



NEPEAN HEARING

JULY 2016

Newsletter: Volume 7

Hello again from all of us at Nepean Hearing.

We are well and truly settled at our new Frankston rooms at 13 Hastings Rd- opposite Frankston Hospital. We hope all our patients are enjoying the brighter and bigger rooms with plenty of car parking spaces! Pop in and check it out if you haven't already.

Tony has been busy running and has recently completed a 48 hour run- well done!

David has just returned from the HEAL conference in Lake Como, Italy and Sara attended the Australian Audiology Conference which was held in Melbourne. We hope that by attending these conferences we keep up to date with the latest research and products available to help our patients.

With the Federal Election fast approaching, we hope that the Government continues to support the Office of Hearing Services program and extends its funding to include more people with hearing loss under the new National Disability Insurance Scheme (NDIS).

Enjoy the newsletter and we hope to see you soon.

Tony, David, Sara, Donna & Courtney.



"The ringing in your ears- I think I can help."

"For the last three years my hearing has grown steadily weaker . . . I can give you some idea of this peculiar deafness when I must tell you that in the theatre I have to get very close to the orchestra to understand the performers, and that from a distance I do not hear the high notes of the instruments and the singers' voices. . . Sometimes too I hardly hear people who speak softly. The sound I can hear it is true, but not the words. And yet if anyone shouts I can't bear it."

-Beethoven

Public Funding for Hearing Health

-article from www.hearinghq.com.au

Australia's Commonwealth Hearing Services Program administered by the Office of Hearing Services (OHS) is the envy of many around the world. It provides world-class subsidised audiology services to young people under the age of 26 and to eligible patients (adults on an age, disability or veteran's pension) through a voucher system.

According to the Hearing Care Industry Association, over 600,000 people access the OHS program in some form every year and in 2011/12 it provided over 300,000 of the approximately 400,000 hearing aids and devices sold in Australia.

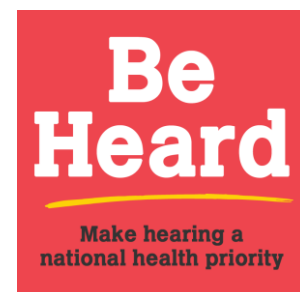
Hearing aid ownership for adults with mild hearing loss is less than 20% and for moderate hearing loss less than 50%, which may suggest that many wait until they qualify for the aged pension before addressing the problem.

Nearly half of the 3.55 million Australians who suffer from hearing loss are aged between 16 and 64 meaning a significant proportion fall outside of OHS eligibility criteria. This means more than 1.5 million Australians who are of prime working age and who suffer from hearing loss get little or no funding support or access to services and technologies that would enable them to communicate better at this critical stage of life, creating barriers to productivity, career establishment and advancement.

By world standards hearing loss in Australia receives very good public funding. We have one of the highest penetration of hearing aid use in the world due in part to the priority government has given to this health issue. For those of us with hearing loss, 35% own a hearing device. While we joke many put their hearing aids in the drawer not their ears, the level of non-use by hearing aid owners is down from 25% to 13%, compared to the international average of 30%.

But there is always room for more funding and the Audiological Society of Australia, the Hearing Care Industry Association and others lobby for improved support for those who fall outside the OHS eligibility criteria. Proposals include means testing to access the OHS voucher system for all Australians (in August 2010 the Federal Government agreed to this "in principle"); making hearing aids tax deductible; and providing low-cost reconditioned hearing aids.

This election, let's work together to.....



Visit the website to join the campaign.

High Aboriginal Prison Rates Linked to Hearing Loss

By Jacqueline Krynda from www.newmatilda.com

Aboriginals often begin to lose their hearing as a child, because of repeated ear infections. Aboriginal children are 50 times more likely to contract middle ear infections during infancy than non-Aboriginal children.

Chronic ear disease occurs wherever there is poor nutrition, overcrowded housing, and limited access to medical care. It's common around the world for people in disadvantaged conditions.

An estimated 74 per cent of Aboriginal children go on to develop a permanent hearing loss in adolescence and adulthood. At school, hearing difficulties increase the likelihood of delayed speech, problems learning to read, and isolation from other children. All this contributes to Aboriginal children leaving education early, finding it difficult to find a job, and, ultimately, ending up in trouble with the law.

If hearing loss does go undetected, the first time it usually becomes an issue is in interactions with police. A common problem is that a deaf offender has misunderstood and reacted incorrectly to a police instruction when they are being stopped or searched.

These problems are often repeated again in court, especially in noisy and fast-paced criminal trials in the Local and District Courts. In some instances, hearing-impaired defendants will act oddly during court proceedings, speaking too loudly and at the wrong time or withdrawing into themselves.

If a deaf defendant is sent to prison, being unable to hear adds another layer of isolation. Common complaints from prisoners documented in the 2010 Darwin and Alice Springs prison study included; "I can't hear them officers and I get in trouble" and "I don't understand that court fella."

There is currently no comprehensive hearing screening for Aboriginal defendants at court or Aboriginal inmates entering prison anywhere in Australia.

Time and cost is why governments are not providing more screening or treatment. The major governmental response to lobbying on this issue in 2010 was the Commonwealth transferring the funding responsibility for these services to the States and Territories, thereby evading the issue.

The issue is also not simply about criminal justice but also about Aboriginal health care more generally. Rates of ear disease seem to be on the rise, and have been recently labelled "a massive public health problem... needing urgent attention" by the World Health Organisation.

Hearing loss is the missing piece of the puzzle in why Aboriginal disadvantage is so hard to address. While it remains missing the rest of the picture won't make sense.



-At June 2015, 27% of the adult prisoner population in Australia were Aboriginal or Torres Strait Islander compared with 2% of the adult general population.

-In the Northern Territory in 2013, the general imprisonment rate was 885 per 100 000 adults. This is higher than the US rate (623 per 100 000) and just over three times that of its closest Australian rival, Western Australia.

Donations in Action!

In our last newsletter we mentioned we had donated money to St Paul's Mission. This is a special school set up for deaf and hard of hearing children in Zimbabwe.

Our donations were used to fit 45 people with second hand hearing aids. The children were also provided with a backpack containing pens, colouring pencils, scissors, rulers and notebooks. The school was also given some soccer balls.

The donations are also paying for the children's school uniforms and helping to connect and pay for electricity (which the school never previously had).

We intend to keep donating to this school and other charity organisations that help people access hearing care all over the world.



Contact Details:

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Website: www.nepeanhearing.com.au

Email: info@nepeanhearing.com.au

Locations:

Frankston: 13 Hastings Rd

Cranbourne: 184 South Gippsland Hwy

Mt Eliza: Ti-Tree Family Doctors, 118 Mount Eliza Way

Hastings: Community Health Centre, 185 High St

We also have visiting sites at Baxter Village, St Johns Village, Opal by the Bay, Lynbrook Park, Southern Cross Care Lynbrook & Langford Grange Cranbourne.