



EPHPHETA CENTRE

This year the focus of the Charitable Works Fund's (CWF) Schools Appeal fundraising is The Ephpheta Centre (*Ef-fəta*).



This CWF agency provides services and advocates for our deaf and hard of hearing communities. Deaf people use Auslan (Australian Sign Language).

The name of the organisation comes from the Bible (Mark 7:34) meaning to 'Be Open', the words said by Jesus Christ when talking to the deaf man. The Ephpheta Centre has adopted the phrase to describe their organisation's mission to:

- Be open in sharing their talents with and receiving both the hearing and non-hearing communities
- Be open in helping others understand the issues that affect the deaf and hard of hearing

Through Ephpheta and with the help of not only the Catholic Archdiocese of Sydney, but also the Dioceses of Broken Bay and Parramatta, deaf people are able to participate fully in signed Masses.

Ephpheta advocates for equal access to services and information for this important part of our community. They facilitate regular social gatherings for different age and interest groups to allow deaf and hard of hearing people to develop a supportive network and enjoy a vibrant social life. Services of the centre include pastoral care and support, visitation, family support, sacramental preparation, deafness awareness training and community support. Most of the staff of the Ephpheta Centre are deaf and use Auslan.

www.ephpheta.org.au

VIDEO AVAILABLE TO DOWLOAD

The Charitable Works Fund in conjunction with Catholic Education Office Sydney (CEO) have made a video available to download for Sydney Archdiocese schools as part of the CWF's Schools Appeal promotion.

The video focuses on Ephpheta Centre and can be downloaded from CEO's intranet site.