Lions Assistance Dogs

National Hearing Dog Day 2026

Lions Clubs Involvement Proposal

LIONS INTERNATIONAL

About Lions Assistance Dogs

For over 40 years, Lions Assistance Dogs (previously Australian Lions Hearing Dogs) has been transforming the lives of Australians who are Deaf or hard of hearing by providing them with a set of "furry ears" — free of charge. As a not-for-profit organisation and the only accredited Hearing Assistance Dog provider in Australia, we have proudly delivered more than 700 Hearing Assistance Dogs nationwide, with over 140 currently active in communities across the country.

Founded as a Lions project, Lions Assistance Dogs has been supported by Lions Clubs across Australia since the early 1980s. This support is essential to our ability to breed, raise, train, and place highly skilled Assistance Dogs with people in need. Without the ongoing commitment, advocacy, and generosity of Lions Clubs, we would not be able to deliver these life-changing dogs to Australians who rely on them.

Each Assistance Dog costs over $40,000 to raise and train. Our dogs are trained to alert their recipients to up to ten common household sounds, locate the source, and guide their handler to it. With full public access rights, these dogs also provide confidence, independence, and companionship in everyday life.

To ensure a sustainable supply of suitable dogs, Lions Assistance Dogs operates dedicated Puppy and Breeding Programs and In 2020, we also expanded our work with the launch of the Medical Assistance Dog Program, supporting Australians living with type 1 diabetes. Like our Hearing Assistance Dogs, Medical Assistance Dogs are provided free of charge to recipients.

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About National Hearing Dog Day

National Hearing Dog Day is a national awareness day held each year on the 19th of April. The day celebrates the vital role hearing dogs play in supporting people who are Deaf or hard of hearing, while also recognising the volunteers, trainers, and supporters who make this work possible.

For Lions Assistance Dogs, the 19th of April marks a milestone in our history—the placement of our first Hearing Assistance Dog in 1982. National Hearing Dog Day honours this legacy while creating opportunities for community education, engagement, and fundraising.

'Amber' our 1st Hearing Assistance Dog

'Yannis' our 700th Hearing Assistance Dog

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Lions Clubs Involvement

To celebrate National Hearing Dog Day 2026, Lions Assistance Dogs will invite Lions Clubs across Australia to participate by hosting a local activation or fundraising activity within their community.

Clubs are encouraged to take part in ways that best suit their members, capacity, and local context. Participation may range from simple awareness activities to community events or fundraising initiatives.

Suggested Activities
One suggested option is for clubs to connect with their local **Bunnings Warehouse** to secure a BBQ fundraising opportunity on the 19th of April, with all proceeds donated to Lions Assistance Dogs.

Clubs may also choose to support National Hearing Dog Day through **alternative activities**, including:

- Donating proceeds from a club-run activity
- Partnering with a local business where a portion of sales on the day is donated to Lions Assistance Dogs
- Hosting a small community awareness or fundraising event
- Promoting National Hearing Dog Day through club communications, newsletters, and social media

Resource Pack – Supporting Club Participation
To minimise planning, administration, and back-and-forth communication, Lions Assistance Dogs will provide each participating club with a comprehensive Resource Pack.

The Resource Pack will include ready-to-use materials to support clubs in delivering a successful activity and ensuring clear, consistent messaging nationwide.

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Lions Clubs Involvement

Levels of Participation
Clubs may choose their level of involvement based on capacity and interest:

- **Awareness** – Share provided materials, promote the day through club communications and social media
- **Community Engagement** – Host a small event or awareness activity using Resource Pack guidance
- **Fundraising and Advocacy** – Run a fundraising initiative and actively promote National Hearing Dog Day within the community

All levels of participation are valued and contribute to the overall success of the initiative.

Key Dates

- National Hearing Dog Day: 19 April 2026
- Club Registration and Promotion: February 2026
- Resource Pack Distribution: March 2026

Thank you for your continued service to your community and for supporting the life-changing work of Hearing Assistance Dogs.

Contact Details

For further information or to register your club's interest in participating in National Hearing Dog Day 2026, please contact:

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