



MEDIA RELEASE: AUSSIE HANDS CELEBRATES 25 YEARS

Saturday, 18 October 2025

2pm – 4pm

Royal Children's Hospital Foundation, Parkville

For 25 years [Aussie Hands](#) has provided invaluable support to children and adults born with a hand difference.

The charity began with the vision of a mother who, when her son was born with a hand difference, realised there was very little support or information for her to help him.

25 years later, Aussie Hands has 26 partnerships in Australia and overseas, and has created a community for countless children, young people and their families with over 2000 members, providing guidance, mentoring and education on living with a hand difference.

Join us as we celebrate this achievement and the successes of our members.

Guest speakers will include:

Cr Gladys Liu (City of Melbourne)

Professor Chris Coombs (Plastic and Reconstructive Surgeon, Unimelb/RCH)

Associate Professor David McCombe (Hand and Microvascular Clinical Lead, RCH)

Lived experience:

Paul and Melanie Tisch (father and daughter aged 20)

Louise and Zachary Franklin (mother and son aged 12)

Quotes attributable to founder, **Elizabeth Borg**:

As Founder, my dream has come true and what a joy it is to embrace the benefits that Aussie Hands has brought to so many living with a hand difference.

For 25 years Aussie Hands has been successful in supporting individuals with a hand difference, their families and community by providing opportunities for connection, networking and sharing of information, raising awareness and celebrating achievements of people with a hand difference, and supporting research into hand differences.

Quotes attributable to **Zachary Franklin** (12 years old):

Aussie Hands was a place my Mum and Dad reached out to when they found out I was going to be born with no left hand. There they met lots of other parents and found so much support and inspiration that I was going to be just fine and be able to live a full and normal life. I have enjoyed going to events where you're the odd one out if you have two hands. I've made friends and so have my parents.

Quotes attributable to **Melanie Tisch** (20 years old):

I have been with Aussie Hands for almost the last 20 years I am now almost 21 years old. It has been a part of a large portion of not only my life but my family's, supporting us. It has helped me build confidence and meet new people who I am still friends with today and connect with outside Aussie Hands. Its functions have also led me to other support groups with new experiences and adventures on offer.

For media enquiries or interviews: Lesa Scholl, 0423 958 084 or email media@keychangecommunications.com.au.