

A special dog to assist Australians with Diabetes

- *Since the 1980s Lions has provided over 600 assistance dogs to deaf or hearing-impaired Australians and now they are on a mission to do the same for those with Diabetes*
- *New medical alert dogs will be trained to alert to low blood sugar levels in asymptomatic Type 1 Diabetics.*
- *Across Australia over 1.3 million people have diabetes and 283 people are diagnosed every day*

Australian Lions hearing Dogs has announced a new medical assistant dog program to support Australians living with Diabetes.

The new medical alert dogs will be trained to alert to low blood sugar levels in asymptomatic Type 1 Diabetics.

The first puppy to be trained in the program has been welcomed into its foster home this week where it will live whilst completing its training. The working English Springer Spaniel, named Cody, is sponsored by parent Vicki who already has a hearing dog, as does her son.

Vicki says she looks forward to supporting Cody through the training and seeing the program introduced in coming years.

“I know first-hand how much an assistant dog can change someone’s life. Many hearing-impaired people like my son and I, can’t hear important sounds such as the knock at the door, a telephone or, most seriously, a smoke alarm. Our assistant dogs provide us with confidence and security. The Diabetes medical alert dogs will do the same for those living with low blood sugar levels. It’s a pleasure to be the foster home for the first Lions Diabetes medical alert dog,” says Vicki.

Australian Lions Hearing Dogs CEO David Horne says the program launch comes at an exciting time for the organisation.

“Since the 1980s, Australian Lions Hearing Dogs has been procuring, training and placing Hearing Assistance Dogs with deaf or hard of hearing people all around Australia. We are the only Australian organisation accredited by Assistance Dogs International to carry out such work. There is currently a very high demand for our dogs with an increasing number of Australians suffering from some form of hearing loss. Unfortunately this number is on the rise, as is the number of Australians living with Diabetes,” says David.

“We are very pleased to be expanding our facility in Adelaide so we can support more Australians with our medical alert dogs. Across the country, 1.3 million people have been diagnosed with Diabetes and 283 people are diagnosed every day. Diabetes has been named one of the Lions’ 5 key focus areas and we are excited to be introducing this new program as part of this commitment,” says Australian Lions Hearing Dog CEO David Horne.



The work of Australian Lions Hearing Dogs is not only helping many Australians live a safer, more secure and confident lifestyle but it's also giving the animals a new home and purpose. An Australian Lions Hearing Dog can be any shape or size and the majority of dogs are actually sourced from pounds, rescue organisations and shelters.

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About Lions Australia

Where there's a need, there's a Lion. Lions Australia is Australia's largest service organisation with more than 1200 clubs in Australia and Papua New Guinea. Lions Australia promotes youth, support medical research, provide aid to people with disability, community service and disaster relief.

Lions are friends, family and neighbours who share a core belief: community is what we make it.

For more information, please visit <http://lionsclubs.org.au/about/>

About Australian Lions Hearing Dogs

Lions Hearing Dogs is a not-for-profit organisation that provides hearing dogs and training to hard of hearing people throughout Australia.

We have transformed the lives of hundreds of Australians by providing independence, security and confidence. As well as being loyal companions for many years, some of our dogs have even saved lives.

With the support of Lions Clubs across Australia, we have been providing trained Hearing Dogs to those in need since 1982. An Australian Lions Hearing Dog can be any shape or size, as the majority of our dogs are sourced from pounds, shelters and rescue organisations.

For more information and to find out how you can support Lions Australia and Lions Hearing Dogs please visit:

<https://lionshearingdogs.com.au>