareness resources;
- have strategies for effective communication and are clear about what steps you need to take;
- can access specific D/deaf-related equipment (new hearing aids, alarm clocks etc)

so you can be confident, independent and successful in stepping out into the world!

\*Only available to New Zealand citizens or permanent residents that are currently living in New Zealand.

<sup>†</sup>Ongoing and Reviewable Resourcing Schemes.

<sup>1</sup>D/deaf – Spelling 'Deaf' with a capital 'D' represents a culture and community of people who often use sign language as their first language. Spelt with a small 'd', 'deaf' is used as an adjective to describe hearing loss.

**DEAFinitely  
Stepping Ahead  
has been developed  
by a team of D/deaf  
people at Deaf Aotearoa  
New Zealand who once  
had to make the same  
decisions that you do.**

**It contains all the  
things we wished we  
knew before we began  
our further education,  
training and jobs as  
D/deaf people!**



We are different! We use our eyes to get all our information, and so have a different way of looking at the world from other people! It's not better. It's not worse. It's just different because we can do everything, but hear - so when we work or study, we have different ways of doing things. We use different ways to make sure we can access the information we need and to check that we can do things.

We don't always do it the same way as other people, but we can do it! We can get great jobs and have a great education. With confidence, knowledge and the right resources, nothing can stop us!

DEAFinitely Stepping Ahead is designed to ensure you have the tools to fully ACCESS the programme you decide to do and so ensure you are just as able to succeed as everybody else!

### **It's free!**

It's available in NZSL, English and Māori and over time, will go online.

If you want other people to work with you, they are welcome to be part of it as well.

All you need to do is fill in the form at the back to register.

*We look forward to  
working with you...*

**DEAFINITELY**

**Stepping Ahead**



### What's involved?

DEAFinitely Stepping Ahead is a programme built by you, for you.

**You get to say how it can be of most use to you. You can base it around any concerns you have about what you want to do.**

**It covers any problems or issues you expect to face and includes your choice of the kind of information you need.**

The programme can run from 3-12 months, depending on your choice of content so there's plenty of time for you, your family, whanau and school to complete each stage.

We team you up with someone you can easily communicate with from Deaf Aotearoa New Zealand. They will then work with you to try and look at those issues and concerns, and organise the things you need to make sure you are as confident as possible by the time you start.

### DEAFinitely Stepping Ahead is:

- built upon our experience of the situations you are likely to have to manage;
- specifically tailored to what you want to do;
- concentrates on collecting the information, resources and strategies you need; to give you a jump-start on your road to success!

For example, some of the information you can choose from includes:

#### Deaf Issues

- Identity
- Culture
- NZSL Interpreters
- Equipment

#### Independence

- Goals
- Your rights and responsibilities

### Work or Study Options

- Filling in applications and forms through to preparing a Curriculum Vitae.
- Interview techniques.
- Any issues you expect to meet in a chosen area of study or training and specific resources that might be useful to you.
- Tips on being a successful student, trainee or employee.
- Tips on fitting into your new environment.

### The many community organisations that could be helpful to you

- Deaf Aotearoa NZ – information and services.
- Work & Income – what you are entitled to.
- Workbridge – options available.

There is much more information you can choose from. Just ask!

All you, your school or your family/whanau member need/s to do is:

- Fill in the initial referral form on Page 11
- Post or fax it to the nearest Deaf Aotearoa NZ office

We'll be in touch to set up a time to meet.



# Stepping Ahead



## When we first meet...

### who can you bring?

everyone involved:

- your parents / whanau,
  - someone from your school (Special Needs Co-ordinator? Your teacher?!, your Teacher of the D/deaf or Adviser on D/deaf Children,
  - your friend,
  - whoever you want to ...
- ...so everyone knows the overall plan and what your goals are!

### where will we meet?

wherever you want to – at school, home or at your local Deaf Aotearoa New Zealand office.

### who will be there?

whoever you want to bring and someone you can easily communicate with from Deaf Aotearoa New Zealand.

### what will we talk about?

what YOU want to do!

Your hopes and dreams – and what you need to make them happen!

then...

we agree upon the next steps and fill in an enrolment form so you can start

DEAFinitely Stepping Ahead !





**Your hopes  
and your  
dreams**

**Making your DEAFinitely Stepping Ahead programme match your hopes and dreams**

**Once you are enrolled, we go over everything you can choose from and agree upon the best options to suit what you want to explore.**

then ...

we work out in detail **who** needs to do **what** by **when** to make sure that as a D/deaf person you have the knowledge and the strategies to make your dreams become real

then...

we help you to get the ball rolling and work with you until everything you need is in place.

**At the end of the programme**

You will:

- be awarded a Certificate of Completion either at your school or within the community;
- and receive a testimonial outlining the topics covered.

# Frequently Asked Questions

**What if I don't have access to a computer at home?**

You will be able to use a computer at school, in your local public library or in the Deaf Aotearoa New Zealand office.

**I don't use NZ Sign Language (NZSL) – is this programme still right for me?**

Yes it certainly is! You will work with someone who you can communicate easily with and you will pick and choose the activities that suit you! You'll also meet others who have a similar hearing loss as you.

**How will you match me with one of your staff members?**

We will focus on getting the best communication-flow happening. If you use NZSL, you will work with someone using sign language.

If you use only spoken language, you will work with someone you can talk to easily.

If you use both sign and spoken language, we can match you with someone who will do the same.

**I have literacy issues, can I still do the programme?**

Yes, definitely!

**I am Māori, do you know anything about working with people who are D/deaf and Māori ?**

We certainly do, we can connect you with other people who are also Māori and D/deaf. We know you have two equally important identities both as a D/deaf person and as a Māori person so we can contact others like you to make sure you have a whanau approach to looking at your future.

**Can I still do the programme if I am over 21 or under 16 years of age?**

DEAFinitely Stepping Ahead is especially designed for people aged 16-22. If you are older or younger than this, talk to us because there may be other ways we can work with you. We want to see you succeed!

**Can I bring my Deaf friend?**

Yes!

### Your rights...

Deaf Aotearoa New Zealand supports and promotes the NZ Health and Disability Commission Code of Rights and takes pride in the friendly and professional service we offer.

DEAFinitely Stepping Ahead has been especially designed to help you succeed in achieving your goals.

We will treat you with respect and courtesy at all times. This includes respecting your privacy. Any information given to us will be held in confidence and will not be released to any other person or organisation without your written permission.

We will be open and honest with you in working towards the successful completion of the programme. If any changes need to be made to the programme, we will do our best to contact you to discuss them with you and obtain your agreement first because we want to see you succeed!

### ...and your responsibilities...

We expect the same courtesy, respect, openness and honesty of you, your family/whanau and whoever you want to bring along.

## DEAFinitely Stepping Ahead STUDENT REFERRAL FORM

### Student's General Information

Your family name	Your first name/s
Do you have a preferred name?	
Your school	Your date of birth
Your current year at school	What year do you intend to leave school?
Home Address	
Fax	Mobile/SMS
Email	Home
Gender <input type="radio"/> Male <input type="radio"/> Female	Ethnicity

### Referral Information

Referred by <input type="radio"/> Self <input type="radio"/> School <input type="radio"/> Family/Whanau	
Full name of person referring student (if different from above)	
Contact address	
Fax	Mobile/SMS
Email	Work
Other	

### Office Use Only

Office location	Assigned co-ordinator
Completed date	

### Action Plan

1. Initial contact made with person referring student	Date
2. Date of initial meeting	Date
3. Location of initial meeting	
4. Documents gathered for initial meeting	
5. Enrolment form completed	Date



### About Deaf Aotearoa New Zealand

Deaf Aotearoa New Zealand is a not for profit organisation formed by D/deaf New Zealanders over 30 years ago to work for D/deaf New Zealanders. We work with government and other organisations to provide information and resources on life for D/deaf New Zealanders, Deaf culture and New Zealand Sign Language. We also represent NZ D/deaf internationally through our work with the World Federation of the Deaf.

We started providing services from the moment we opened the doors of our first office in Auckland in 1980 and now have 11 branches plus outreach offices around the country.

We promote New Zealand Sign Language which became New Zealand's third official language in 2006, work with D/deaf people

in all areas of their lives including helping people access information and services, offer Deaf Awareness training, facilitate ongoing academic research and provide a resource for local and national government. We also lobby for better access to opportunities and services on behalf of New Zealand's D/deaf communities and encourage D/deaf New Zealanders to go for opportunities to better their lot and chase their dreams.

As a group, D/deaf Kiwi's have an advantage in that many of us don't view ourselves as 'disabled' and 99% are just as willing and able to put our shoulders to the wheel to improve our quality of life as hearing New Zealanders. In the words of I. King Jordan: 'Deaf can do anything but hear'.

**Our last annual report is on [www.deaf.org.nz](http://www.deaf.org.nz)**

# DEAFINITELY stopping smoking



MINISTRY OF SOCIAL DEVELOPMENT  
*Te Manatū Whakahiato Ora*

Deaf Aotearoa New Zealand acknowledges the support  
of the Ministry of Social Development in providing this information.

For further information, please contact;  
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Phone/TTY 09 828 3282 Fax 09 828 3235  
[www.deaf.org.nz](http://www.deaf.org.nz)

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New Zealand  
TANGATA TURI