



introduction

It is with much pleasure that *Australian Hearing* is able to provide your copy of the Western Australian supplement to *Choices*. This booklet provides simple explanations about the various education and support programs offered in Western Australia.

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Children's Cochlear Implant Program (W.A.)

STREET ADDRESS:

Princess Margaret Hospital
GPO Box D184
Perth WA 6840

TELEPHONE:

Voice (08) 9340 8692

Fax (08) 9388 7710

CONTACT:

Head of the Department
of Audiology

MISSION STATEMENT:

To provide a comprehensive, well-coordinated and effective paediatric cochlear implant program with an extensive long-term support network.

KEY OBJECTIVES:

1. Respond quickly and appropriately with comprehensive literature, information, and advice to all inquiries
2. Develop, maintain, and implement protocols to:
 - * ensure specialised evaluations are well planned, comprehensive, and carried out expeditiously
 - * ensure appropriateness for implantation
 - * determine relative priority for implantation
 - * review the child's/parent's satisfaction
 - * measure the child's achievement on a long term basis

3. Share post-operative care with regular providers
4. Develop a comprehensive and widely distributed network to provide both professional and social support
5. Ensure implant mapping and training are carried out in the most effective manner and environment possible
6. Ensure subsequent mapping and habilitation are provided effectively
7. Develop and maintain communication with all associated educational and health professionals

DIRECT SERVICES:

- * Client evaluation by the program. The team consists of the ENT physician, audiologist, speech pathologist, social worker, clinical psychologist and other allied health members as required
- * Pre-implant assessments to determine suitability and establish baseline information for research of the child's long term achievement
- * Medical and surgical evaluations
- * Surgery and post-operative care
- * Device switch-on, programming and (re)habilitation

- * Post-operative assessments at specific intervals
- * Collection of long term follow-up data

INDIRECT SERVICES:

- * Ongoing liaison and communication with educational programs, Australian Hearing and other associated agencies and health professionals
- * Liaison with national and international cochlear implant programs
- * Development of research protocols

FEES:

No fee is required for pre and post-operative assessments. There is no fee for implantation however, the family needs to maintain the Australian Hearing annual fee for service to obtain spare parts and other equipment for use with the cochlear implant device. The child must be a resident of Western Australia.

Disability Services Commission

STREET ADDRESS:

146–160 Colin Street
West Perth WA 6005

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PO Box 441
West Perth WA 6872

TELEPHONE:

Voice (08) 9426 9200

TTY (08) 9426 9315

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Email dsc@dsc.wa.gov.au

Web www.dsc.wa.gov.au

Disability Services Commission is an agency of the WA government, which represents and provides services for people with disabilities in Western Australia. It is a combination of the former Disability Services Bureau and the Authority for

Intellectually Handicapped People and was created in 1993.

The scope of the Commission seems to be very broad but is limited by definition of need. There are three levels of service which cover the needs of people included under this very large umbrella. Eligibility for any level of service is determined through a central referrals committee. Referrals usually come from paediatricians, school psychologists or families.

Level 1 represents the majority of people who identify themselves as having a disability, but do not require specific services although they have access to policy, information, education and advocacy support. This includes approximately 305,000 people, their families and carers.

Level 2 represents those people with a disability who can function within the community but may require specific support services such as speech pathology at school, employment support, or Commission supported accommodation. Approximately 40,000 people receive these services.

Level 3 services are those provided for people with an intellectual handicap, including syndromes and autism, which have needs beyond those available in the community. Direct services provided for these people by the Commission include dietetics, dentistry, medical, podiatry, psychology, occupational therapy, social work and speech pathology. About 5,000 people are covered by this category.

Genetic Services of Western Australia

STREET ADDRESS:

Princess Margaret Hospital
for Children
Roberts Road
Subiaco WA 6008

TELEPHONE:

Voice (08) 9340 8828

(08) 9340 1525

Fax (08) 9340 7058

Email gswa@health.wa.gov.au

King Edward
Memorial Hospital
374 Bagot Road
Subiaco WA 6008

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WHY GENETIC COUNSELLING?

- * There is frequently a genetic basis to deafness, even where a family history may not be clearly defined.
- * Around two-thirds of isolated congenital deafness, particularly in the severe to profound range, is genetic
- * Deafness can be part of a 'syndrome' (where there are other recognised birth defects) and frequently these are of a genetic origin
- * A 'genetic diagnosis' may be of importance for reasons of management and family planning
- * The genetic basis of deafness is being more clearly understood as each year goes by and, on some occasions, there are now gene tests available.

WHAT IS GENETIC COUNSELLING?

Genetic counselling may involve the diagnosis of a genetic condition, the provision of information about a particular condition, and supportive counselling by a team of health professionals, so that families and individuals may be better able to adjust to the diagnosis of a genetic condition. Follow-up counselling is available to ensure ongoing support and address concerns as they arise.

As genetics is a rapidly advancing area of medicine, it is important that families have accurate information. A full understanding of the condition helps people to make well informed decisions.

GENETIC SERVICES
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When appropriate, both parents should attend the appointment and bring with them as much information as possible about their families. In some cases where there is a family history of a condition, photographs of the affected people may prove helpful.

OTHER REASONS FOR SEEKING GENETIC COUNSELLING:

- * Concerns about a condition that occurs in the family or having already had a child with a genetic condition
- * Concerns about a family member with birth defects (congenital abnormalities)
- * Women over the age of 35 who may be planning a pregnancy or who are pregnant
- * Prenatal diagnosis testing

- * Planning to marry a close relative
- * Women with two or more pregnancy losses, still births or early infant deaths
- * Effects of drugs, infections and other substances during pregnancy

WHAT HAPPENS IN GENETIC COUNSELLING:

Information about you and your family will be gathered and a family tree drawn.

You and your child may have a physical examination by the Clinical Geneticist to help clarify the diagnosis. Tests may be ordered.

Full discussion occurs regarding the genetic condition and the associated implications.

AFTER THE COUNSELLING SESSION:

You will receive written information about the contents of your genetic counselling appointment. Please feel free to contact the services to discuss any questions you may have. We can contact you if new information or new testing becomes available.

HOW CAN I ACCESS GENETIC SERVICES?

In Western Australia, genetic services are provided by Genetic Services of Western Australia, who also provide outreach clinics in Kalgoorlie, Geraldton, Port Hedland, Bunbury, and Albany.

It is preferable that you have a referral from your doctor, but you may wish to contact us directly. Please contact the service for more details.

Senses Foundation – Deafblind Specialist Services

STREET ADDRESS:

134 Whatley Crescent
Maylands WA 6051

TELEPHONE:

Voice (08) 9473 5400
TTY (08) 9473 5488
Fax (08) 9473 5499

Email admin@senses.asn.au

Web www.senses.asn.au

CONTACT:

Coordinator

PHILOSOPHY:

Deafblind Specialist Services of Senses Foundation is a client-centered, family-focussed service providing individualised support to people who are deafblind, their families and service providers.

Our vision is that Western Australians who are blind and deafblind live a life of meaning

and purpose as valued individuals in the community.

SERVICES:

SPECIAL COMMUNICATION SUPPORT

Staff recognise and use a variety of communication systems including Auslan, Visual Frame or Close Vision Signing, Tracking, Tactile Signing, Short Cut Signs, Tactile Fingerspelling, Touch Cues, Object Cues, Braille and Technical Devices.

DEAFBLIND AWARENESS AND TRAINING

Communication training is provided to families, carers, service providers, education assistants, teachers, respite and residential staff, medical staff, therapists and other professionals who have contact with people who are deafblind.

RESPIRE PROGRAM

This program provides parents and families with some time to themselves, and offers opportunities for social interaction with staff trained in a variety of communication methods.

RECREATION PROGRAM

The Recreation Program provides individual support to enable people who are deafblind to access various recreational activities of their choice within the community.

SPECIALIST THERAPY PROGRAM

A new service designed to provide in-home therapy to infants and children.

SELECTION CRITERIA:

People who are blind or vision impaired and who have a significant additional disability and people who are deafblind.

State Child Development Centre

STREET ADDRESS:

4–16 Rheola Street
West Perth WA 6005

POSTAL ADDRESS

PO Box 510
West Perth WA 6872

TELEPHONE:

Voice (08) 9426 9444
TTY (08) 9481 0296
Fax (08) 9324 2085

CONTACT:

Nurse Co-ordinator

The State Child Development Centre (SCDC) is a secondary and tertiary referral centre for a wide range of health and developmental issues for children and families. The majority of services provided by the SCDC are local to the metropolitan

area, however clinical services are provided for country clients on referral and families travel to SCDC for diagnostic, assessment and management services.

The Play and Learning (PAL) team provides services on home visits to families referred. Staff at the centre include audiologists, clinical psychologists, paediatricians, nurses, a podiatrist, occupational therapists, physiotherapists, social workers and speech pathologists.

SERVICES:

- * clinical services – early intervention, provision of second opinions
- * educational services for undergraduates, postgraduates and community

- * research
- * consultation for professional advice and support, inter-agency committees

The main health issues for which programs are developed for children and families include:

- * developmental delay
- * gross motor skills delay
- * behavioural concerns
- * family dysfunction including children at 'risk'
- * learning and attentional problems
- * hearing concerns
- * speech and language delay
- * fine motor skills delay
- * low birth weight sequelae

Telethon Speech and Hearing Centre for Children WA

STREET ADDRESS:

36 Dodd Street
Wembley WA 6014

POSTAL ADDRESS:

PO Box 186
Wembley WA 6913

TELEPHONE:

Voice (08) 9387 9888
Fax (08) 9387 9889

Email wtunbridge@tsh.org.au

Web www.tsh.org.au

CONTACT:

Wendy Tunbridge
Director, Early Intervention

COMMUNICATION MODE:

AUDITORY-BASED ORAL LANGUAGE PROGRAM

The Centre teaches deaf and hearing-impaired children to

speak using an auditory verbal approach. Children wear appropriate assistive technology – either hearing aids or a cochlear implant. Unaided unilateral children may also access services. The Centre has a strong family-centered approach that supports parents with a full range of oral programs and services.

BRIEF OUTLINE OF SERVICES:

- * Early intervention programs for children with hearing loss from the date of diagnosis. This includes individual therapy sessions, playgroups and kindergarten.
- * An interdisciplinary team of specialists works with the families – including occupational therapists, speech pathologists,

psychologist, audiologists and teachers of the deaf.

- * Fully equipped Audiology Department includes cochlear implant support, ear moulds, tympanometry, newborn screening and more. On-site Australian Hearing services are currently being trialled for feasibility. The Centre also provides newborn screening at private hospitals.
- * An on-site Ear Clinic for children with middle ear problems that provides an ENT clinic, a GP clinic, and middle ear screening
- * Primary school programs for children wishing to attend regular schools with the support of a teacher of the deaf based in the school.

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- * Secondary school programs for children needing some assistance to successfully complete high school through the use of note takers and oral interpreters.
- * Cochlear implant program to determine those children suitable for cochlear implantation in conjunction with Princess Margaret Hospital.
- * Videoconferencing access for regional and remote families is available through the state wide Telehealth network to over 80 regional centres in WA
- * Variety WA specialized Occupational Therapy gymnasium on site from July 2005.

TIME AVAILABLE:
Monday to Friday,
8.30am to 5.00pm

SELECTION CRITERIA:
All children with hearing loss are eligible for enrolment.

LEVEL OF PARENTAL INVOLVEMENT:
The centre works closely with parents and families to provide them with the skills, knowledge and resources they need to be able to communicate with and support their hearing-impaired child. High levels of parental commitment are expected.

FREQUENCY OF GROUP MEETINGS:
Playgroups and individual therapy sessions are weekly and kindergarten is twice weekly for two full days.

FEES:
The Centre has no tuition fees. There is a small annual levy for amenities.

ADDITIONAL COMMENTS:
Telethon Speech and Hearing is an active partner in the Six Centre Alliance linking similar centres of excellence across Australia and New Zealand.

The Western Australian Deaf Society Inc.

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Leaderville WA 6007

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BUNBURY OFFICE

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TTY (08) 9791 8034

The Western Australian Deaf Society Inc was established in 1921 and became an incorporated body in 1930. The Society's vision is to empower people who are deaf and hearing impaired in Western Australia to achieve equality of opportunities and independence in all aspects of life. To achieve this vision the Society has a strategic plan and a commitment to provide extensive services in the following areas:

- * education
- * employment
- * information
- * interpreting
- * social
- * youth
- * a community centre for social, recreational sporting and educational requirements.

A comprehensive account of the strategic plan, aims and objectives for each service area is available on request. The Society's vision is based on a range of values, including: commitment;

customer service; empowerment; integrity and honesty; respect for the individual; and teamwork. The Society aims to be visionary in its approach to, and delivery of, services to people who are deaf or hard of hearing. Services are structured around individuals who are deaf or hard of hearing. They are highly specialised and complement those available through generic agencies. Above all the Society's intention is to

maximise the opportunities for deaf people to participate in society and to access information and services on an equal basis to hearing people in society.

The Society's services are available to deaf and hard of hearing people of any age and are generally provided free of charge or for a minimal cost. The Society is an excellent resource for parents and families seeking

services or information on deafness, language, education, social issues and technology. A Language Early Access Program is conducted for children up to the age of six years, and a specialised youth service is available from the society. All services are provided by well qualified and skilled staff, including people who are deaf or hard of hearing, and are delivered in a linguistically and culturally sensitive manner.

The WA Institute for Deaf Education

ADDRESS:

53 Curtin Avenue
Cottesloe WA 6011

TELEPHONE:

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Web www.waide.wa.edu.au

CONTACT:

John Richards, Executive Principal

Voice (08) 9384 6344
Email jrichar@tpgi.com.au

INTRODUCTION AND PHILOSOPHY:

The Department of Education and Training in Western Australia provides statewide services for children who are deaf and hard of hearing through the WA Institute for Deaf Education (WAIDE). The Institute provides a range of educational services from the age of diagnosis through to the end of secondary school.

The aim of all schools, facilities and services associated with the WA Institute for Deaf Education is to work towards an inclusive education for all deaf and hard of hearing students.

CHOICE OF EDUCATIONAL SETTING AND

COMMUNICATION METHOD:

Parents are provided with a choice of educational settings, ranging from inclusive placement in a regular school, through to special schools that specifically cater for deaf and hard of hearing children.

The Institute provides parents with a choice of communication method, either oral or signed communication, at all stages of a child's education. Parents are assisted in this choice by a specialised team of professionals including a school psychologist, educational audiologists, experienced educators of the deaf, and a sign language specialist teacher.

SERVICES:

1. INFANTS AND PRE-SCHOOL CHILDREN

Spoken Language Program: the Early Intervention Centre is an auditory-oral program for children from birth to five years. The aim is to maximise the use of residual hearing and prepare children for inclusion into their local pre-primary.

Sign Language Program: the Bilingual/Bicultural playgroup provides a sign language program on-site at WAIDE for children aged from three months to three years of age who are learning to communicate using Australian Sign Language (Auslan) and English.

2. PRIMARY SCHOOL CHILDREN

The Mosman Park School for Deaf Children is a Bilingual/Bicultural co-enrolment school which provides a sign language and oral program for primary and pre-primary students.

3. HIGH SCHOOL STUDENTS

There is a range of educational options available, from fully integrated placement in a regular school through to placement in a facility that specifically caters for deaf and hard of hearing students, including Shenton College Deaf Education Centre, Belmont City College units and a unit at the John Forrest SHS. A choice of communication method is available to students.

4. THE VISITING TEACHER SERVICE

The Visiting Teacher of the Deaf Service is a state wide section of the Institute. Visiting Teachers of

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the Deaf are located in the Perth metropolitan area and in Albany, Broome, Bunbury, Esperance, Geraldton, Port Hedland, Kalgoorlie, Karratha, Kununurra, Manjimup and Northam. Visits are made to government and non-government schools and home visits can be arranged for very young children.

A Specialist Visiting Teacher Service is available for deafblind students.

5. AUDIOLOGICAL AND COCHLEAR IMPLANT SERVICES

The Institute's Educational Audiologists assess the hearing of students from an educational viewpoint, and work closely with education staff as well as audiologists at Australian Hearing. Since 1985 educational audiologists have delivered specialised habilitation services to children fitted with cochlear implants.

6. SCHOOL PSYCHOLOGY SERVICES

The psychologist at the Institute assists the team with appropriate educational interventions for deaf and hard of hearing children. Counselling of parents on developmental and behavioural issues can also be provided.

7. OTHER SPECIALIST SERVICES

Sign Language Classes: for parents and community members.

Tertiary Training for Teachers of the Deaf: a full time Teacher of the Deaf program is conducted on-site at the Institute's campus by the University of Melbourne.

TIME AVAILABLE:

The Institute is open from 9.00am until 4.00pm weekdays during school terms, and during school holiday periods on a limited basis.

CRITERIA FOR SERVICE:

Any child in a government or non-government school with a hearing loss that impacts on learning.

LEVEL OF PARENTAL INVOLVEMENT:

Parents are encouraged to be involved with all aspects of their child's education, including attending individual learning sessions and parent evenings.

FEES:

No fees are charged for any of the services provided.



BUNBURY

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Fax (08) 9721 9492

CANNINGTON

STREET ADDRESS:

Shop 1045
Carousel Westfield Shop Centre
1348–1386 Albany Highway
Cannington WA 6107

TELEPHONE:

Voice (08) 9350 9677
Fax (08) 9350 9677

FREMANTLE

STREET ADDRESS:

Unit 1, 1–5 Point Street
(Corner Cantonment Street)
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Fremantle WA 6160

POSTAL ADDRESS:

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Fremantle WA 6959

TELEPHONE:

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TTY (08) 9431 7843
Fax (08) 9431 7320

KARRINYUP

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Shop F156, 1st Floor
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Karrinyup WA 6018

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Box F 156
Karrinyup Shop Centre
Karrinyup WA 6018

TELEPHONE:

Voice (08) 9204 4888
Fax (08) 9204 4810

MORLEY

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Shop 1042E Centro Galleria,
(Challenge Bank entrance
off Dewar Street)
Morley WA 6062

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Morley WA 6062

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