



Mentor a real 'hearo'

HELPING others to deal with their deafness has helped **Rob Dobson** achieve "hearo" status.

Mr Dobson, of Aldinga Beach, provides one-on-one mentoring to children and adults with moderate to severe hearing loss, through his work as a volunteer with the Cochlear Awareness Network (CAN) and Better Hearing Australia for two years.

He was born deaf but received Nucleus Freedom Cochlear Implants in 2007 and 2008. "I was compelled to

give something back to the community when I got my hearing back," Mr Dobson, 39, said. "It's a very fulfilling thing to interact with other people who may be going through a similar experience to what I went through."

This week, Mr Dobson will receive a CAN Hearo Award for his contribution to improving the quality of life of those with hearing loss, in conjunction with National Volunteer Week, May 11-17.

As part of his volunteering with CAN, he also helps run

an online forum which allows people with hearing loss to interact with each other.

"Throughout my schooling I felt isolated from my peers and I only had additional support twice a week. It singled me out from the group, showing I needed help, but at the same time help wasn't offered often enough."

stm To access this site, visit www.c-a-network.com, or to hear more about Rob's story visit <http://rsdobson.blogspot.com/>

VOLUNTEER



HELPING: Rob Dobson with his son Rob, 3, is a volunteer with the Cochlear Awareness Network (CAN) and Better Hearing Australia.

Picture: Stephen Laffer
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