

Parentlink

Telethon
Speech & Hearing 
Linking parents and families to news
at Telethon Speech & Hearing

ISSUE 40 | TERM 1, 2021



A VERY WARM WELCOME TO OUR NEW AND RETURNING FAMILIES



Parentlink

Term 1, 2020

Our purpose

As experts in our field, we excel in bringing together services to support children and families to speak, hear, connect and learn, in ways that empower them to live fulfilling lives.

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Mark Fitzpatrick

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Deputy Principal - Outpost

Geoff Reader

Deputy Principal - Talkabout

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Dates for Your Diary

What your family can look forward to this year!

MARCH

30

MUM'S NIGHT

A spectacular evening just for Mums!

APRIL

01

LAST DAY OF TERM 1

School Holiday period 02/04 - 18/04

19

FIRST DAY OF TERM 2

For all Wembley-based programs

28

DAD'S NIGHT

Enjoy an evening out with other Dads!

29

ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

MAY

05

MAINSTREAM TEACHER WORKSHOPS

Providing support to your child's mainstream teacher

09

MOTHER'S DAY

Celebrate the special person in your life that you call 'mum'!



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Remembering our founding principal, Marie Kormendy AM



First Sounds

Harrison Rex was only 14 hours when his parents learned he was deaf. Just six weeks later, with the help of Telethon Speech and Hearing, he received his first hearing aid and was able to hear his mother for the first time.

The mother of two Eisha Marie Stone filmed the moment of the transformation.

"I just said his name as" Harrison, Hello Harrison, "and he sent out this huge beaming smile. It was the greatest relief I couldn't even start explaining it," said Stone.

The video shows Harrison's grandma filming a life-changing moment while hugging him.

"I took my mum that day because I needed some help. All my denials were wiped out the moment he could hear," Stone said.

At the time of Harrison's diagnosis, Stone and her husband, Chris Rex, didn't know how to find the help their son needed. Harrison Rex was born with a hearing loss, but thanks to Telethon Speech & Hearing he has a hearing aid and can speak.

View Harrison & Eisha Marie's full story online:
www.instagram.com/telethonspeechhearing



Message From Our CEO

Term One updates from Mark Fitzpatrick

Where does the time go?

It is often a question I ask myself and nothing could be further from the truth for Term 1 of 2021. I can't believe that it is almost Easter and Term 1 has nearly finished.

I am sure at the start of the year we had all hoped that the impact of COVID-19 had in 2020 would not be repeated in 2021, yet we had to delay the start of the academic year due to the lockdown announced by the State Government. In responding to the lockdown, the TSH team were nimble in face of the challenges it posed and, with the support of all of our families, the lockdown seemed to pave the way for a settled start of 2021. Needless to say, our team were very happy to have all of our students and clients back at all of our locations as quickly as possible.

For TSH, 2021 was always going to be a busy year. This year we added an additional class each for our Talkabout 4 and 5 programs, welcomed [West Coast Steiner School](#) and [Northshore Christian Grammar School](#) as partners in our Outpost Program, and commenced our ear health program with [Aquinas College](#) for some of their boarding students. Each of those additional parts of our programs have all started smoothly, with our new families fitting into our organisation

beautifully – a number of whom joined us for our annual Family Barbecue.

Not only has the number of families we support grown in 2021, but we have also welcomed a host of new members to our wonderful team, mainly teachers, education assistants and speech therapists. We have always had a wonderfully talented and dedicated team at TSH, and our new team members have added to our fabric already.

Early in March, Hearing Awareness Week gave us a great vehicle to us showcase some of the wonderful work the team does in supporting children with hearing loss. But the best part of that was having two inspiring TSH families tell their own stories. Our families are the true heroes of any success we have, and it was a privilege to have them share their journey in their way. Having our parents tell their stories is critical because market research shows that we still have a lot to do in letting the broader community know that anything is possible for the children we support.

As we head into the holidays for Term 1, on behalf of all of the TSH team I hope all of our families have a safe, restful and enjoyable break. We look forward to seeing you later in April for the start of Term 2.



Ways to stay connected:

Read Parentlink

Visit our website
www.tsh.org.au/latest-news

Share your stories and experiences with us through Direct Messages/ Facebook/Instagram, [@telethonspeechhearing](https://www.facebook.com/telethonspeechhearing)

Continue communicating with your child's Therapist/ Teacher/Family Liaison - we're here to help you!





Family Retreat

Take a break in our newly renovated Family Room!

We're pleased to unveil the results of our newly renovated Family Room to everyone this term. This room is available for use by parents and families (grandparents included!) whose children are enrolled in our programs. It is equipped with coffee/tea making facilities, toys, toilet facilities and parent information.

Families may like to use this room to:

- ▶ Relax while waiting for an appointment.
- ▶ Catch up with other parents after dropping your child off at class.
- ▶ Discuss information with our dedicated NDIS consultant.
- ▶ Attend a parent education talk/workshop.

Our Family Room is located in the Wylie Building, next to the Family Liaison/Enrolments Office.



BEFORE



AFTER

Take a tour around our centre!

Take a 360 degree tour of our Wembley campus, including our Talkabout and Chatterbox classrooms, OT gymnasium and dedicated speech and language library.

It's an exciting new way that your family and friends can explore our centre from anywhere in the world!

You can also view our venue hire spaces, which are available for hire for most times over the year. Net proceeds from this service go back to supporting Telethon Speech & Hearing, so please share this good news with those around you.

Simply scan the QR code to start your virtual tour!



Tour our school



Tour our venue



Welcome to the Family!

A very warm welcome to our new and returning students and families for 2021

Telethon Speech & Hearing's annual Family BBQ was held on Friday 19th February. It was a beautiful, relaxed and warm evening with groups of families from all three programs – Talkabout, Chatterbox and Outpost enjoying the barbecue and socializing with other families.

In total we had 150 people attend, 30 staff assisting with a range of jobs, and 230 sausages consumed! It was lovely to see everyone smiling and making new friends. The children loved being able to enjoy the playground and run around with their classmates.

It was a pleasure to see families and staff from across each of the three programs come together and enjoy the evening. Thank you to everyone that came along to help make the night a big success.

See you next year!







Secondary Assistance Scheme

For families with students in Years 7-12

For Outpost families with children in Years 7-12, you may be eligible for up to \$350 towards school expenses.

Do you hold a:

Centrelink health care card

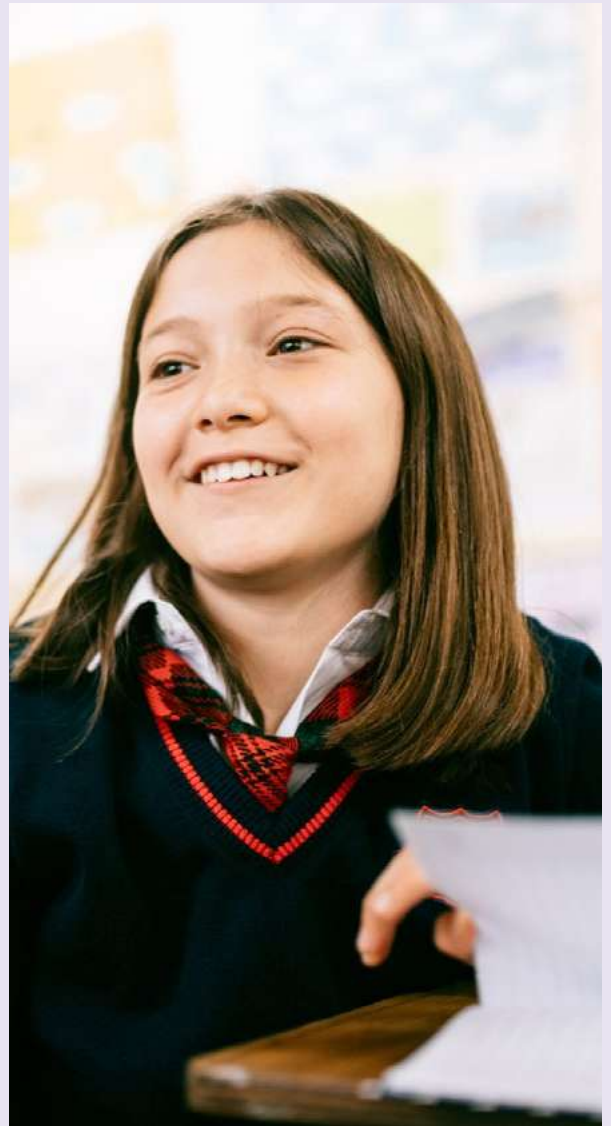
(or) Centrelink Pensioner Concession Card

(or) Veterans' Affairs Pensioner Concession Card?

Applications close Thursday 1 April 2021.

Please contact Kendra Shields for more information:

kshields@tsh.org.au.



We are fundraising with

 **Entertainment**

Give back. Get more.

Support us. Buy your Entertainment Membership & receive a **BONUS \$10 or \$20 eGift Card***

LIMITED TIME OFFER

Offer for a limited time only, for T&C's visit entertainment.com.au/promotions





Accessing the NDIS

Telethon Speech & Hearing is here to help your child access the therapy supports they need to reach their full potential.

1

ACCESSING THE NDIS

To become a participant in the NDIS, you will need to provide evidence of your child's eligibility. If your child is:

- Under 7 years of age - Contact Wanslea Early Childhood Early Intervention team via email ndis@wanslea.asn.au or phone 1300 969 645 and ask for an Access Request Form.
- Over 7 years of age - Contact the NDIA directly via their website or call 1800 800 110 <https://www.ndis.gov.au/applying-access-ndis/how-apply>
- Once you know you are eligible for the NDIS, contact TSH so we can assist you with your planning meeting as soon as possible.

YOUR PLAN REVIEW MEETING

- Six weeks before your plan ends, TSH will provide you with an NDIS review report.
- Let TSH know if you have an earlier planning meeting scheduled so we can help you prepare for it.

PRE-PLANNING WITH TSH

- Chat with TSH about assisting you to identify the goals and supports your child may need over the next 12 months.
- Our dedicated NDIS Consultant will be able to meet with you and help explain what to expect during a planning meeting with the NDIS.

YOUR PLAN IS APPROVED

- Please let TSH know as soon as your plan is approved.
- We will confirm the services that you would like to access from TSH and contact you to sign a service agreement.

SUPPORTING DOCUMENTS & RECOMMENDATIONS

- TSH will develop a clinical service recommendation based on pre-planning discussions and your child's goals.
- We will be able to collate any supporting documents such as medical reports, and annual assessments for you to take to your planning meeting.

PLANNING MEETING SUPPORT

- TSH can support you during your planning meeting. This may be in person, with additional information or documentation.



Please contact our friendly team if you would like more information about this process or have questions about your child's plan: ndis@tsh.org.au.



Annual Family Survey

Family feedback of our services during 2020

Each year Telethon Speech & Hearing conducts a family survey to ensure we continue to provide services that are meeting the needs of you and your family. At the end of 2020, just under half of Telethon Speech & Hearing families (150 families) participated in the survey.

Our 2020 survey data indicated that the vast majority of families perceived that the program was meeting their child's needs and were either highly satisfied or satisfied with the progress their child was making. Almost all families agreed that Telethon Speech & Hearing staff were approachable and professional, with 80% of families strongly agreeing. All families reported that they felt supported by the staff. The majority of the families were also either satisfied or highly satisfied with our administrative services and facilities.

We appreciate all families who took the time to express both positive and constructive feedback to us. Our Leadership Team has been working on responding to suggestions. For example, some of the feedback in the Outpost and Talkabout programs indicated that there are challenges with navigating the NDIS space. We agree and are working to put more support in place for families to assist with this process.

Talkabout families were keen to see an improvement in the physical spaces in the Wyllie building. Our team have been very busy organising painting, repairs to leaking taps and toilets, maintenance of outdoor areas, new carpet, deep clean of all classrooms and wet areas, and the construction of the new family room. We are delighted with our shiny new indoor spaces and hope you are enjoying them too.

We are communicating with all staff and families prior to days where the parking is limited. The allocated parent parking area is being monitored for unauthorised parking as well as a separate parking area adjacent to the auditorium being allocated to families on busy days. We will continue to communicate and monitor this weekly. All areas were deep cleaned during the school holidays. Tighter cleaning protocols are in place and are being monitored daily.

Ensuring our centre delivers world-class services is an ongoing process and we encourage all families to be part of this process.

You can leave feedback with a staff member or provide it anonymously at www.tsh.org.au/about/contact-us/compliments-complaints.

2020 Survey Key Findings:



97.2%

of families reported that our programs were meeting their child's individual learning needs.



97.9%

of families indicated their satisfaction with the progress that their child was making.



99%

of families expressed that the teaching staff in their programs were approachable and professional.



100%

of families felt supported by the program staff.



96.4%

of families perceived their child's confidence had improved since attending TSH.

Figures convey results for our Chatterbox, Outpost, Talkabout and Language Support Groups.



Language Building with Research

How Telethon Speech & Hearing incorporates research to help improve outcomes for your child

If you are a Chatterbox family, you may have found that your teacher or therapist has invited your family to use LENA.

LENA, or “Language **EN**vironment **AN**alysis” is a useful measurement tool used by Telethon Speech & Hearing to measure “near and clear talk” between adults and children. LENA is like a pedometer, but it records the auditory and linguistic environment rather than steps. This tool has been proven to be valid and reliable and has been used for research and clinical practice internationally.

But why is measuring talking so important?

The number of conversational turns that a child takes can predict their language development in later years. Adults can help facilitate a child's language development by the way they talk with them. Talking intelligibly and audibly (“near and clear”)¹ is integral to making our interaction with children effective, and near and clear talk is especially important for children with a hearing loss.

Measuring how much near and clear talk your children are exposed to is important, as it provides us with insightful data into your child's usual environment and enables us to plan ways to improve interactions that fosters healthy language development, based on evidence.

With Chatterbox families, we have used LENA individually in their home settings and also in some playgroup sessions. The data can help the Chatterbox team and parents to work together to facilitate meaningful interaction with their children, and to increase near and clear talk.

Please contact your therapist if you would like to discuss the use of LENA in your therapy and be involved with this important work.

References:

LENA, <https://www.lena.org/research>
 1 Degotardi, S., Han, F., & Torr, J. (2018). Infants' experience with 'near and clear' educator talk: individual variation and its relationship to indicators of quality. *International Journal of Early Years Education*, 1-17. doi: 10.1080/09669760.2018.1479632





firstvoice Alliance

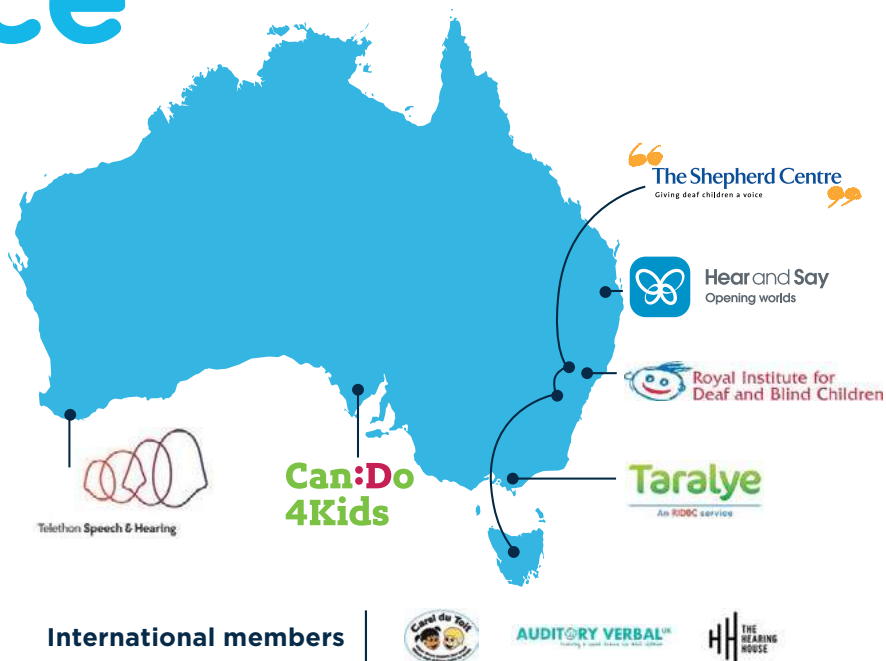
Lending our voice to world-leading centres around the globe

First Voice is an association of world-leading centres across the globe who, through the combination of early diagnosis, advanced hearing technology and highly specialised speech therapy (known as listening and spoken language early intervention) help children with hearing loss to reach their potential.

Telethon Speech & Hearing is proud to be part of this alliance and play an active role in advocating for best practice in early intervention services for children with a hearing loss.

Our centre often works with others in the alliance across the globe to ensure that every child with hearing loss and their family has access to what they need to achieve the spoken language of which they are capable.

For more information visit
www.firstvoice.org.au



Together we achieve



Empowerment for families, children, individuals and communities impacted by hearing loss.



Children starting at their local school with clear speech and language **on par with their peers without a hearing loss.**



Optimised outcomes through evidence-based programs, underpinned by research and extensive clinical experience.



Advocacy at all levels, driving and influencing public perceptions, government policy and clinical pathways.



Access to early diagnosis, the best possible **hearing technology** and **specialised support.**



Adolescents maximising opportunities such as going to university or beginning their career of choice.

In First Voice centres children with hearing loss are achieving better language outcomes than their typically hearing peers.*

Language scores within or above the average range:

86% of First Voice children with hearing loss alone.

84% general population.

73% of children with additional disability and/or exposed to a language other than English.

*Enrolled in a First Voice Listening and Spoken Language Early Intervention program, children otherwise typically developing and whose diagnosis was not delayed



Hearing Care for All

Celebrating Hearing Awareness Week with a tribute to our Outpost team

March 1-7 marked Hearing Awareness Week, a time to raise community awareness of hearing loss and ways to protect your hearing.

The World Health Organization estimates that globally, over 430 million people experience disabling hearing loss, a number that could grow to nearly 700 million by 2050. In Australia, almost 4 million people have some form of hearing loss. This continues to grow as our population ages.

When unaddressed, hearing loss poses a significant challenge for all age groups, hindering language development, communication, cognition, and limiting access to education, employment and social interactions.

In the spirit of the World Health Organization's global campaign, Telethon Speech & Hearing highlighted a small number of individuals in our organisation who bring excellence, inclusivity and a wealth of knowledge to their roles and make our centre such a delightful place for our families and children.

Be sure to read everyone's full story on our website: www.tsh.org.au/latest-news



Karina op den Dries

I'd like to remind parents and families that there are people that care and want to help you and your child. Never be afraid to ask for that help. As a parent of a child with a hearing loss, I can speak from experience. I have learnt that there are a lot of people who have their hearts in the right place and have a wealth of knowledge that are more than willing to share with you and guide you, 'Hearing Care for All'.



Josie Sullivan

I am fortunate to be in a position of working with families to be able to support their transition from our early intervention program into a school-supported service. [...] Every child is unique and our role is to empower parents in fulfilling their dreams for their child's potential.



Simon Tomlinson



Zita Ferreira



Kiah Hall



Containers for Change

Teach your child healthy habits while helping Telethon Speech & Hearing!



Telethon Speech & Hearing is now registered with WA's container deposit scheme – Containers for Change!

Quote TSH's Scheme ID: C10325251 at your local Refund Point to donate your refund.

More than 1.3 billion drink containers are consumed in WA every year. Eligible containers don't have to go to waste; they can be recycled with Containers for Change.

When you recycle with Containers for Change, you get a 10 cent refund for every eligible drink container you return. Keep the refund or donate it to a worthy cause, like us!

Not only will you be helping to preserve the environment for the next generation, but it's also a great way to support WA families impacted by hearing loss or speech/language difficulties.



1



2



3

How it works

1. Collect eligible containers, make sure they have been rinsed and the lids removed.
2. Return your eligible containers to a Refund Point; find your local Refund Point, here.
3. Quote **Telethon Speech & Hearing's Containers for Change Scheme ID: C10325251** at your local Refund Point to donate your refund – the funds will be transferred directly to Telethon Speech & Hearing.

What containers are eligible?

Not all containers are eligible. Here's one way to remember which ones you can return:

Aluminium is a win. Glass and plastic are always in. Steel and paper are good to go. But milk and wine bottles are a no.

How to tell if a container is eligible:

- ▶ The 10c refund mark is displayed on the container, or
- ▶ Its barcode is entered and checked via the container checker (www.containersforchange.com.au/wa/#block-reference-90).

For more information, please view the Containers for Change website: www.containersforchange.com.au/wa

SUPPORT TSH THROUGH CONTAINERS FOR CHANGE!



Please quote our Scheme ID when returning your containers:



C10325251







Storytelling in Talkabout

Strategies to help your child to read and write independently

In Talkabout 4, Talkabout 5 and Language Support groups one of the areas that we focus on is oral language development.

Oral language skills form the foundation of literacy and academic success. A solid foundation of oral language helps children become successful readers, strong communicators, as well as increasing their confidence and overall sense of well-being.

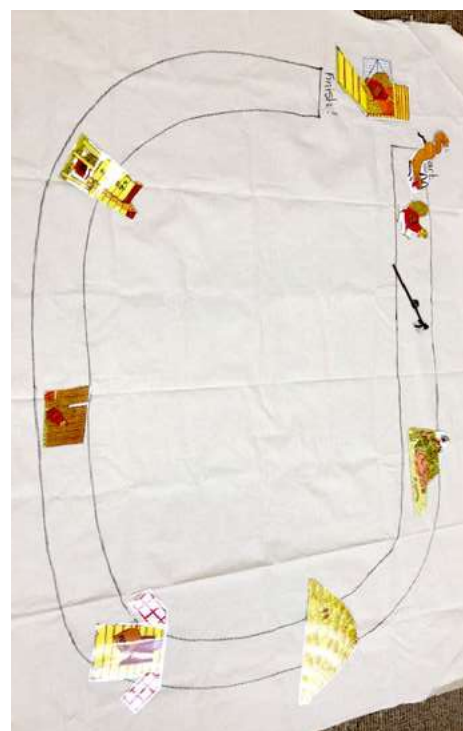
In Talkabout, we use the oral language tool of *Talk for Writing* which is an evidenced based and structured program. The Talk for Writing approach enables children to read and write independently for a variety of audiences and purposes. A key feature is that children internalise

the language structures needed to write through 'talking the text'.

In this picture, students from Talkabout were learning the story "The Little Red Hen". Using storytelling, they were able to follow the sequence of the story, internalise the story and then retell the story.

This activity provides not only the direct instruction of learning and telling a story, but also focuses on vocabulary, social skills, and grammar. Bonus is – the students love Talk for Writing!

Learn more about how to add your child to a Language Support Group: www.tsh.org.au/our-school/talkabout/language-support-groups



Borrow a Book!

Make use of our onsite library and borrow a book for your child

Telethon Speech & Hearing is very fortunate to run an onsite library that features a specially curated range of books and resources to help your child's language and literacy skills flourish.

Chat to our friendly Librarian Julie for advice on books to borrow! Or send Julie an email with your borrowing request and she will hand over books to your child's teacher/therapist for collection. Julie's email is jcox@tsh.org.au.

All family members of an enrolled student can enjoy borrowing something from our library, including:

- ▶ Books in a variety of print sizes and topics
- ▶ Fiction and non-fiction books
- ▶ Blank question kits.
- ▶ Parenting resources for mums and dads



Assistive Listening Devices

A technology update from our Audiology team

In addition to hearing aids, the range of available technology that can assist our ability to hear is constantly evolving.

Here are assistive listening devices to consider for not only our enrolled students and alumni with a diagnosed hearing loss, but any family members, friends or colleagues who sometimes struggle to hear too. Have you thought to check if your elderly relatives would hear their smoke alarm if they were asleep? Let's take a look at some of the options available.

Roger pass around microphone

Many of our youngest students already benefit from the use of a Roger Touchscreen to hear their teacher. Although this device can be used for group work, it can be a little small for our youngsters to pass around. This bigger robust microphone links in with the touchscreen so that children can hear their teacher AND their classmates-an important consideration for them to hear their peers. A Roger receiver can be inserted into the base of a multimed, to enable our implant users to benefit too.

Roger Media Hub

There is an increasing use of streaming video and audio content in the classroom through interactive whiteboards and



PASS AROUND MICROPHONE

smart TVs. The use of a Roger Media Hub enables a child to hear both the teacher and the audio content simultaneously into their Roger receivers.

Rechargeable hearing devices

There are new hearing devices available that do not require pill batteries. This is an important safety consideration for families with young children, as ingesting batteries can be deadly. Next time your audiologist recommends your child requires new hearing aids for clinical reasons, ask them about the rechargeable options. A non-refundable fee is applicable for the charger, but the added safety and convenience makes it an attractive environmentally friendly option for all ages. If your child's devices are still current, review your health



BLUETOOTH HEADPHONES

fund, as you may find this will cover the purchase of a second pair of hearing devices with the rechargeable option. Rechargeable hearing aids are not available in all power levels so this may be an option depending on the degree of hearing loss.

Audeara headphones

Teenagers in particular love these headphones which can be used at school or recreationally. By downloading an app, the user performs a hearing test in each ear so that the headphones amplify appropriately -especially useful for sloping hearing loss thresholds and those with a unilateral loss. For more severe losses, the hearing test can be performed when aided, so our cochlear implant users also benefit. Not only are



they Bluetooth, but they have a noise cancelling function so are great for wearing on buses/planes without having to turn up the volume.

TV Streamer

An alternative to headphones, this device will stream the audio signal directly through a wearer's hearing aids/implants. There are options for all the family to hear, or just the hearing device wearer, so no longer will you have to endure listening to the footie/netflix at loud volumes!

Mobile phones

Many hearing aids and implants can stream directly with a mobile phone for more audible phone calls and music. A phone clip can be worn for the user to press a button to accept a call, and to talk into the mic, to enable a hands-free option.

Vibrating alarm clocks

We can all find it difficult to wake up sometimes, especially on cold winter mornings. The vibrating option on a mobile phone can be sufficient to wake us up, but for those with a more severe hearing loss -or dislike of early starts-a more hard-core option is available!

Options can include a vibrating pad under the pillow, flashing lights and sirens, and it can also be attached to your mobile to give alerts when receiving texts.



Beyond school

When our alumni are old enough to be at home alone, or move away from home, it is important to think about their safety. Can they hear the doorbell, or the smoke alarm when they are asleep without their devices on? Do they stay in hotels and are the hotel reception staff aware they may not hear an emergency alarm? There are a range of wired-in and portable devices available with flashing lights, sirens or pagers. These can work independently or link in together:- including with baby monitors, for when the next generation arrive!

It is important to discuss your work requirements with your audiologist.

For instance, if thinking about a nursing or medical career, there are amplified stethoscopes available to use with/ without hearing aids. This will avoid the embarrassment of a code blue emergency, when actually the lack of heart-beat was due to a flat hearing aid battery!

Depending on a person's level of hearing loss and other additional needs, NDIS funding is mostly available up to the age of 26 years but sometimes can be extended further. Our young adult graduates can discuss their requirements and eligibility with their NDIS planners each year as their needs change, to facilitate their growth towards independent living.

Please note many of these devices are accessories and are not funded under Hearing Australia's fully subsidised Wireless Communication Device program. The audiologists at Hearing Australia can check your NDIS plan and advise if you have funding available for eligible items:- they can order the devices on your behalf if you wish. Alternatively, the affordable items may make a potentially great and well received birthday present.

These are just some examples of technology available, so if you are interested, **have a chat with our audiology team** or your audiologist at Hearing Australia.





Being Deaf is Awesome!

A persuasive writing piece
by Year 3 Outpost student,
Kyden Robertson



Name Kyden

Date 18/3/21

Being deaf is awesome! Wait you dont believe me? Well when i finish this im ^{sure} ~~sure~~ you will believe me AND go asking your mum "can i be deaf*?"

Firstly on a stormy night when theres thunder and storm Someone ~~son~~ who is deaf ~~can~~ ^{can} just take they cochlears off and cant hear the storm.

Secondly at a assembly at school when its noisy * he/she can just take they cochlears off and wont ~~hear~~ ^{hear} a single thing!

Thirldly when Somebodyys annoying you he/she can just take they cochlears off!

Therefore being deaf is ~~an~~ ^{some} awesome when theres a storm, when theres to much noise and when you feelled annoyed.