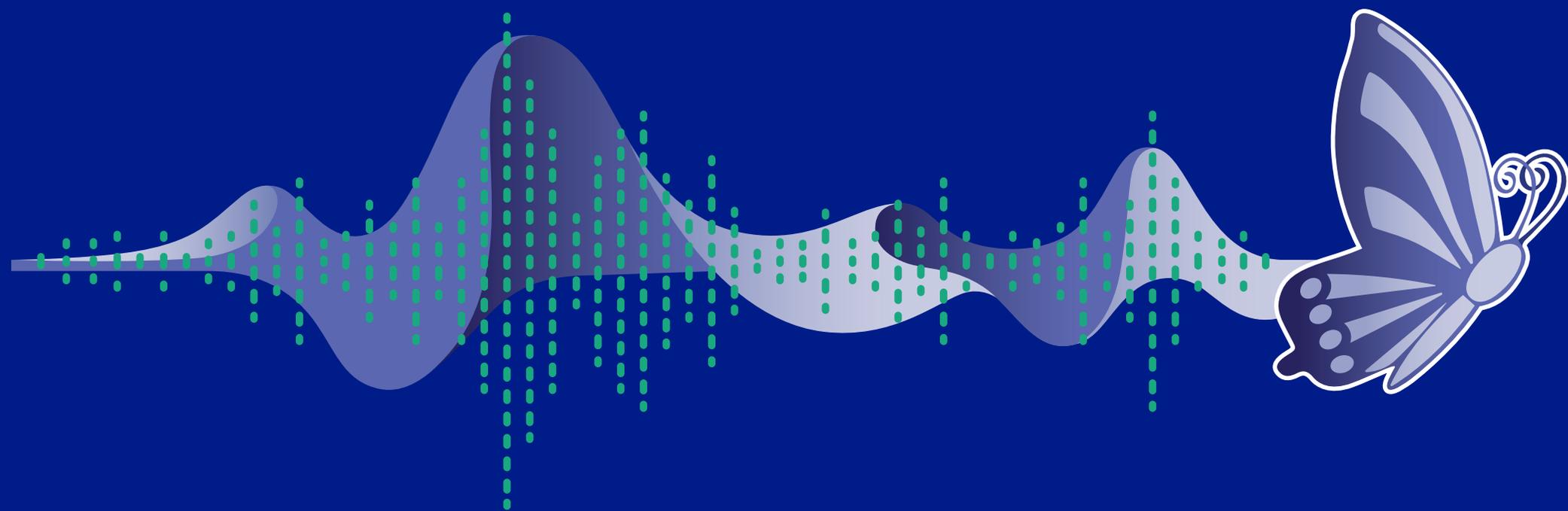




Deafness
Foundation

2020/21 ANNUAL REPORT



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Message from the President

– Dr Denise Goldman



Now more than ever, people the world over find themselves turning to their communities for strength. For us at the Deafness Foundation, ensuring communities are fully inclusive to people with hearing loss is central to our mission. Our pillars of support, education and research seek to enhance the lives of people with hearing loss and reduce the incidence of preventable hearing loss.

Despite the challenges, we started 2021 off with fervour. Our new Hearing Awareness Week campaign, Sound Bites, was launched to raise community awareness of the impact of hearing loss and how implementing simple preventative strategies can protect this valuable sense. Over 50 schools across Australia held Sound Bites Picnics with more than 12,000 students in attendance. We were also fortunate to hold a gala picnic at the beautiful Ripponlea, which featured

fabulous weather, delicious picnic boxes and inspiring entertainment by renowned vocalist Vivien Hamilton, all surrounded by butterflies, our mascot, in the magical gardens.

Our research programme continued in outstanding fashion over 2020/21, focusing in on awareness and diagnosis. Together with the Royal Victorian Eye and Ear Hospital, our Peter Howson Fellowship, awarded to Dr Caitlin Barr, is identifying best practice in assisting GPs to be aware of, and better address, the needs of patients with hearing loss. This research, undertaken with partners Soundfair, is an excellent example of how the Deafness Foundation collaborates and partners across the sector to deliver greater impact.

As a grass roots organisation, our community grants are vital to our mission of inclusivity. Over the past year we presented Education Encouragement Awards to three remarkable young adults: Hayley Edgar, Year 11, St Mary's College/

Aquinas College VIC; Erin Fuller, Year 12, Camden High School, NSW; and Maddison Hatcher, Year 11, Elderslie High School, NSW. These awards recognise the inspiring resilience and positivity our recipients display despite access challenges. We are excited to follow the progress of these future stars whose career aspirations include performing on stage or screen, a writer for Architectural Digest and a speech pathologist!

Further community grants supported Improving accessibility to various services with the incorporation of Auslan, and better understanding early language experience and later vocabulary development among urban Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander children.

2022 is set to be a capricious year the world over, one that will undoubtedly yield challenges for people with hearing loss. To continue to deliver impact to the community in these times, the Deafness Foundation is

evolving towards a leaner and more virtual format. We wish to extend our deep gratitude for the outstanding commitment and contributions of our outgoing executive team: Ms Sylvia Rosemond (EO), Ms Karen Son, Ms Helen Dunlop and Ms Jenny Portelli.

Finally, I would like to acknowledge and thank my fellow Board Directors, volunteers, Governors, and wider Deafness Foundation family for your unwavering support. Helen Keller put it best, saying:

“Alone we can do so little; together we can do so much.”

Executive Officer Update

- Sylvia Rosemond



With the challenges faced worldwide over the last 2 years as a result of the impacts of the COVID19 pandemic, the Deafness Foundation staff, and board were able to face the challenges and pivot to meet the needs of the Foundation and continue to maintain core business outcomes to support the Deaf and hard of hearing community.

Our combined 2020/2021 annual report highlights achievements of the Deafness Foundation over this time which demonstrates the dedication to the community and the appetite of the organisation to fulfill gaps and deliver innovative ideas to raise awareness of the impacts of hearing loss and to promote a sense of community and facilitate inclusion.

Our partners have been a great support and I would particularly like to thank and recognised the Melbourne Deaf and hard of hearing Lions club branch, who started 2 years ago in partnership

with the Deafness Foundation to provide opportunities to the Deaf and hard of hearing community to contribute through volunteering to the community and raise the opportunity for social interaction on a social justice platform.

I would also like to recognise Bendigo Bank Ringwood/ Bayswater for their continued support and championing awareness through the Bendigo Banks Branches nationwide.

I would like to recognise all our sponsors, partners, and supporters for their ongoing support.

Thank-you to the staff, board, Governors, and members for their support it has been a wonderful opportunity to work with the Deafness Foundation and have an understanding of the impact of the organisations work.



Hearing Awareness Week 2021

- Jane Prior



In 2021 the Foundation launched Sound Bites Picnics to mark Hearing Awareness Week. The Committee established a new website: soundbitespicnic.com.au which is the main platform for the picnics and is linked to the Foundations website.

Sound Bites Picnics are a new way to raise awareness in the community of the needs of the deaf and hard of hearing. Through Sound Bites picnics held in schools, sponsored by organisations and by the community we hope to increase participation in Hearing Awareness Week and the Foundations' activities.

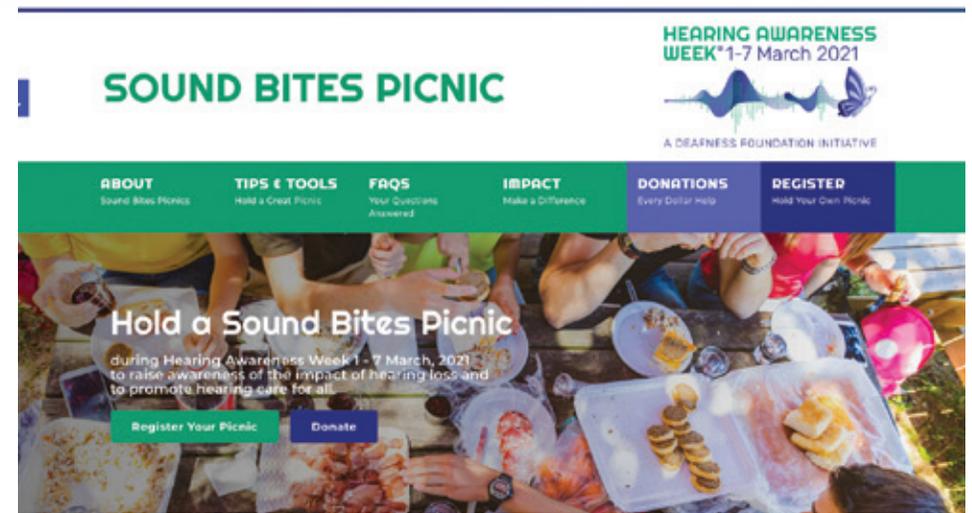
In its first year, Sound Bites Picnics were held in almost 50 schools across Australia with more than 12,000 students attending a picnic. Students contributed a gold coin to the Foundation. Some Schools supported additional fund raising activity during their picnics and used activities and games to raise hearing awareness. The

Foundation provided Butterfly pins to all school participants.

A gala picnic for friends of the Deafness Foundation held at Ripponlea on World Hearing Day attracted positive support, from which we hope to grow further events, post Covid.

Through negotiation with the Deafness Forum, the Foundation will assume responsibility for the website for Hearing Awareness Week from mid 2021. This is a vitally important communications platform for the Foundation in future to support Hearing Awareness Week.

Despite the Covid-19 pandemic restrictions in place at the time, Hearing Awareness Week 2021 delivered a net surplus to the Foundation in its first year of just over \$6,000.



Soundbites Inaugural Gala Picnic

The soundbites inaugural picnic was held on the 7th March at beautiful Ripponlea Estate. Our sincere thanks to our guests and supporters for attending on the day to make the day such a fun and successful day. Also thank you to volunteers and staff for their assistance on the day.

We would also like to send our gratitude to the team Led by Emma-Jane Hamilton at MAPS Marketing, for their incredible support in making the Soundbites picnic initiative such a success.



Soundbites Picnics



Sound bites picnics were held across Australia with over 12000 students participating in picnics and many community picnics were held during Hearing Awareness Week 1-7 March.

Thank-you to our supporters who helped raise awareness and funds to support the deaf and hard of hearing community.

Research Committee

– Colette McKay

2020/21 has been a difficult year for research activity and planning, with the pandemic slowing down research progress all over Australia. Nevertheless, we can share some positive news about our ongoing support of research.

The final stages of the 2019/20 Peter Howson Fellowship (co-funded with the Royal Victorian Eye and Ear Hospital) are currently being completed by Caitlin Barr in collaboration with SoundFair. Caitlin's project is aiming to develop ways to help general practitioners to be aware of, and to better address, the needs of patients with hearing loss. Plans are now in place to fund a new Peter Howson Fellowship for 2022/23.

Our first recipient of the Deafness Foundation PhD studentship, Emma Webb, has made progress in her project aimed at enabling early detection and intervention of infants with congenital cytomegalovirus (cCMV), the

leading infectious cause of hearing loss in babies. Her first publication, in collaboration with the team at the Murdoch Children's Research Institute has found that a saliva test to screen for CMV, was feasible and well-received by families. She found that the CMV test allowed for early and accurate diagnosis, could reduce parental guilt and potentially prevent hearing loss progression, and that it should be added to infant hearing screening programs across Australia. We are looking forward to hear about her next steps towards that last goal. Well done Emma!

Also making progress is Kaye Scott, who completed her Deafness Foundation Educational Research Fellowship in 2021, and who is studied "Reading Comprehension and Theory of Mind in Children who are Deaf or Hard of Hearing" at Deakin University. Through her fellowship she found that children who had better reading comprehension skills had better theory of mind

skills. She is following up this research now to test the efficacy of an intervention programme to develop children's theory of mind skills.

Finally, I would like to welcome two new members of the Research Committee: Dr. Julia Wunderlich, and Prof. Piers Dawes, who along with myself and long-standing member Peter Ickeringill, will take the research Committee's work into 2022.



Research focus: Screening for Hearing Loss in babies

A Melbourne-led study has found a saliva test to screen for the leading infectious cause of hearing loss in babies, congenital cytomegalovirus (cCMV), was feasible and well-received by families

The research showed a high uptake by parents, with 76 per cent of families agreeing to do the screen, and 100 per cent of babies' saliva swabs taken by their parents within the required 21 days after birth. Additionally, more than 90 per cent of parents thought the screening was easy to do, was a good idea, and were glad their baby had the screening test

The researchers stated given the cCMV test allowed for early and accurate diagnosis, could reduce parental guilt and potentially prevent hearing loss progression, it should be added to infant hearing screening programs across Australia

A saliva test to screen for the leading infectious cause of hearing loss in babies was feasible and well-received by families, according to a new study.

The research led by the Murdoch Children's Research Institute (MCRI) and published in the Journal of Paediatrics and Child Health, could pave the way for testing of congenital cytomegalovirus (cCMV) to be added to infant hearing screening programs across Australia.

cCMV can be harmless, but in some babies it leads to hearing loss, neurodevelopmental disorders such as cerebral palsy or vision loss. About 1 in every 200 babies is born with cCMV. MCRI PhD student Emma Webb said this was the first study to show that saliva swabs taken by parents to check for cCMV in their babies was achievable and acceptable to Australian families, even when the swabs were taken at home after discharge from hospital.

The study involved 96 families across four maternity hospitals in Melbourne whose babies failed their second Victorian Infant Hearing Screening Program (VIHSP) tests.

Accurate diagnosis of cCMV requires a saliva test from an infant in the first 21 days after birth, with antiviral treatment recommended, if clinically indicated, within the first month of life.

The research found a high uptake by parents with 100 per cent of infant saliva swabs taken within the required timeframe. One baby was found to have cCMV and was immediately treated.

The findings also showed more than 90 per cent of parents thought the screening was easy to do, was a good idea, and were glad their baby had the screening test.

Ms Webb said CMV was present in 80 per cent of Australian adults and while it's mostly harmless, it could affect a developing fetus.

"Once a person becomes infected, the virus remains present but usually dormant for life," she said. "Infection or reactivation can occur during pregnancy, with the small risk that the unborn baby may contract the virus."

International guidelines recommend targeted cCMV screening of newborns who do not pass their hearing checks.

MCRI Associate Professor Valerie Sung said because cCMV was not routinely screened for in Australia, detecting affected infants in time to offer potential antiviral treatment was less likely.

"Given this test allows for an early and accurate cCMV diagnosis, could reduce unnecessary parental guilt, and help prevent lifelong disabilities it should be rolled out nation-wide through newborn hearing screening programs," she said.

Associate Professor Sung said timely screening for cCMV became more difficult after women and babies were discharged.

“Early discharge, as we’re seeing more now of during COVID-19, can be a big problem because it means we might miss cases of cCMV,” she said. “But our study has shown parents can do the swab themselves at home even after leaving the hospital.”

Associate Professor Sung said training of hearing screeners, midwives and nurses to complete swabs in hospital would likely reduce false positive rates and further improve the uptake and turnaround time for results.

Associate Professor Sung has recently received a grant from the National Health and Medical Research Council (NHMRC) to trial a new technology, which can be turned into a rapid bedside test, to detect cCMV and determine how common it’s in newborns without hearing loss. The results

will be used to determine whether universal newborn cCMV screening was warranted. Babies enrolled in the Gen V research project, one of the world’s largest-ever birth and parent cohort studies, will take part in the trial.

Researchers from the University of Melbourne, The Royal Children’s Hospital, Monash University, Mercy Hospital for Women, The Royal Women’s Hospital, Western Health, Monash Children’s Hospital, Oxford Vaccine Group, NIHR Oxford Biomedical Research Centre, The University of Sydney and the Sydney Children’s Hospital Network also contributed to the study.

Publication: Emma Webb, Alanna N Gillespie, Zeffie Poulakis, Tim Gartland, Jim Buttery, Dan Casalaz, Andrew J Daley, Susan Donath, Amanda Gwee, Susan E Jacobs, Linny K Phuong, Rosalynn Pszczola, Rachael Purcell, Kerryn Saunders, Seilesh Kadambari, Cheryl A. Jones, Valerie Sung, on behalf of the HearS-cCMV Study Team. ‘Feasibility and

acceptability of targeted salivary cytomegalovirus screening through universal newborn hearing screening,’ *Journal of Paediatrics and Child Health*. DOI:

Grants Report

Marie Fram



Deafness Foundation works towards wellbeing and equality for people for are deaf or hard of hearing through a focus on access, awareness, and diagnosis, treatment and prevention. Deafness Foundation has a long and proud history of providing grants to community organisations to improve access and inclusion of people with hearing loss and enhanced awareness of the communication and access needs of this population.

Covid 19 has resulted in a decrease in fundraising, however the Foundation was able to award a number of grants. We were very fortunate to be able hold the Deafness Foundation annual Grants evening event at Baker McKenzie in 2020 and 2021, integrating a hybrid event with guests attending face to face and virtually. Grant recipients who attended in person, had certificates presented by two Governors: Professor Field

Rickards and Professor Geoffrey Blainey AC at our 2021 Awards evening. We would like to give our sincere thanks to Peter Ikeringill and the team at Baker McKenzie for hosting wonderful grant night evening.

2020 Award Winners

Dubbo and District Support Group for the Deaf and Hearing Impaired. Inc:

Dubbo District Deaf-Mentor/Wellbeing Program

Implement programs such as camps and excursions specifically tailored to be more inclusive for DHH individuals in the local area

Amount \$2051.50

Prince of Wales Hospital Foundation:

Increasing Accessibility to Hearing Assessments in the Hospital and the Community

To purchase a portable Audiometer which is a mobile

machine used for evaluating hearing activity. The equipment would be used to service an additional 3500 patients including bed bound patients and Aboriginal outreach

Amount \$ 6100

The Dementia Centre, Hammond Care: Deafness and Dementia:

A toolkit to support people living with dementia and their carers

Create information services and tool kit for people with dementia who are DHH, their families, carers and staff. Currently there isn't a tool kit available for people who have dementia and are DHH.

Amount: \$4560

Victoria

Courtenay Gardens Primary School- Equal Hearing Access for CGPS Community

Sound field/Portable application equipment for students, this will

improve access to all students, particularly hearing impaired student at whole of school functions or events.

Amount \$4880

Grampians Tourism Board: Grampians Tourism Accessibility Project

Installation of a counter loop to assist visitors and encourage more DHH visitors to the Grampians tourism areas

Amount: \$ 4610

John Pierce Centre Mass For You At Home (MFYAH) – Auslan Interpreting Fees

This funding will be used to engage external interpreters to assist the DHH community be engaged in the Mass at Home program. JPC has previously met the cost of this service however due to financial constraints can no longer afford this part of the program.

Amount: \$2752.75

Ramahyuck District Aboriginal Corporation: Overcoming challenges for hard of hearing at Ramahyuck's clinics

Purchase two amplification communication kits for use within the two clinics sites for hard of hearing staff members during meetings and to assist patients during medical visits.

Amount \$730

UsherKids Australia: UsherKids Australia Educational Video Series

Develop and distribute a series of videos for parents and carers with children who have a hearing loss due to Usher Syndrome

Amount: \$2640

Queensland

St Theresa's College, Abergowrie Hearing Educational Access Resourcing (HEAR)

Purchase voice Augmentation devices to support hearing impaired learners in 50 isolated communities. This will assist in identifying at an earlier treatable stage.

Amount \$3736

2021 Award winners

New South Wales

1. Learning Links: Assistive technology to empower parents to develop case coordination skills to help navigate the NDIS.

Subtitles and captions will be embedded in the instructional video content contained in ten learning modules. Topics include goal setting, personal and community support networks, resource management, NDIS pre-planning and advocacy. The project will enable deaf or hard of hearing people to access the platform to support them in making informed decisions and choices for their child with a disability.

Amount \$4,750

2. National Acoustic Laboratories: Early language experience and later vocabulary development among urban Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander children: a pilot study

The project will explore the relationship between listening behaviours and language outcomes. Information will be gathered on the child's functional listening performance, and language experiences in the home with the goal of establishing how this experience influences later vocabulary development. Parent feedback will be sought of their perspectives on strategies used to teach children language.

Amount \$5,003

3. Varuna, The National Writer's House and Blue Mountains Writers' Festival Blue Mountains Writers' Festival – Deafness Accessibility Project

This project will utilise captioning to provide access to deaf or hard of hearing participants to professional development for writers

Amount \$1,250

Victoria

4. The Glendonald Association Inc: Zoom Conferencing/Auslan Interpreting – connecting deaf and hard of hearing people through Zoom meetings

This project will allow Auslan interpreters to be employed to allow deaf or hard of hearing people to connect to meetings held virtually. This will help mitigate loneliness and isolation during Covid restrictions.

Amount \$1,423

5. John Pierce Centre: JPC 40th Year Celebration – 40-Year Short Book Production

This project will enable the production of a keepsake of the celebration of their 40th anniversary. The booklet will contain a snapshot of their history, important moments, special memories, special people, milestones, community stories and special events.

Amount \$2,214

6. Melbourne Deaf and Hard of Hearing Lions Club Branch: Providing Auslan services for deaf and hard of hearing people with new Lions Club

This project will enable access for people who are deaf or hard of hearing through the provision of Auslan interpreting at the meetings of a newly establishment Lions club.

Amount \$2,750

Queensland

7. Endeavour Foundation: Improving accessibility for people with a disability by adding Auslan to 5 specialised learning videos for people with disability

This project will enable the inclusion of Auslan to ensure people with a dual disability can access online learning programs. Topics include relationships, work readiness, nutritional cooking and fitness.

Amount \$2,500

8. National Acoustic Laboratories: Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander caregivers' perspectives on supporting young children's hearing health and language development

This project is a qualitative inquiry using in depth, semi-structured interviews with Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander caregivers of children aged three years and

under. The findings will highlight and inform best practices on early intervention in Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander communities.

Amount \$3,800

Grants Presentation Event



Geoff Blainey presenting to Bev McLennan



MF, Interpreter & Maddison Hatcher on screen



Geoff Blainey, Linda Marshall (Glendonald Association), Carole Wagner (Glendonald Association), Field Rickards



Peter Ickeringill & Interpreter



ZW, Interpreter, Geoff Blainey, Field Rickards

Education Encouragement awards

Many applications for the Education Encouragement awards were received and it is a humbling experience to read of the challenges students experience with their study in often challenging circumstances. Despite this, they display energy and commitment to their school and/or local communities with a focus on improving the lives of others.

The focus of the Grants committee is on 'encouragement' where we believe the award will make a big difference to the recipients' attitude, confidence, and will truly make a difference in how they see themselves.

We would like to congratulate the three recipients on their strength and commitment to achieving their goals, and their intention to focus on continued improvement and on contributing to the community.

Below are the words provided for the Grants presentation evening on 31st March.



Hayley Edgar

Year 11, St Mary's College/
Aquinas College Ringwood

Hi, my name is Hayley Edgar and I am 16 years old. I use a cochlear implant and a hearing aid and am in Year 11 at Aquinas College. A little bit about me is that I am passionate about drama. I have been performing for as long as I remember and it's what I most look forward to each week.

I am extremely grateful to the Deafness Foundation for this grant, as it enables me to follow my passion. Unfortunately, it also means I am unable to be here in person, as I am at school 3 evenings on top of my Year 11

studies. On Tuesdays I rehearse for the school senior play, which is called "Stories in the Dark". On Wednesdays I'm doing a VET screen acting course which is really fun and on Thursdays I study VCE Drama, which I couldn't do at Aquinas. I hope to continue performing once I leave High School but I'm not sure in what capacity. Maybe you'll see me on the screen!.

Erin Fuller

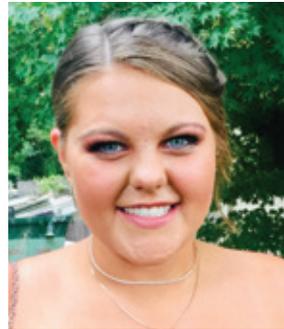
Year 12 Camden High School,
New South Wales

I am a 17 year old girl, going through year 12 with a hearing loss- something I've been aware of for about 6 years. I have a love for plants, with a functioning greenhouse and an overflowing shed full of bits and pieces to maintain them. I've loved plants since my first trip to Flower Power in 2019 and since then have used plants as a mandatory time to wind down in the midst of school work. Aside from looking after

an abundance of plants, I also work casually at a real estate on weekends, something that has always allowed me a great weekly schedule to study.

I have always been very indecisive in regard to my future career and have never wanted to limit myself to just one job. I would love to pursue work into a geography-field, though I'm not sure specifically what yet because of so many options available. Geography is something I have extensive interests in and is something I feel would give me the ability to work in more areas than just one. As well as this, I would also consider a career in real estate with the extensive pathways I can take, while also having knowledge from working in the industry. In correlation to real estate, my dream job is to be a writer for Architectural Digest and though I may never land myself in that position, I'd like to think I'd be given the opportunity for something similar.

Though it has taken years for me to narrow this selection down—not to mention how much it has changed from when I was in year 6 and wanted nothing more than to be a scientist—to be able to work in a laboratory and be just like the character in *The Big Bang Theory*. It's only natural that what I have wanted to do over the years has changed with my interests and the influence of the world around me. That's why I am excited for what my future will entail for my career and how different it may be looking back at this summary in contrast to the career I end up in.



Maddison Hatcher

**Year 11, Elderslie High School,
New South Wales**

My name is Maddison Hatcher though most people call me Maddy. I am in year 11 at Elderslie High School in Sydney, NSW. I was asked to write a little bit about myself and always find this hard. I have always been good at school and achieved good results until the end of year 8 when my grades started to go down. My mum organised a visit to the Paediatrician and they did a hearing screening and then sent me to an audiologist who confirmed I have a significant hearing loss and need to wear

hearing aids. The very first time I wore my hearing aids, I could notice the difference – my shoes made noise on the carpet and the trees make sounds when the wind moves the leaves. At 14 years old, over the next few months I heard a lot of 'first sounds' that I had never heard before. People often asked me how did I cope? What couldn't I hear? All I can think of is, at the time I didn't know I had a hearing problem, so I never thought of the sounds I couldn't hear. I did a lot of lip reading and would try to make sense of what people were saying especially by my teachers at school. This has been an emotional rollercoaster ride – sometimes I'm upset that I can't hear properly but then I think I am lucky I can hear at all.

Since learning of my hearing loss and knowing that one day I will be completely deaf, I have been learning Auslan with my family, for the last 12 months. I am so lucky that I have wonderful family and friends who have supported me and made sure that they learn

with me. When I leave school, I want to study to become a Speech Pathologist. I also want to provide support and mentor others in particular young people who are deaf or hard of hearing, to encourage them not to give up just like my learning support teacher has encouraged me. This award means so much to me as a young person in school, it has provided me with recognition and encouragement to work even harder to achieve all my goals. This award will help me to purchase the tools I will need to complete my studies for the HSC then move on to University to follow my dreams so that I can provide supports to the Deaf and Hard of Hearing Community.

Noise Induced Hearing Committee

- Paul O'Halloran



Making the case for Quiet

The Noise Induced Hearing Loss Committee (NIHL) assists the Foundation in identifying key issues affecting noise induced hearing loss and linking stakeholders to information, legislative or otherwise, to ensure the public is not unnecessarily subjected to excessive noise. The Foundation through its strategic planning process is reviewing how noise might feature in its future business.

Hazardous Noise

The focus of the Committee has been on the prevention of noise that is hazardous to hearing. This focus is important because the harms arising from hazardous noise are nearly always preventable.

The focus on prevention of hazardous noise is made even more pertinent because efforts to mitigate the impacts of NIHL are

at best mixed. Noise equivalent to energies exceeding 80 to 85 decibels averaged over an eight-hour working day and noise that exceeds 140 decibels peak for any period of time is known to cause NIHL. This type of hearing loss is problematic, not the least because it tends to cause a sharp fall-off in hearing high frequency sounds. Aiding people through amplification with this kind of loss is difficult, partly because of loudness intolerance and problems associated with how we process speech (Shrivastav 2012: 146). Hearing aids for people with NIHL do not always restore the capacity to make speech intelligible particularly in noisy situations.

The Committee supported a variety of projects to address workplace, recreational and other avocational sources of hazardous noise. Similarly targeted projects will need to feature into the future.

Has hazardous noise prevention been effective?

When reviewing national and global efforts to mitigate NIHL, it is difficult to say how effective these efforts have been. The review of the impacts of hearing loss by ACCESS Economics (2006) estimated one in six people had a hearing loss. There is emerging evidence from the US that one in four adults have a NIHL like notch in their audiograms (Carroll et al. 2017). HCIA/Access Economics (2017) reviewed projections of the earlier ACCESS Economics study in 2006 and predicted the number of people over 15 with a hearing loss in 2060 (7.8million) will be twice the current number. So why do things seem to be getting worse?

Occupational noise impacts

Noise induced hearing loss (NIHL) continues to be the single most significant cause of preventable hearing loss in

adults. SafeWork Australia (2019) estimates that between 28 and 32% of the Australian workforce is likely to work in hazardous noise. Occupation related NIHL led to 65,300 accepted deafness claims between 2001-2002 and 2014-2015 nationally. There is evidence that deafness claims are in decline in recent years with a 6% reduction between 2014/15 and 2015/16 indicated in NSW and a 5% decline in Victoria between 2009/10 and 2011/12. However, this recent decline is on the back of an overall rising longer national trend in both claim costs and numbers since the early 2000s.

Judging the effectiveness of noise prevention initiatives has been affected by the lack of robustly designed studies. A meta-analysis of studies in the occupational arena (Tikka 2019) found poor experimental controls hampered understanding the impact of workplace interventions. There was evidence instructing workers in ear plug insertion reduced noise exposure but impacts of buying quiet, engineering controls

and hearing protection use more generally were inconclusive. This is not to say eliminating hazardous workplace noise is not a good thing just that the studies themselves were targeted to demonstrate the impacts.

Impacts of noise outside work

Whatever impact occupational noise programs have had, non-occupational noise now accounts for a disturbing proportion of the overall noise problem. Occupational hearing loss accounts for around 16% of adult hearing loss (Nelson et al. 2005) and up to 37% when all sources of noise (occupational plus non-occupational) are included (Access 2017). World Health Organisation (2015, 1) estimate nearly half of all teenagers and young adults (12-35) in middle and high-income countries are exposed to unsafe levels of noise from personal listening devices. In addition, around 40% are exposed to hazardous levels of recreational music.

Why focusing on hazardous noise exclusively might be a problem

Efforts have been directed at hazardous noise predominantly while humans at work and at play have learned to live with noise in general. This has created a twofold problem. Firstly, there is a failure to know when noise crosses the boundary between non-hazardous and hazardous noise – we don't have very reliable inbuilt noise hazard detectors. Because we are immersed in a world of ubiquitous noise, it is relatively easy for us to cross the hazard boundary, often without knowing it. The second problem is that any noise (unwanted sound and not just hazardous noise) is a problem for human wellbeing because it disrupts communication, impairs our connection with our social world and it also impacts our access to quiet times and quiet havens. The burgeoning problem of ubiquitous noise means communication is disrupted for all

people. It also impacts our ability to find spaces for respite and renewal. When was the last time you were in a space where you noticed the complete absence of noise?

Rescoping from hazardous noise to disabling noise

At first glance, it may seem counter intuitive to broaden the scope of the noise problem when we are unclear about the success of our more narrowly-focused noise strategy. But there is good reason to believe that aiming to make communities more noise averse will sensitise people to avoid noise, any noise, including hazardous noise. This, in turn, should motivate further efforts to find quieter spaces and adopt strategies to improve communication in noise. There is a powerful ancillary benefit in broadening our scope to encompass all disabling noise. Nearly all people with a hearing loss are seriously challenged when trying to communicate in noisy

environments. Broadening the scope from hazardous noise to all noise will prime our work to mitigate the impacts of hearing loss more generally. If all the parties to a communication are committed to avoid noise or improve communication environments, this should better enable people with a hearing loss to achieve better communication outcomes.

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Australasian Newborn Hearing Screening Committee

Professor Greg Leigh AO



The Australasian Newborn Hearing Screening Committee (ANHSC) has been in existence since 2001, having been formed as part of a national effort to advocate for the introduction of universal newborn hearing screening (UNHS) programs around Australia. Since 2018, the Committee has been a committee of Deafness Foundation.

It is well understood that early identification is critical to securing early intervention and better developmental outcomes for children born with hearing loss. At the time of the Committee's inception, less than 6% of children born in Australia were screened for hearing loss at birth. Now, more than 97% of all newborns in Australia are screened for hearing loss, most typically in hospitals in the first days/s following birth.

It is the mission of the Committee to promote the availability and quality of programs for the early

detection of permanent hearing loss, and associated intervention, for all children in Australia and New Zealand. That mission is delivered upon through several related activities. One important aim is to "facilitate discussion and sharing of experience among all those concerned with early detection and intervention for permanent childhood hearing loss in Australia through a variety of means, particularly through the staging of a biennial conference". Although 2020 was not a conference year, plans were well in hand during the year for the staging of the 14th Biennial Conference, to be held in Hobart, Tasmania.

The next conference is planned to be an opportunity to consider the issue of screening for hearing loss in children beyond the newborn period—an issue about which there is currently no national consensus regarding timing or methodology. As part of its activities in 2020, the ANHSC commissioned a

Systematic Review of the scientific literature on strategies for the identification of hearing loss in paediatric populations. This is an important step towards informing consideration of how best to identify hearing loss in children at a population level in Australia. In late 2020, a contract to undertake the review was awarded to a research group at the National Acoustic Laboratories. The results of that commission will form an important centre point of ongoing deliberations and development in this area, and of plans for the next Biennial Conference.

In the meantime, the Committee continues to pursue its various aims to promote the availability and quality of programs for the early detection of permanent childhood hearing loss, and associated interventions across Australasia.

Committee Chair: Prof. Greg Leigh, AO

Committee Secretary: Dr Zeffie Poulakis

Treasurers Report 2020/21

Andrew White

It is a pleasure to have the pleasure of presenting the Treasurer's Report for the Deafness Foundation for the year 2020/21

The Deafness Foundations operations and finances were significantly impacted by the COVID-19 Pandemic during the financial year ended 30 June 2021. Statewide lockdowns resulted in staff working from home for most of the year. The effects of the pandemic saw Butterfly Merchandise sales fall by 62.5% from the previous financial year. Fortunately, the foundation was able to qualify for the COVID-19 assistance provided by both the commonwealth and state governments which allowed the foundation to maintain its staffing and service during the period.

Financial Result

Total revenue for the financial year was \$384,686, made up of COVID-19 government support \$99,656, Donations Grants and Bequests \$95,254, Fundraising Income \$62,232, Investment Income \$38,678, Gain on Investment Portfolio \$86,361. Operating expenses remained consistent with the prior year. The Deafness Foundation was able to pay research and education grants totaling \$54,940 during the year.

Outlook

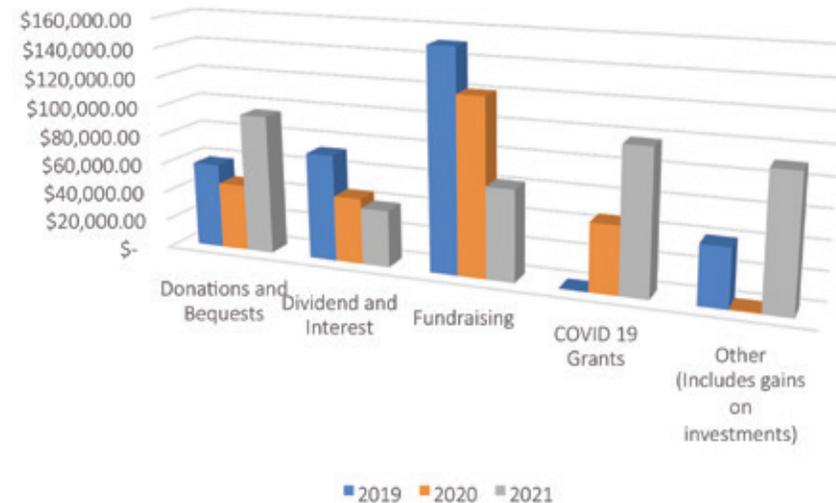
The ongoing effect of the COVID-19 pandemic will continue to affect the operations and finances of the foundation. The Foundation is not eligible for any ongoing government support and must survive on its own two feet. After careful consideration the board of directors have

decided to cease the butterfly merchandise fundraising activities and as a result the corporate office at Bayswater will be closed and all staff made redundant. A provision for stock obsolescence of \$129,969 has been included in the 30 June 2021 financial statements resulting in a loss for the year of \$154,498.

The financial position of the foundation remains strong going in to the 2021/22 year, allowing the board to focus on the future strategic direction of the Deafness Foundation without incurring ongoing losses.

Treasurer
Andrew White

Income by type 2019-2021



Management letter for the year ended 30 June 2021



10 November 2021

Dear Directors

Deafness Foundation - Management letter for the year ended 30 June 2021

We have completed the audit work for Deafness Foundation for the year ended 30 June 2021.

This letter summarises a number of matters to be considered by Deafness Foundation's board of directors together with our recommendations for improvement.

We are pleased to report that we have had the co-operation of your staff and full access to records as we have undertaken our audit procedures. We would like to express our appreciation to management for their assistance provided during the audit process. We look forward to working with the Deafness Foundation in the future.

Should you have any queries please feel free to contact one of the team members.

Yours sincerely

Handwritten signature of Peter Shields in blue ink.

Peter Shields
Partner

Handwritten signature of Kane Noorbergen in blue ink.

Kane Noorbergen
Manager

In Memorium

Eddie Keir OAM

Along with his many other community contributions, Eddie played an important part in Deafness Foundation in its support of hearing awareness, hearing loss detection and prevention. Mr Eddie Keir played a fundamental role on the Deafness Foundation board and was a pioneer in education, research and treatment of hearing loss.



Dr Lyn Walker presenting Dr Eddie Keir with Life Membership - June 1997 AGM.



Dorothy Moore with Karin Gillies & Paul O'Halloran, 2016.

Dorothy Moore

Dorothy was always thinking of how she could help children with conductive Deafness and worried how it could have a detrimental effect on their hearing their education in adulthood and social problems. Dorothy raised

awareness and helping children including Ottis Media and conductive Deafness. Dorothy became a member of the Deafness Foundation board in 1974 as the chair of the Social, employment and Committee and was a member of the Medical committee.

Our Board Of Management



Dr Denise Goldman
President



Professor Greg Leigh
AO



Dr Lisa-Jane Moody



Ms Zoe Williams
Vice President



Ms Marie Fram



Dr Kerryn Saunders



Professor Colette McKay
Vice President



Mr Paul O'Halloran



Mr Andrew White
Finance Committee
Chair and Treasurer



Ms Jane Prior

Our Staff At Deafness Foundation

Executive Officer
Sylvia Rosemond

Office Administration
Jennifer Portelli

Butterflies Coordinator
Karen Son

Bookkeeper
Helen Dunlop

Office Support
Annie O'Loughlin (Volunteer)

Our Supporters

The support of both individuals and organisations are integral to the success of Deafness Foundation in delivering our programs to the broader Australian community.

We acknowledge and thank the following organisations and individuals for their support during 2020-2021:

- All Ears Hearing
- Apolonia Dental
- Aurora School
- Baker McKenzie
- Bendigo Bank – Bayswater/ Ringwood
- Bread Street Bakery
- Brighton Primary School
- Bunnings - Bayswater
- Diamond Village Hot Bread & Cakes
- Earhealth Hearing Specialists
- Edinburgh Medical Centre
- Emerald Village Pharmacy
- EPIC Assist
- Gerard Bourke – Tax Agent services
- Glenferrie Road Medical Centre
- Grant Gittus Graphics
- Grassroots Gathering
- Hearing Australia
- Heidelberg Chiropractic Clinic
- Huntingdale IGA X-press
- IGA Supermarkets
- King & Wood Mallesons
- LinkFire – Bayswater
- Lynmarc Textiles
- Maps Marketing
- Momentum Muscle Therapy
- Ritchies Stores – Community Benefit Card Program
- Rotary Club of Mont Albert & Surrey Hills
- Royal Victorian Eye and Ear Hospital
- The University of Melbourne – Department of Audiology and Speech Pathology
- Urquhart Charitable Fund
- Victorian Deaf Education Institute
- Vital Chi Wellness
- Wholefood Merchants
- Widex Australia

Schools

- Aberfoyle Hub R-7 School
- Banksia Park Primary School
- Builyan State School
- Carrington Primary School
- Charlotte Mason College
- Eastwood Primary School and Deaf Facility
- Epsom Primary School
- Fish Creek and District Primary School
- Forster public school
- Garfield Primary School
- Hartwell Primary School
- Hartwell PS
- Heritage School Knox
- Hunter River Community School

- Immaculate Heart of Mary School
- Kurrajong East Public school
- Linton Primary School
- Magpie PS
- Maryborough State High School Q
- MLC
- Mordialloc Beach Primary School
- Mount Barker Primary School
- Narembem District High School
- Nepean Special School
- Pearcedale Primary School
- Pelican Flat Primary School
- Pomonal Primary School
- Quarry Hill Primary School
- Raleigh Primary School
- Redlynch State College
- St Finbar's Primary School
- St Joseph's School Murray Bridge
- St Mary's Primary School
- St Paul's Primary School
- Sunshine Christian School
- Tinana State School
- Valley View Public School
- Vineyard Lutheran School
- Yarra Valley Grammar
- Yarraville Special Developmental School

We appreciate those who have donated in memory of their loved ones:

- In memory of Natasha Domingo
- In memory of Maria 'Cesira' Crestani
- In memory of Pauline Baker

Our Members

Deafness Foundation acknowledges and thanks our members for their ongoing support and membership of the Foundation.

Deafness Foundation Governors

Professor Geoffrey Blainey AC
Mr Peter Ickeringill
Professor Field Rickards

Honorary Life Members

Mrs Jenny Adcock
Mr E Ray Forrest
Mr Peter Ickeringill
Mrs Joan Tannahill
Dr Adrian Thomas

Organisational Members

Able Australia
Audiology Australia
Aurora School
Better Hearing Australia (Vic) Inc
Deaf Children Australia
Expression Australia
Furlong Park School for Deaf Children
HEARing CRC
John Pierce Centre
Melbourne Graduate School of Education
Methodist Ladies' College
Mpower Inc
RIDBC - Taralye
Rosanna Golf Links Primary School
St Mary's College for the deaf
Wimmera Hearing Society
Word of Mouth Technology
Yarra Valley Grammar

Individual Members

We have this year elected not to list individual members due to not having specific approval to do so.



Deafness Foundation

ABN 56 005 053 510

ACN 005 053 510

Registered Office

Saward Dawson,
20 Albert Street
Blackburn 3130

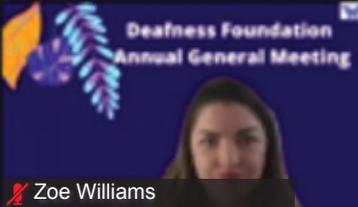
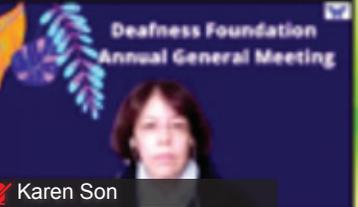
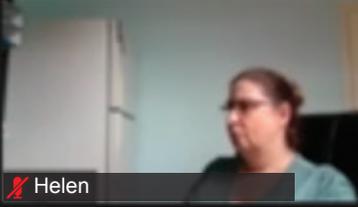
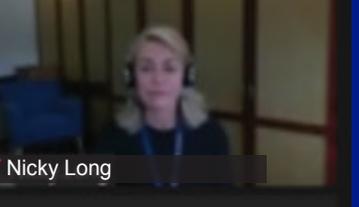
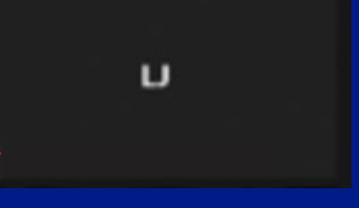
Web

www.deafness.org.au

www.soundbitespicnic.com.au

Email

admin@deafness.org.au

 <p>Deafness Foundation Annual General Meeting</p>  <p>☒ Zoe Williams</p>	 <p>☒ Sylvia Rosemond</p>	 <p>Deafness Foundation Annual General Meeting</p>  <p>☒ Karen Son</p>	 <p>☒ Paul O'Halloran</p>	 <p>☒ Colette McKay</p>
 <p>☒ Helen</p>	 <p>☒ Angela Auslan Interpr...</p>	 <p>☒ Jennifer Portelli</p>	 <p>☒ Karin Gillies</p>	 <p>☒ Field Rickards</p>
 <p>☒ Dee</p>	 <p>☒ Peter Ickeringill</p>	 <p>☒ Peter Davidson</p>	 <p>☒ Jane Prior</p>	 <p>☒ Emma Webb</p>
 <p>☒ Liam</p>	 <p>☒ iPad</p>	 <p>☒ Denise Goldman</p>	 <p>☒ Marie</p>	 <p>☒ Nicky Long</p>
 <p>☒</p>	 <p>☒</p>	 <p>☒ Andrew White</p>	 <p>☒ Peter Shields</p>	 <p>☒</p>