

# Parentlink

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

ISSUE 43 | TERM 4, 2021



**ZOOMING INTO THE HOLIDAYS! TALKABOUT STUDENTS ENJOY  
THEIR FINAL DAYS IN THE GYM BEFORE CHRISTMAS**



# 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.

## Chief Executive Officer

Mark Fitzpatrick

## Principal

Janene Hall

## Deputy Principal - Outpost

Geoff Reader

## Deputy Principal - Talkabout

Karole Marshall

## Head of Clinical Services

Felicity McNally

## Head of Marketing & Corporate Services

Belinda Leksas

## Head of Growth & Projects

Daniel Lombardo

## Head of Outreach Services

Azadeh Ebrahimi Madiseh

## Telethon Speech & Hearing

36 Dodd Street, Wembley 6014

ABN 73 885 107 614

Registered Charity No. 17993

T: +61 8 9387 9888

F: +61 8 9387 9889

E: [speech@tsh.org.au](mailto:speech@tsh.org.au)

[www.tsh.org.au](http://www.tsh.org.au)

# Dates for Your Diary

*What your family can look forward to this year!*

DECEMBER

10

▶ **LAST DAY OF TERM 4 - CHATTERBOX**  
Please check exact dates with your child's Therapist

13

▶ **LAST DAY OF TERM 4 - TALKABOUT**  
Please check exact dates with your child's Teacher

23

▶ **TSH HOLIDAY CLOSURE**  
Our centre is closed from 23/12/21 until 03/01/22

JANUARY 2022

04

▶ **TSH REOPENS**  
We reopen for the New Year from Tuesday, 4th January 2022

28

▶ **STUDENT ORIENTATION MORNING**  
Get familiar with our programs + meet other students and staff

31

▶ **FIRST DAY OF TERM 1**  
Starts Monday, 31st January 2022

*Telethon Speech & Hearing acknowledges and thanks all individuals and organisations for their support of our centre, including: Channel 7 Telethon Trust, Channel 7 and The West Australian.*



# What's in This Issue

## Table of Contents

- 04 MESSAGE FROM THE CEO**  
Mark Fitzpatrick
- 05 HEALTH & SAFETY UPDATE**  
An important update regarding COVID-19
- 06 TEDDY BEARS' PICNIC**  
Celebrating the end of Semester 1 with Talkabout 4
- MISSING BOOKS**  
Have you seen our library books?
- 07 GAMES NIGHT**  
A social night for Outpost families
- SECONDARY ASSISTANCE SCHEME**  
Receive financial help for school expenses
- 08 BUILDING ON A SOUND LEGACY**  
Chevron Australia commits to helping more regional families
- 09 COOKING UP A STORM**  
Baking treats with Talkabout 5
- 10 TELETHON + LOUD SHIRT DAY 2021**  
Highlights from 2021
- 13 THE GREAT ESCAPE**  
Outpost's Great Christmas Room Escape Challenge
- 14 ART COMPETITION**  
Submit your art and win up to \$1,000!
- 15 MAGICAL HOLIDAYS**  
Tips for having a magical holiday with your child
- 16 LEGO HOLIDAY CLUB**  
Join our Lego challenge this school holidays!



### Happy Hearing

Our Chevron Ear Health team in Karratha continue to keep busy as we head into summer, with even more trips made to check the hearing and ear health of children at the local school.

Here's a candid shot of three-year-old Leslie and mum Tamara in one of our audiology booths. Leslie had a great time during his test, with lots and laughter and smiles shared with our staff throughout the whole experience.

For more exciting updates on our regional ear health program, turn to page 8!



# Message From Our CEO

## *Term Four updates from Mark Fitzpatrick*

Another year has flown past and what have we to show for it? *Plenty!*

It has been a year full of wonderful activities facilitated by TSH's wonderful staff aimed to engage children and the community, including youth leadership events, Book Week events, pyjama days, Power of Speech, a high tea, aerobics night, Blue Light discos, NAIDOC celebrations, and more. Most importantly, it has been a year where the growth and development of children we support has always been the focus of the TSH team. The conversations I constantly have with families is the improvement they can see for their children and the outcomes they have been able to achieve. And nothing fills my heart more than hearing about the work our team does so well.

As we head towards the Christmas break, I would like to extend my thanks to all families engaging with our services, trusting our team to support you and

your child - it is a privilege we take very seriously. Your children fuel the passion for our staff to go over and above throughout the year (as they so often do).

### **Our work does not stop here**

During summer we will be building new classrooms, creating better spaces, preparing for new classes, working to welcome new schools in our Outpost program, instigating new outreach services in more locations across WA, supporting families' access to the NDIS, and much, much more.

### **More schools for Outpost**

TSH has the most unique and effective school-based program for children with hearing loss anywhere in the country. The outcomes we help deliver for children in mainstream schooling is remarkable, so the opportunity to open access to the program for more families is something we are very proud of.



In 2021, [West Coast Steiner School](#) and [Northshore Christian Grammar School](#) joined our TSH community and with parent advocacy, we are excited to see more WA schools joining Outpost next year. In 2022, we will have [Emmanuel Catholic College](#) in Success and [Kalamunda Christian School](#) in Walliston both join us. We look forward to commencing our partnership with those schools and continuing to embed our relationships with all host schools so we can support more children with hearing loss and their families.

### **Integrated Outreach Programs – Another unique offering by TSH**

Many of our families participate in our programs that have been developed after years of research, developing the evidence base, and ensuring we have the correct multidisciplinary teams established. Unfortunately, for so many children living outside the Perth metropolitan region, that is not possible. In fact, we are seeing a diminishing number of specialists available in a lot of regional towns. This is where TSH can make such a difference.

In previous iterations of Parentlink I have written about our wonderful ear health program and the impact it has had on children around WA. Now we are working out ways to build on that successful program by adding speech and occupational therapy supports in schools in a number of locations. This approach to support hearing, speech and motor development for children in educational







and other settings is what we do so well. Now we are able to bring it to children outside of Perth. Our first foray into the scaffolding of our services in this way has been with Onslow Primary, followed by Waroona District High in regional locations, and Harmony Primary in the southern corridor of Perth.

What we are attempting to do through this approach is provide children access to our leading services, giving them opportunities to thrive in their early years of schooling. We hope this unique approach will help us to show government how to provide such services effectively to the regions.

### Happy Holidays

On behalf of the TSH team, I would like to take this opportunity to wish all families a safe, relaxing, and joyous festive season. We look forward to seeing you back in 2022, full of energy and ready to embrace an exciting year ahead.



# COVID-19 update

As we prepare for the end of the year, I was hoping that COVID-19 was something I did not have to refer to in Parentlink. However, with the WA borders likely to open up before the start of Term 1 in 2022, I would like to reassure all parents that we take your safety and the safety of your family very seriously.

To this end, Telethon Speech & Hearing will:

- ✓ Ensure all staff can attend work safely by meeting mandatory vaccination requirements.
- ✓ Continue to work with State and Federal Governments (namely the Department of Health, the Department of Education, and the National Disability Insurance Agency) along with our industry associations on any updated public health orders or directions.
- ✓ Put in place any reasonable practices to minimise the impact of COVID-19 on you, your children, your family, our staff, and our community.
- ✓ Communicate with you directly.

As a team we have always made open and direct communications with our families a priority. This priority continues as the WA Government releases its [COVID-19 Safe Transition Plan](#) and plans to ease border controls once a 90 per cent double dose vaccination rate is achieved.

Should we need to contact you regarding any changes that may impact your family, **official communications from Telethon Speech & Hearing will be made via SMS and email**. Therefore we encourage all families to [contact us](#) immediately if your circumstances or contact details change at any time throughout the year.

Again, the health and safety of you, your children, and our community are all of critical importance to the TSH team.

Together we can provide a safe environment for all to thrive and build stronger communities for the long-term.



# Teddy Bears' Picnic

***Celebrating the end of Semester 1 in comfy style!***

In Term 2 our Talkabout 4 classes planned a Teddy Bears' Picnic, with students wearing pajamas to school to celebrate the end of Semester One. The picnic was an extension of our investigation of the classic narrative and song "Teddy Bears' Picnic".

The Monday and Tuesday classes were lucky to celebrate and enjoy this event as scheduled, however, due to a mandated lockdown our Thursday and Friday classes had to have their picnic cancelled. But you can't keep a good thing down and due to popular demand, our Thursday and Friday classes were able to have their picnic once school returned in Term 3! Even our CEO Mark Fitzpatrick joined in, and made sure to follow the dress code for the occasion by appearing in his *Bluey* pajamas.

Overall, the outdoor picnics were an enormous success and were enjoyed by the students, staff, and parents alike. Everyone even had a little boogie together outside under the shade of the playground tree.

Thank you to all families who brought in yummy food that was gobbled up and all the students who made each picnic such a wonderful celebration of our time together.



# Missing Books

***Please return your library books before the end of Term!***

A kind reminder to all parents and caregivers, that if you have a library book or DVDs at home, please return them to the library by the end of this term.

The holidays are often a time for cleaning up and clearing space - often overdue items can be found in the process!

By returning all books, you are allowing other families and children to enjoy our carefully curated resources for next year and beyond.

Thank you!







# Games Night

## *Social evening for children with hearing loss*

On September 22, students from the Outpost Youth Leadership Team enjoyed a wonderful evening of laughter and fun as they gathered together for another social evening.

Our theme was "Fun Night, Games Night", so while parents received the latest news about NDIS, members of the Youth Leadership Team were playing a variety of board and floor games. Vital connections were strengthened over physical and mental challenges and a lot of laughter ensured the night was a roaring success.

Thank you to TSH staff, Felicity McNally and Kelly-Ann Kelly who explained the finer details about creating a plan for the NDIS with families.



# Secondary Assistance Scheme

## *Up to \$350 towards school expenses*

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 Friday 8th April 2022.

Please contact Kendra Shields for more information:  
[kshields@tsh.org.au](mailto:kshields@tsh.org.au).





# Building on a Sound Legacy

## ***Chevron Australia commits a further AUD\$2.8 million to Telethon Speech & Hearing and the Telethon Trust***

In 2021, Chevron Australia and Telethon Speech & Hearing celebrate a decade of partnering to deliver best-practice ear health care in the Pilbara, preventing middle ear disease and improving child health outcomes.

This year, Chevron Australia is building on this legacy by committing a further AUD\$2.8 million to Telethon Speech & Hearing (TSH) and the Telethon Trust.

Alongside TSH chief executive officer Mark Fitzpatrick, Chevron Australia managing director Mark Hatfield appeared live on air during Telethon7 Weekend – Western Australia's largest televised annual charity event – to announce the latest contribution.

"We are committed to helping our local communities thrive by giving in areas where we think we can make a real difference," said Hatfield.

"This partnership has touched so many people and will continue improving lives for years to come." More than 13,000 people have received ear health screenings through the Chevron Pilbara Ear Health Program.

The partnership expansion will significantly increase the scale of early diagnosis and intervention services in the region, driving greater health and education outcomes in the Pilbara. In addition to broadening the scope of the Chevron Pilbara Ear Health Program,



Chevron will boost funding for the Onslow Education Initiative to include speech and language support, along with occupational therapy to identify students not meeting age appropriate fine and gross motor developmental milestones.

"We are extraordinarily grateful for our long-term partnership with Chevron Australia, which has seen the delivery of Australia's leading integrated ear health program," said TSH CEO Mark Fitzpatrick.

"Ear health has a profound impact on a person's life – particularly children, affecting their ability to learn, play and socialise, and later to be employed and be an active member of their community.

"Through our partnership, thousands of children and hundreds of adults have received the essential support they needed.

"Together, we are pioneering an approach many communities will seek to adopt in the future," said Fitzpatrick.

With thanks to our decade long relationship with Chevron, Telethon Speech & Hearing is playing a lead role in national discussions to improve ear health and learning outcomes for Aboriginal people, elevating their voice and applying our learnings to this important topic.

The Chevron Pilbara Ear Health Program is unique to Western Australia and provides mobile screening, diagnosis and clinical care pathways to address the significant ear health concerns of children in remote communities, with a focus on Aboriginal ear health.

For more information about our work in the Pilbara, visit <https://australia.chevron.com>.





# Cooking Up a Storm

## *Learning about fairness and sharing through baking sweet holiday treats*

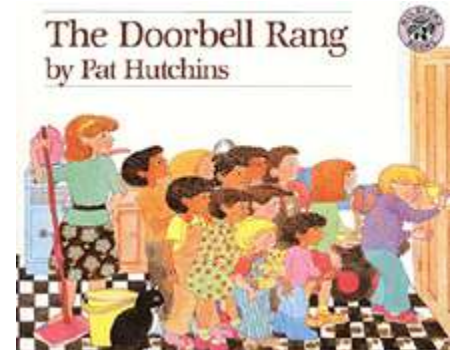
In Talkabout 5, we recently read the story 'The Doorbell Rang' by Pat Hutchins. In the story, a family was sharing a tray of biscuits and dividing the heart shaped biscuits into equal shares. Each time a visitor came to the door they found they had less biscuits each. We used this story as a great base for teaching our students about what 'equal' means and about sharing fairly. We had a group discussion about the importance of being fair so that everybody had the same amount, and everybody is happy.

We decided to do some cooking of our own and made a big tray of heart shaped biscuits, just like the biscuits in the story. We followed a visual recipe step by step and took turns adding ingredients and mixing the dough. The vanilla smell was amazing! Then we divided them equally, so that everybody got two biscuits. The children were encouraged to eat one biscuit and share one with someone they love at home.

Cooking is a great way for children to develop procedural narratives and to be able to break a big process down into small steps. Cooking is also a great mathematics activity as children learn the language of measurement, such as 'half', 'full', 'empty' and units of measurement such as 'grams' and 'teaspoons'. It is also a wonderful sensory experience with children being able to squeeze the dough, smell the vanilla and taste the biscuits. There is so much opportunity to learn language in a fun way.

If you would like to try making biscuits at home and sharing them equally with your family, here is the recipe.

Happy cooking!



### Ingredients:

- 250g soft butter
- 140g caster sugar
- 300g plain flour
- 1 egg yolk
- 2 tsp vanilla extract



### Method:

1. Preheat oven to 180°C (160°C in fan forced oven).
2. Cream the butter and sugar in a large bowl.
3. Add the egg yolk and vanilla and mix.
4. Sift the flour into the mixture and mix until combined.
5. Dust a clean surface with flour and roll out the dough.
6. Use cookie cutters to cut shape into the dough.
7. Place shapes onto a lined baking tray.
8. Cook on 180°C (160°C in fan forced oven) for 15 minutes.
9. Leave the biscuits to cool.
10. Decorate (optional).

# Telethon + Loud Shirt Day

## Getting LOUD with the Western Australian community

**\$62,115,467** - can you believe this was the astonishing amount of funds raised during Telethon this year?!

Telethon Speech & Hearing was proud to be a part of another marathon 26-hour weekend as we took part in the Telethon Family Festival along with 65 other amazing causes that support the wellbeing of children and their families.

Our team had a fantastic time over the weekend greeting thousands of families from all walks of life and introducing them to the extensive

range of therapeutic and educational services that we offer.

On Sunday, our booth shone even brighter as the camera lights from the Channel 7 film crew arrived to reveal our highest fundraiser for Loud Shirt Day 2021... Shelford Homes!

Congratulations to the team at Shelford who raised **over \$10,700** through a range of colourful initiatives, including a special morning tea, team BBQ, best dressed competition and lolly jar competition. Wow!

2021 also saw a growing number of organisations and individuals joining the #WearItLoud movement in many creative ways to help make an important difference for children who are deaf or hard of hearing:







**Premier's Loud Shirt Day Morning Tea**



**Bike Bar Aerobics Night at Claremont Quarter**



**Once Upon a Tea Time High Tea Event**



**Artist Bianca Wilder (Noongar OOKA Creations)**



# \$53,000 raised! Thank you for helping raise funds for Loud Shirt Day



## INCLUDING MANY MORE SUPPORTERS IN OUR BEAUTIFUL COMMUNITY:

ACL	EEC	Nido Early School Treeby	Time 4 Kindy
Adelaide Tools	Fleetcare	Prominent primary and	Tiny Tots Childcare Centre
Advanced Hearing WA Team	Grandma Rosies	highschools in WA	TLCU
Bankwest	Green Leaves Gwelup	RAC	UWA Early Learning Centre
Barra-Kuba	Griffiths Bros Coffee	Rio Tinto Perth	WA Social Research
BB Aerobics by Night	Hearing Australia	RPH Pharmacy	Network
Bunnings Baldivis	Home Instead Fashionistas	Sanwell Plumbing	Warooga Childcare Centre
Carbon Group	Labor State Party	Seven West Media	Warrigal Coniston
Character Communications	Landsdale Early Learning	Sonas Early Learning & Care	iseek computing pty ltd
City of Rockingham	and Enrichment	Speedcast	
Department of Justice ICT	Little Jazzy's	Success Library	
e Fire & Safety	MBC	The Lucky Shag Waterfront	
E Shift Minions	MineGeoTech	Bar	
EBM	MVLV Power Solutions	The Shelford Group	



# The Great Escape

## *Holiday fun with Outpost's Youth Leadership Team*

On November 10, students from the Youth Leadership Team and their parents were challenged to work collaboratively to be the first team to solve all five tasks and win *The Great Christmas Escape Room Challenge*! A series of tricky tasks and challenges were set and had to be successfully completed as a group in order to advance to the next stage.

The tasks included a Christmas carol hidden message, encrypted Christmas message mystery, Christmas treat word maze, Christmas movie facts and a final ornament race.

The students had the opportunity to connect with old friends, build new relationships, be challenged, and support each other, all while having lots of fun!

The winning team successfully completed all five tasks and won a perpetual trophy before having a shared dinner with friends. It was a great opportunity to catch up and relax before the busyness of Christmas and end of term celebrations.

Thank you to all the students, parents, and staff for working hard to support each other (in some very challenging tasks!) and being such great sports. Special mention to Kiah Hall who put together the Escape Room Challenge. We look forward to another fun year with the Youth Leadership Team next year in 2022.







# Art Competition

**SUBMISSION DATE - 23 January 2022**

For further information and terms and conditions visit news at [deafchildrenaustralia.org.au](http://deafchildrenaustralia.org.au)

**SUBMISSION DEADLINE:**  
23 January 2022

## ART COMPETITION

For this competition, the categories for artworks include:

**VISUAL ART**  
PAINTINGS, SCULPTURE, DRAWING, POTTERY, PHOTOGRAPHY, COLLAGE

**DIGITAL ART**  
VIDEO ART, ILLUSTRATION, ANIMATION, COMPUTER DRAWINGS

---

**PRIZES:**

**12 – 17 YEARS**  
1ST PRIZE \$1000  
RUNNER UP \$500

---

**18 – 23 YEARS**  
1ST PRIZE \$1000  
RUNNER UP \$500

---

**PEOPLE'S CHOICE**  
\$500

Deaf Children Australia's inaugural art competition is dedicated to supporting, promoting, and nurturing deaf and hard-of-hearing youth in their pursuit of creativity and self-expression. The theme is "This is Me" and is an amazing opportunity for 12 to 23 year-olds to showcase their talents.

DCA is accepting a wide variety of submissions for this competition - both visual and digital art. The competition has two separate age divisions: 12-17 and 18-23. If you'd like to participate, download the submission form and get creative!

Enter online:

<https://www.deafchildrenaustralia.org.au/introducing-our-inaugural-art-competition/>

**SOLD OUT!**

Due to an overwhelming response our 2021 Lucky Sip Wine Raffle sold out early! Thank you to everyone who purchased a ticket and helped share news of our raffle with others. Stay tuned for the announcement of all winners - **December 8** at [www.tsh.org.au](http://www.tsh.org.au)!

**THANK YOU TO OUR MAJOR SPONSORS:**



*Lucky Sip*  
**2021 WINE RAFFLE**

Telethon  
Speech & Hearing

telethon

The West  
Australian





# Magical Holidays

## *Tips for a magical holiday season*

The holiday season is one of joy, of gift-giving, and of family time. Many families have special traditions, which come only once a year. The holiday offers unique opportunities for language and learning, but can also present unique challenges for children with hearing loss. Here are some tips to help prepare your child for some of these challenges and make the most of what this time of year has to offer.



### **TIP 1: PLAN AHEAD**

In the midst of all the fun and excitement many of our usual routines, which our children thrive on, are disrupted. Routines provide structure and security children need to learn. Preparing your child for changes in routine, who they will see and what they can expect is a great place to start. You can even ask family members and friends they haven't seen in a while to send a short greeting video to help your child tune into unfamiliar voices.

### **TIP 2: SUPPORT COMMUNICATION**

Preparing friends and family to communicate with your little one will help them successfully interact with one another. Tips like:

- ◆ Avoiding too many questions. Rather provide comments like "Let's take a look at what Santa brought you". "Wow, I really like your t-shirt. It has an elf on it".
- ◆ PAUSE and wait to give your child an opportunity to respond to comments.
- ◆ Getting down onto your child's level so it's easier for them to hear and communicate with their communication partner.

### **TIP 3: AVOID THE SPOTLIGHT**

Often we are so proud of our child's progress we want them to show family and friend what they have learnt. To avoid unintentional pressure, record their newest skills (e.g. singing a song, talking, jumping) on your phone to share with family and friends.

### **TIP 4: REMEMBER PAST EXPERIENCES**

Show your child photo's of family and friends from previous experiences. Talk about who they are and what they are like (e.g. Remember this is Aunty Jane. You had lots of fun playing with her at the park). Look at past holiday photo's and talk about what you did (e.g. Remember we all went to grandma's house for lunch).

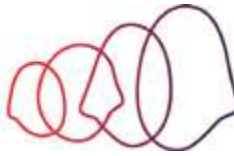


### **TIP 5: ROLE PLAY**

Children love pretend play and learn through play. Role play what they might experience over the holiday season to better prepare them. Some examples are:

- ◆ Wrapping, giving and receiving gifts. Practice social language like "Thank you".
- ◆ Baking cookies. Pretend to bake and share cookies.
- ◆ Mealtime. Get some stuffed toys, plates, cups and cutlery and pretend to have a holiday meal. Practice setting the table together.

Telethon  
Speech & Hearing



# Lego Legends Holiday Club!

Join us at Telethon Speech & Hearing to have fun building **Harry Potter Lego** projects, competing in Lego challenges and creating Lego and arts displays while practicing talking, negotiating, problem solving and working with a team of other Lego Legends!

## Develop skills in:

- Taking turns
- Eye contact
- Negotiating
- Collaborating with others
- Problem solving

## Date:

20th January 2022

## Time:

10am-1pm

## Location:

Telethon Speech & Hearing (Lakeside Room)  
36 Dodd Street, Wembley 6014



## How to join:

Email [speech@tsh.org.au](mailto:speech@tsh.org.au) or call  
(08) 9387 9888 to reserve a place!

## Notes for parents/caregivers:

You can use your child's NDIS funding to access this group. Please contact Telethon Speech & Hearing for pricing and further information.

## This program runs for 3 hours.

Please provide a healthy lunch, snack and water for your child(ren) to enjoy throughout our Lego building session.