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MEDIA RELEASE

Video series: ***Beyond the Game: Young deaf athletes of Australia***

Deaf Sports Australia is proud to announce the launch of our new video interview series featuring Deaf and hard of hearing athletes from diverse backgrounds and sporting disciplines.

Coordinated by Raquel Fasano, this project has brought together nine young inspiring deaf and hard of hearing athletes who share their personal journeys in sport, highlighting their challenges, achievements, and advice for the next generation as well as those involved in sport organisation.

The purpose of the video series titled: *Beyond the Game: Young deaf athletes of Australia* is to showcase the diverse range of sport activities we do and can participate in; demonstrate examples of resilience and 'can do' belief; and to share personal journeys that can positively impact on our young deaf and hard of hearing Australian community, their families, school mates and the wider community.

We extend our sincere thanks to *Deaf Connect* for their generous support through sponsorship and funding, which made this project possible. We also wish to thank our interviewers, Raquel Fasano and Sam Greatorex, as well as all of the athletes who generously shared their stories.

The first three videos are now live on our website: https://deafsports.org.au/national-week-of-deaf-people/

Six more stories will be rolled out over the next few weeks, so keep an eye out - there's more to come!

Donations to Deaf Sports Australia are accepted and can be tax deductible if more than $2.

Here are the nine young deaf and hard of hearing people we interviewed:

***Sienna Compton**: A multi-award-winning swimmer and gymnast from NSW with big ambitions in sport.*

***Ethan Powell**: A talented basketballer from WA passionate about creating more sporting opportunities for deaf people.*

***Calvin Black**: A lifelong basketballer from VIC with a bold personality and love for the game.*

***Phoenix Courtney**: A dedicated hip hop dancer from QLD who values independence and accessibility.*

***Jem Blackmore**: A passionate rock climber from QLD who thrives on challenge and adventure.*

***Rebekah Fraser**: A driven swimmer from WA with an impressive track record and go-getter attitude.*

***Rayan Taya**: A netballer from VIC who encourages Deaf kids to pursue their passions in sport.*

***Oliad Omar**: A table tennis enthusiast from VIC who has loved playing sport from an early age.*

***Chrispine Wilondja**: A determined footballer from QLD who believes in hard work and tenacity.*

"Watching these videos reminds me of my own sporting experiences and the highs and lows we go through to achieve our goals – I had goosebumps watching this generation sharing their journey for everyone to enjoy, learn and gain inspiration. An amazing effort by the Project team", said Phil Harper, Deaf Sport Australia General Manager.

We know there are many more stories about our young deaf and hard of hearing sports people who have interesting experiences to share. We hope this will be the start of more video stories in the near future.

For further information, please contact us at info@deafsports.org.au

Phil Harper

General Manager

Deaf Sports Australia

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