5 February 2010

Senate Community Affairs Committee PO Box 6100 Parliament House CANBERRA ACT 2600

Dear Senators

Re: Inquiry into Hearing Health in Australia

Following on from the meeting of Ms Noeleen Bieske, Associate Professor Brian Pyman and Dr Adrian Thomas with the Chair and Senators Boyce and Senator Moore in December 2009, I am pleased to enclose information regarding the Deafness Foundation Financial Grants Program.

Three of our previous Annual Reports are enclosed which list the grants that were distributed in the past three years, to which organisations and the projects for which the money was used. We have set guidelines for our grants applications and a committee reviews all applications and decides upon a cross range of projects each year.

In 2009/2010 we received 33 applications amounting to \$272, 244.00. After careful consideration 19 applications amounting to \$107,523 were successful and will be presented on Thursday 25 February 2010. Grants are available Australia wide for projects that support the Deaf and hearing impaired and meet the objectives of the Foundation. Further information can be found on our website: www.deafness.org.au

Thank you for the opportunity to highlight our Financial Grants Program.

Yours sincerely

Wendy Maher Executive Officer