



Hello everyone, my name is Ida and I work at deafConnectEd, which is auspiced by Melbourne Polytechnic and located at their Prahran campus. I am the Project Coordinator at deafConnectEd, which means I look after a few projects.

The project I will talk about now is really exciting – the Deaf Migrants project. Many Deaf people relocate to Australia but they struggle because they don't know Auslan or written English.

We would like to acknowledge and thank Vicdeaf for their work in establishing a program for this group. Their program focused on basic Auslan and English, but as the size of the group grew, it demonstrated a need for more of this type of support.

Several applications for funding were made until deafConnectEd was successful with a grant from the Victorian Government Department of Premier and Cabinet. The funding received means that deafConnectEd can now set up a pilot program in 2018. This trial program will be for one year, and be based at the Melbourne Polytechnic Prahran campus.

The program will give a group of deaf migrants the opportunity to learn two languages at the same time – both Auslan and English as a written language. The group will also learn about Aboriginal history, Australian law, health, as well as other topics relevant to living in Australia.

We are really excited to see this program happen.