

# PROJECT HIEDI

## NEWSLETTER

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## 1) PROGRESS AND NEWS

Welcome to the latest edition of our Project HIEDI newsletter. This newsletter contains information about an upcoming Early Intervention meeting at the University of Auckland, and information about the recent Como Newborn Hearing Screening conference. In place of our usual section on new literature, we have included information about speech-language therapists, in light of their recent conference in Auckland.

As some of you may have heard, the ministries of Health and Education have announced which of the 18 district health boards they are in discussions with to implement programmes within the coming year. These are included in the Joint Ministries Update below.

### JOINT MINISTRIES UPDATE

21 July 2008

Submitted by Vickie Rydz and Mark Hutton

### Universal Newborn Hearing Screening and Early Intervention Programme (UNHSEIP)

Since the implementation of UNHSEIP within Waikato, Tairāwhiti and Hawke's Bay District Health Boards (DHB's) in 2007/08, the National Screening Unit (NSU) has contacted and received feedback from the remaining 18 DHBs about their readiness to roll out newborn hearing screening in their area.

Contracting is currently underway with 9 DHBs who have expressed interest in a 2008/2009 roll out: Lakes, Bay of Plenty, Capital and Coast, Whanganui, Taranaki, MidCentral, Hutt Valley, Canterbury and South Canterbury.

These DHBs have indicated screening start dates beginning in October through December 2008. However the start date for screening will be dependent on each DHB's demonstration of readiness to the Ministry. The NSU has also begun meetings with the remaining DHBs to start planning for their 2009/2010 roll out.

### Workforce development

A Workforce Strategy and Action Plan has been developed focussing on newborn hearing screeners and audiologists. Implementation of some of the initiatives outlined in the action plan has already started with further work continuing through and likely beyond full implementation in 2010.

The NSU is currently in discussions with potential providers for the development and delivery of training for newborn hearing screeners and upskilling training for audiologists who will be working within the UNHSEIP.

The NSU will begin addressing the broader workforce implications of UNHSEIP with a particular focus on the diagnostic pathway that includes otolaryngology and genetics. This will involve discussions and consultation with DHBs, clinicians and professionals who are responsible for this pathway.

### **Resources/Communications**

The Ministry is funding the development of four newborn hearing screening resources for parents, families and whānau. Pretesting of the resources has included feedback from parents, families and whānau, Deaf and hearing impaired parents and health professionals.

The resources will be available to all DHBs involved in the screening programme.

### **Programme Monitoring and Evaluation Measures**

The NSU is finalising the interim data collection for DHBs to use in order to monitor implementation and future quality evaluation of the programme.

### **New Zealand Audiological Society Annual Conference**

Vickie Rydz and Mark Hutton co-chaired a panel discussion and co-presentation at the NZAS conference in July. The topic of the discussion was, "Newborn Hearing Screening is Almost Here".

Panel members included keynote speaker Martyn Hyde, Andrea Kelly and Michelle Pokorny. The discussion included confirmation of the District Health Boards starting newborn hearing screening programmes in 2008 and 2009 and the contracting process with the Ministry of Health.

### **International Newborn Hearing Screening Conference:**

Sarah Greensmith, Jenny Woodward, Dr Pat Tuohy, Mark Hutton and Sally Robinson represented the Ministry of Health and Ministry of Education at the NHS 2008 Conference held in June. Both Ministries presented updates about New Zealand's newborn hearing screening programme.

This was the fifth biennial international conference on newborn hearing screening and attracted delegates from 48 countries. Running simultaneously with this conference was an international Auditory Neuropathy conference and delegates were free to move between the two conferences.

As in previous years, the broad conference themes dealt with a range of issues including:

- Working with families
- Progress in newborn hearing screening
- Cochlear Implants
- Children with mild or unilateral hearing loss
- Diagnostic evaluation
- Medical research
- Programme development and evaluation
- Speech and language development and outcomes
- Technology update
- Progress in genetic research
- Hearing aids
- Models of early intervention

In addition to the spoken presentations, there were some valuable poster presentations which offered information and useful contacts for furthering some of the UNHSEI project tasks being undertaken by the Ministries.

### **Ministry of Education**

#### **Ongoing project tasks:**

Three priority tasks will be the focus for the MOE over the next year. These are:

- Updating, drafting and printing family and professional resource material
- Following-up on the Visual Communication plan drafted earlier in the year, and
- Developing an Outcome Measures protocol.

Sally Robinson is now working six hours a week on these project tasks. Her remaining time is spent working in her Adviser on Deaf Children role in Waikato district. Mark Hutton is continuing to liaise

closely with the National Screening Unit to oversee the implementation of the programme throughout the country.

**Outcome Measurement:**

The MOE is in the preliminary stages of investigating possible outcome measures for the children identified through screening. This work will involve a collaborative across-sector approach.

Outcome measurement is a three-fold task for the MOE that requires consideration of:

- What families and practitioners need to monitor progress in individual children and to guide their planning for the child
- What information the MOE needs to collect to evaluate the effectiveness of its Early Intervention service and to refine its service so as to better meet the needs of children and families
- What data the UNHSEI programme needs to gather to evaluate the effectiveness of the programme as a whole.

The MOE has started by gathering as much information about possible measures as possible from experienced practitioners and from looking at what is being measured in other programmes. This will enable an advisory group to make informed deliberations and, wherever possible, show the evidence base for their recommended outcome measurement protocol.

**Workforce training:**

Following the successful Advisers on Deaf Children training in January with Sue Lewis from the Early Support Programme in the UK, further workforce training is scheduled for September. A one day workshop has been organised for Early Intervention staff with Arlene Stredler-Brown (USA) and this is being offered in three locations around the country.

These workshops have been planned in consultation with the University of Auckland's School of Population Health. The University has organised for Arlene to travel to New Zealand to present at their Spring Symposium which this year has a focus on Early Intervention. Arlene has considerable knowledge of early intervention with children with hearing loss gained both through her former role as Director of the Colorado Home Intervention Program (CHIP) and her current role as a Consultant for Intervention and Educational programmes in Colorado and British Columbia.

The one day workshop will focus on topics identified as a priority for the workforce in the recent survey of training needs. These topics include:

- Forging parent-professional partnerships and family confidence
- Language acquisition
- Assessment

The Ministry of Education is planning to widen workshop invitations to stakeholder organisations.

**Professional Leadership:**

The Ministry of Education will continue to plan for, and address, the training needs of its Early Intervention workforce as the UNHSEI programme rolls out. Jo Davies, Professional Practice Leader: Early Intervention, is leading this work. Jo is organizing the one day workshops and will be coordinating future training to meet the needs that have been identified by staff as priorities for working with babies and families following referral from the programme.

**FURTHER INFORMATION**

Those parents or professionals wanting further information about progress towards a national newborn hearing screening and early intervention programme should visit the website of the National Screening Unit or contact the National Programme Manager, Vickie Rydz or contact Mark Hutton from Group Special Education. Vickie Rydz can be reached at [vickie\\_rydz@moh.govt.nz](mailto:vickie_rydz@moh.govt.nz) and Mark Hutton at [mark.hutton@minedu.govt.nz](mailto:mark.hutton@minedu.govt.nz).

## EARLY INTERVENTION SYMPOSIUM – SEPTEMBER 1<sup>ST</sup> 2008, AUCKLAND



The University of Auckland and the Oticon Foundation Hearing Education Centre is planning for an Early Intervention Symposium which will be held at the Tamaki Campus of the University on the 1st of September.

This symposium will include sessions by Arlene Stredler-Brown from Colorado and will cover topics including parental experiences of early intervention, speech and language development in children with hearing loss, and early intervention for children in New Zealand with hearing loss.

Arlene Stredler Brown is based at the Department of Speech, Language, Hearing Sciences at the University of Colorado - Boulder and works as a Clinical Instructor at the Department of Otolaryngology, School of Medicine, Denver, University of Colorado.

Other confirmed speakers include: Nina Sawicki, Vickie Rydz (Ministry of Health), Mark Hutton (Ministry of Education) and Sally Robinson (Ministry of Education).

This symposium will likely be of interest to speech language therapists, otologists, advisors on deaf children, audiologists, paediatricians and early intervention teachers.

Spaces for the symposium are limited. If you would like to attend this Symposium you can secure your place by contacting Heather Seal on 3737536 or e-mailing [audiology@auckland.ac.nz](mailto:audiology@auckland.ac.nz)

## 2) BEYOND NEWBORN HEARING SCREENING – COMO CONFERENCE UPDATE

### BEYOND NEWBORN HEARING SCREENING: INFANT AND CHILDHOOD HEARING IN SCIENCE AND CLINICAL PRACTICE

19-21 June 2008, Cernobbio, Italy. Villa Erba Congress Centre  
Cernobbio (Lake Como), Italy

The 'NHS2008' Conference included keynote addresses as well as poster presentations, round tables and platform communications by colleagues from a huge range of countries, in a truly international framework. [Gary Rance](#) and [Ed Rubel](#) were the keynote speakers at this fifth NHS conference.

Our Project Manager (the author of these updates) was fortunate to be one of more than 600 delegates attending the conference. 400 submissions were received from these delegates, who represented 48 countries.

Again this NHS conference included a variety of presentations from countries and jurisdictions with huge numbers of births (such as Brazil) to those like New Zealand with relatively few births each year. There were presentations on technologies and processes designed to improve services to those in rural areas (such as web based resources and teleconferencing) with low population density. This NHS conference also featured a number of inspiring presentations from developing countries who are coming to grips with the most significant of challenges due to factors such as limited funding and infrastructure.

**Representatives from the New Zealand Ministries of Health and Education presented:**

- Doing it Our Way – Newborn Hearing Screening In New Zealand (Sarah Greensmith, Pat Tuohy, Vickie Rydz and Jenny Woodward)
- Intervention Strategies – Developing a Joint Health and Education Response (Mark Hutton and Sally Robinson)

Following the conference welcome from Ferdi Grandori, Jerry Northern provided the audience with an overview of the history of newborn hearing screening. This presentation provided context for the content which was to follow, and was followed by a presentation by Ed Rubel which discussed the next frontiers in hearing habilitation.

The conference programme is available [here](#) and conference abstracts [here](#). If anyone has any specific presentation(s) they would like further information please don't hesitate to get in touch with me ([janet@levare.co.nz](mailto:janet@levare.co.nz)). Although there were four concurrent sessions throughout the conference I collected a mass of information, including from many of the poster presentations on display – all of which I am happy to share.

Although there were many great presentations I have included the titles of a selection of my favourites below for your interest.

Although overall the United States still suffers from very high loss to follow up, some states, including California are making improvements to ensure those babies referred from screening receive the follow up care they require:

- Hearing Coordination Center Model: Strategies to Reduce Lost to Follow Up. Lannon B - Bay Area Northern California Hearing Coordination Center, John Muir Health, California, Department of Health Care Services, Pleasant Hill, CA USA

Ensuring children receive the recommended services is a challenge in many programmes. This presentation discussed the need for improved definitions and reporting and introduce distinctions such as Loss to Follow-Up (LFU) – vs Loss to Documentation (LTD)

- New efforts to determine if children are receiving recommended services: A summary of recent efforts in the United States
- Gaffney M1, Gaffney C2, Green D2

Loss to follow-up has been long known to be a key issue with many UNHSEI programmes. Multidisciplinary teams from eight states in the US, including parents have worked together using a collaborative model to improve timeliness of both diagnosis and intervention for infants referred by newborn hearing screening programmes. This process improved both loss to follow-up and IFSP completion rates and has a second such group is to be established.

- A learning collaborative approach to EHDI system improvement, Russ S, Hanna D, DesGeorges J, Forsman I

And finally, there was an excellent special session entitled "Improving performance through quality assurance and training: the experience of the English programme" which included a great deal of useful information from the perspective of those who have been involved in the implementation of the UK programme.

- Quality Management of the Newborn Hearing Screening Programme, England, Orton E, Cameron C, Carr G, Junor C, Kean M, Ryan S, Rottier P, Stevenson A, Wood S, Davis AC
- The development of a national training and continuing Professional Development programme to support effective implementation of Newborn Hearing Screening and quality follow up in diagnosis and intervention, Kimm L, Carr G, Cameron C, Jones C, Kean M, Allan G, Atty G, Bennett D, Kelly H, Liversage T

### **OTICON FOUNDATION SUPPORT FOR HIEDI's ATTENDANCE AT COMO**

Project HIEDI would like to thank the Oticon Foundation of New Zealand for providing funding to ensure a HIEDI representative can attend the Como Newborn Hearing Screening.

The generosity of the grant was unexpected and is greatly appreciated.

You can find out more about the Oticon Foundation of New Zealand at its [website](#).

## **3) SPEECH-LANGUAGE THERAPISTS**

Following the recent speech-language conference in Auckland, the author of this newsletter thought now would be a good time to include some information about this conference, the role of the speech-language therapist, and the training they undergo.

### **Reflecting Connections 2008 – 25-29 May, Auckland.**

This is the second conference jointly hosted by the New Zealand Speech-Language Therapists Association and Speech Pathology Australia.

Over 550 delegates attended from New Zealand, Australia, United Kingdom, Hong Kong, China, Malaysia, USA and Canada. Keynote speakers at the conference included Dr. Pamela Snow -Senior Lecturer in the School of Psychology, Psychiatry, and Psychological Medicine at Monash University (based at the Bendigo Regional Clinical School in Central Victoria). She is a registered psychologist, having qualified originally in speech pathology.

The programme offered paper sessions on Hearing Loss and Deafness during Concurrent Sessions on Tuesday the 27<sup>th</sup> of May. These included papers entitled:

- The Melbourne Experience: Changing Selection Criteria for Paediatric Cochlear Implant Candidates
- Impact of Parent Participation on the Speech and Language Outcomes for Children with Cochlear Implants
- Long-Term Language, Speech Production and Speech Perception Outcomes for Children using CI
- Taking Baby Steps: Starting the Journey with Parents of Newborn Babies with a Hearing Loss
- Language Development of Children with Hearing Loss
- Phonological Development of Children with Hearing Aids and Cochlear Implants
- Evidence Based Practise in Management of Children with Permanent Hearing Loss: A Systematic Review of the Literature
- Auditory Processing Disorder: Treatments and Outcomes

A further seven related Poster Presentations were available for viewing amongst the 38 on display throughout the conference.

The Speech-Language Therapists Special Interest Group (SIG) also met during the conference. Vickie Ryzd attended this meeting (as National Programme Manager). The SIGs work focuses on the following areas: Education, Support, Planning, Resources and Awareness.

Project HIEDI was also represented. This was a great opportunity to discuss how the advent of newborn hearing screening has changed the role of speech-language therapists with the various Australian therapists present at this meeting.

Speech-Language Therapists generally work in either the health sector, education sector, or in private practice. They work with a broad range of clients, including children and adults, and are involved in the assessment, diagnosis, and treatment/management of a variety of communication and swallowing difficulties.

Although speech-language therapists work with many groups, including those with: voice disorders, brain injuries, swallowing difficulties, and problems stuttering they also work with children and adults with hearing impairment. Below is an excerpt from the speech-language therapist's [website](#) which includes an [information sheet on their role with those with hearing impairment](#).

### **Role of the Speech-Language Therapist**

The degree to which a Speech-Language Therapist may be involved in cases of hearing loss varies. However, their role may include one or some of the following:

- administering an initial hearing screening
- referring to an Audiologist for a comprehensive hearing assessment
- provision of communication strategies for individuals with hearing loss
- provision of strategies for coping with background noise, lighting, and distance
- assisting with treatment of children with Auditory Processing Disorder (APD)
- provision of information about prevention of hearing related communication and language disorders

### **Speech-Language Therapists - training**

There are three Speech-Language Therapy training programs currently available in New Zealand. Two of these are undergraduate degrees, and the third is a post-graduate degree. For more information about the individual degrees, see below.

For more information about the work Speech-Language Therapists do, or to read stories about individual Speech-Language Therapists, you can visit the [New Zealand Government's careers page](#).

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## **PROJECT HIEDI**

Project HIEDI is run by an independent group established in 2002 to see the introduction of a national newborn hearing screening and early intervention programme in New Zealand.

It has a Steering Team of volunteers, and a part-time Project Manager. The Steering Team is: Professor Peter Thorne (Project Leader), Dr Bill Keith, Dr Dianne Webster, Oriole Wilson, Margaret Cooper and Janet Digby (Project Manager).

For further information about Project HIEDI you can contact the Project Manager for HIEDI and author of these updates, Janet Digby by phoning (09) 445 6006 or e-mailing [janet@leware.co.nz](mailto:janet@leware.co.nz). You can also visit the Project HIEDI webpage at the [National Foundation for the Deaf website](#).

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