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# Australian Newborn Hearing Screening Showcase

CHINA – APRIL 2024



 Australian  
Hearing Hub



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Australia's leadership in newborn hearing screening is globally renowned. We will showcase the collaborative successes of the Australian Hearing Hub (AHH) in research, innovation, education and practice, and how the AHH is working towards optimising hearing health for all and transforming life outcomes for people with hearing loss.



**PROFESSOR PATRICK MCNEIL**

*Deputy Vice-Chancellor (Medicine and Health)*  
MB BS PhD FRACP

Professor Patrick McNeil is Macquarie University's Deputy Vice-Chancellor (Medicine and Health), a role that provides leadership of the clinical and academic components of MQ Health – the Macquarie University Health Sciences Centre, which represents Australia's first fully integrated academic health sciences enterprise under a university's leadership. McNeil's career has provided him with leadership roles across all three areas of academic medicine and practice. He studied Medicine at the University of Tasmania, undertook rheumatology specialty training in Sydney, completed a PhD in immunology at UNSW and a postdoctoral fellowship at Harvard Medical School before returning to a clinical academic position at UNSW. From 2001 to 2005 he served as Associate Dean, Education at UNSW

Medicine where he led the transformation of the medical curriculum to a highly innovative outcomes-based program. In 2005 he took up a chair in rheumatology at Liverpool Hospital, Sydney, and from 2012 to 2014 he served on the leadership team at Liverpool Hospital as Executive Clinical Director. McNeil served as Chair of Arthritis Australia from 2010 to 2014 to assist in its mission of advocacy for and improving the lives of the three million Australians living with arthritis. At Macquarie, McNeil launched the Macquarie MD in 2018 to create Australia's then newest medical school, and over the last decade he has led expansion of Macquarie's health enterprise to comprise a major component of its academic activities.

## A message from Professor Patrick McNeil

Macquarie University's Australian Hearing Hub was established 10 years ago as a genuine partnership between world-leading hearing health organisations. The bold ambition was to transform hearing health and communication through collaborative and multidisciplinary research, innovation, education and practice, with the goal of improving the lives of people with hearing loss.

We are delighted to have this opportunity to showcase Australia's excellence in newborn hearing screening in collaboration with the Australasian Newborn Hearing Screening Committee.

This showcase is funded through a highly competitive grant from the National Foundation for Australia-China Relations. We deeply value our partnerships in China and are focused on strengthening and deepening these connections for the mutual benefit of both countries. We look forward to exploring opportunities for impactful collaborations including multidisciplinary research, innovation, education and practice.

Together, with your ambition and our support, we can shape the future.

*That's **YOU** to the power of us.*



Australian Government



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Australian Newborn Hearing Screening Showcase  
is sponsored and supported by the National  
Foundation for Australia-China Relations.



### PROFESSOR GREG LEIGH AO

Director of Nextsense Institute  
BEd MSc (Speech and Hearing) PhD

Professor Greg Leigh held a range of positions in early intervention and education for deaf and hard of hearing children before entering academia. He has held academic roles at Deakin University and the University of Newcastle, and is now Director of NextSense Institute and Professor of Education and Disability Studies in the School of Education at Macquarie University. He has been an Honorary Visiting Fellow at Griffith University and International Visiting Scholar at the National Technical Institute for the Deaf (Rochester Institute of Technology), New York.

Leigh is active in research and has published widely on early identification, early intervention, and education for deaf and hard of hearing children. He is a member of the Editorial Board of the *Journal of Deaf Studies and Deaf Education*. He has served on numerous Australian Government consultative committees including the New South Wales Ministerial Standing Committee on Hearing and the National Neonatal Hearing Screening Working Party. Since 2005 he has been Chair of the Australasian Newborn Hearing Screening Committee and a Board Director of Deafness Foundation, Australia. He is a former National President of the Education Commission for the World Congress of the World Federation of the Deaf and, until recently was Chair or Co-chair of the International Steering Committees of the International Congress on Education of the Deaf (ICED) and the Asia Pacific Congress on Deafness. In 2014 he was invested as an Officer of the Order of Australia (AO) 'for distinguished service to the deaf and hard of hearing community, particularly children, through education, research, public policy development, and specialist services.'

#### RESEARCH EXPERTISE AND INTERESTS

- Newborn hearing screening (policy and practice)
- Developmental outcomes of early intervention
- Educational interventions and support for deaf and hard of hearing children
- Telepractice for early intervention (deaf and hard of hearing children and families)

#### RECENT PUBLICATIONS

- Ching, T. Y. C., & Leigh, G. (2020). Considering the impact of Universal Newborn Hearing Screening and early intervention on language outcomes for children with congenital hearing loss. *Journal of Hearing, Balance, and Communication*, 18(4), 215-224. doi:10.1080/21695717.2020.1846923
- Ching, T.Y.C., Dillon, H., Leigh, G., & Cupples, L. (2018). Learning from the Longitudinal Outcomes of Children with Hearing Impairment (LOCHI) study: Summary of 5-year findings and implications. *International Journal of Audiology*, 57(sup2), S105-S110. doi:10.1080/14992027.2017.1385865
- Leigh, G. & Crowe, K. (2021). Evidence-based practices for teaching learners who are deaf or hard-of-hearing in regular classrooms. In U. Sharma & S. Salend (Eds.), *The Oxford Encyclopaedia of Inclusive and Special Education: Volume 1* (pp. 517-534). New York: Oxford University Press. doi.org/10.1093/acrefore/9780190264093.013.1258
- McCarthy, M., Leigh, G. & Arthur-Kelly, M. (2022). Comparison of observed participant behaviors in telepractice and in-person early intervention. *Infants and Young Children*, 35(3), 222-247. doi:10.1097/IYC.0000000000000218

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### PROFESSOR CATHERINE MCMAHON

Head of Department of Linguistics  
Director, HEAR Centre, Macquarie University Hearing, Macquarie University  
BSc(Hons) Dip Aud Dip HEd PhD

Professor Catherine McMahon is Head of Department of Linguistics at Macquarie University, Director of the HEAR Centre, a World Hearing Forum member and a fully designated World Health Organization (WHO) collaborating centre. She is also Chair of the Australian Hearing Hub's Education and Practice Committee. Her research centres on understanding the barriers and facilitators to accessing and utilising hearing healthcare, and the design and implementation of effective care pathways. McMahon worked closely with the WHO to develop and collate the evidence base for the World Report on Hearing. She is a Commissioner on the Lancet Commission of Hearing Loss, and Co-Chair of the Innovation in Service Delivery team. Her current work aims to redesign the hearing healthcare pathway to improve outcomes for populations, which involves co-production with Aboriginal communities and older adults to better understand the barriers and enablers of complex interventions. McMahon has extensive experience in workforce development and training in ear and hearing care from vocational training through to master training.

#### RESEARCH EXPERTISE AND INTERESTS

- Workforce development and training
- Understanding barriers and facilitators to hearing healthcare
- Innovations in service delivery

#### RECENT PUBLICATIONS

- McMahon, C. M., Nieman, C. L., Thorne, P. R., Emmett, S. D., & Bhutta, M. F. (2021). The inaugural World Report on Hearing: From barriers to a platform for change. *Clinical Otolaryngology*, 46(3), 459-463.
- Nieman, C. L., & McMahon, C. M. (2020). The World Health Organization's World Report on Hearing: a call to action for hearing care providers. *The Journal of Laryngology & Otology*, 134(5), 377-378.
- Yong, M., Panth, N., McMahon, C. M., Thorne, P. R., & Emmett, S. D. (2020). How the world's children hear: A narrative review of school hearing screening programs globally. *OTO Open*, 4(2), 2473974X20923580.
- McMahon, C. M., Barr, C. M., Vitkovic, J., & Gopinath, B. (2021). A public health approach to ensure equitable, person-centred solutions to address ear disease, hearing loss and deafness. *Public Health Research and Practice*, 31(5), 1-3.

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### DR RACHAEL BESWICK

Director within the Queensland Health Reform Team and the First 2000 Days Program Lead  
PhD MBA

Dr Rachael Beswick is a Director within the Queensland Health Reform team and the First 2000 Days Program Lead, and Co-Chair of the Queensland Child and Youth Clinical Network. Previously, Beswick was for 10 years the director of the Queensland newborn hearing screening program, Healthy Hearing. With more than 10 years in program and system level leadership roles, Beswick has delivered several large-scale population-based research programs receiving \$1.6 million in research funding to date and has more than 30 publications. Her primary areas of research lie in screening programs, risk factors, detection of postnatal hearing loss, and quality assurance processes. Beswick has established and maintained extensive sector partnerships at a local, state and national level, including development of the inaugural Childhood Hearing Collaborative. She is also leading the Australasian Newborn Hearing Screening sub-committee which is developing a national consensus statement for detection of hearing loss beyond the newborn period.

#### RESEARCH EXPERTISE AND INTERESTS

- Population screening programs
- Early assessment and intervention
- Risk factors
- Detection of postnatal hearing loss
- Quality assurance processes across the newborn hearing screening pathway

#### RECENT PUBLICATIONS

E. J. Fitzgibbons, Keszegi, S., Driscoll, C., & Beswick, R. (2022). Childhood hearing loss detected beyond the newborn screen. *International Journal of Audiology*, DOI: 10.1080/14992027.2022.2042606

E. J. Fitzgibbons, Driscoll, C., Myers J., Nicholls, K., & Beswick, R. (2021). Predicting hearing loss from 10 years of universal newborn hearing screening results and risk factors. *International Journal of Audiology*, DOI: 10.1080/14992027.2021.1871975

Liddle, K., Beswick, R., Fitzgibbons, & Driscoll, C. (2021). Aetiology of permanent childhood hearing loss at a population level. *Journal of Paediatrics and Child Health*, doi:10.1111/jpc.15738

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### MS ANN PORTER AM

Founder and CEO of Aussie Deaf Kids  
BSc (Occupational Therapy) MeHealthcare

Ann Porter is the founder and CEO of Aussie Deaf Kids – a not-for-profit organisation providing online information and support to families with children who are deaf or hard of hearing. Porter has been actively involved in supporting families and systemic advocacy since her youngest daughter lost her hearing at the age of seven in 1996. She has represented the perspective of parents of children who are deaf or hard of hearing in numerous working groups including the Hearing Health Sector Committee established by the Hon Ken Wyatt AM, MP, Minister for Senior Australians and Aged Care and Minister for Indigenous Health, in June 2018, with the purpose of developing a Roadmap for Hearing Health in Australia. She is a member of the Australasian Newborn Hearing Screening Committee, Co-Chair of the Global Coalition of Parents of Children who are Deaf or Hard of Hearing (GPODHH) and on the Advisory Group for FCEI International. Her interests are in parent support, promoting family-centred care and informed decision-making, and advocating for co-design with parents in the development of systems and services for deaf children and their families.

Porter has a Bachelor of Science in Occupational Therapy and a Master of eHealthcare. She was appointed as a Member in the General Division of the Order of Australia (AM) in 2013 for her significant service to people who are deaf or hard of hearing through executive and advocacy roles.

#### RESEARCH EXPERTISE AND INTERESTS

- Parent support
- Parent decision-making
- International provision for parents

#### RECENT PUBLICATIONS

Porter, A., Sheeran, N., Hood, M., & Creed, P. (2021). Decision-making following identification of an infant's unilateral hearing loss: Parent and professional perspectives. *International Journal of Pediatric Otorhinolaryngology*. <https://doi.org/10.1016/j.ijporl.2021.110822>

Porter, A., Creed, P., Hood, M., & Ching, T. Y. C. (2018). Parental decision-making and deaf children: a systematic literature review. *Journal of Deaf Studies and Deaf Education*, 23, 295-306. <https://doi.org/10.1093/deafed/eny019>

Sass-Lehrer, M., Porter, A., Wu, & L, C. (2016). Families: Partnerships in practice. In M. Sass-Lehrer (Ed.), *Early intervention for deaf and hard of hearing infants, toddlers, and their families: Interdisciplinary perspectives* (pp. 65-103). Oxford University Press.

Porter, A., & Edirippulige, S. (2007). Parents of deaf children seeking hearing loss-related information on the internet: The Australian experience. *Journal of Deaf Studies and Deaf Education*, 12, 518-529. <https://doi.org/10.1093/deafed/enm009>

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#### DR KIRSTY GARDNER-BERRY OAM

Diagnostic Audiologist at Nextsense Cochlear Implant Program  
Consultant for Newborn Hearing Screening Equipment  
BSc MAud PhD

Dr Kirsty Gardner-Berry is a diagnostic audiologist at NextSense Cochlear Implant Program and consultant for newborn hearing screening equipment and training at ParagonCare.

Her PhD research was undertaken in conjunction with the National Acoustic Laboratories in Auditory Neuropathy Spectrum Disorder (ANSD). In 2019 Gardner-Berry received an Order of Australia Medal (OAM) for her services to audiology. Her main areas of interest are in the early identification of hearing loss, ANSD, and the use of electrophysiological testing techniques to assess and manage paediatric hearing disorders. This includes the use of electrocochleography (ECoChG), auditory brainstem response (ABR), cochlear implant evoked electrical auditory brainstem response (ImpEABR), and cortical auditory evoked potentials (CAEPs). More recently Gardner-Berry has been mentoring colleagues using remote ABR and CAEP testing to promote professional development and improve accessibility to specialist services for families. She has been a member of the Australasia Newborn Hearing Screening committee (ANHSC) since 2005. Her role at ParagonCare includes education, newborn hearing screening equipment training and the provision of overall program support through clinical partnerships with universal newborn hearing screening (UNHS) program managers in Australia. She has presented at numerous conferences and professional webinars on electrophysiological testing and ANSD.

#### RESEARCH EXPERTISE AND INTERESTS

- Newborn hearing screening (screener training and diagnostic audiology)
- Auditory neuropathy spectrum disorder
- Electrophysiological testing techniques in audiology
- Tele-audiology (ABR and CAEPs)

#### RECENT PUBLICATIONS

Gardner-Berry, K., Hou, S. & Ching, T.Y.C (2019). Managing infants and children with auditory neuropathy spectrum disorder. In J. Madell et. al., *Pediatric Audiology: Diagnosis, Technology & Management*, Third Ed.

Gardner-Berry, K., Chang, H., Ching, T. Y. C., & Hou, S. (2016). Detection rates of cortical auditory evoked potentials at different sensation levels in infants with sensory/neural hearing loss and auditory neuropathy spectrum disorder. *Seminars in Hearing*, 37(1), 53-61 doi: 10.1055/s-0035-1570330

Ching, T.Y.C., Day, J., Dillon, H., Gardner-Berry, K., Hou, S, Seeto, M., Wong, A. & Zang, V. (2013). Impact of the presence of auditory neuropathy spectrum disorder (ANSD) on outcomes of children at three years of age *International Journal of Audiology*, 57, S55-S164. doi. 10.3109/14992027.2013.796532

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#### MS TRUDY SMITH

Manager of Continuing Professional Education at Nextsense,  
Adjunct Lecturer, School of Education, Macquarie University  
MEd, LSLS Cert AVT

Trudy Smith is Manager of Continuing Professional Education at NextSense Institute, and Adjunct Lecturer in the School of Education at Macquarie University. Prior to commencing an academic career, Smith held appointments as a classroom and itinerant teacher of the Deaf, and an appointment in executive management of educational services for children with sensory disabilities in Queensland. Smith is a Listening and Spoken Language Certified Auditory Verbal Therapist and has extensive experience in telepractice and remote services. She has worked as a global rehabilitation manager, providing training and coaching for teachers, therapists and families around the world. She is a member of the Family-Centred Early Intervention (FCEI) International Executive Committee, the AG Bell Academy Conference Planning Committee and Vice Chair of the Ling Consortium.

#### RESEARCH EXPERTISE AND INTERESTS

- Family-centred early intervention
- Auditory verbal therapy
- Adult education

#### RECENT PUBLICATIONS

Kendrick, A. & Smith, T. (2017). AV Practice–Principles, Mentoring and Certification Process. In E. A. Rhoades & J. Duncan (Eds.) *Auditory-verbal practice: Family-Centered early intervention* (2nd ed.). Springfield, Illinois: Charles C Thomas.

Smith, T., Birdsey, B., Carr, G., Gale, E., Yoshinaga-Itano, C. & Holzinger, D. (2022). Family-centred early intervention. In C. Yoshinaga-Itano (Ed.) *Fast Facts: Early Hearing Detection and Intervention* (pp. 105-111). Oxford: S Karger Publishers Ltd.

Szarkowski, A., Moeller, M. P., Gale, E., Smith, T., Birdsey, B., Moodie, S. T. F., Carr, G., Stredler-Brown, A., Yoshinaga-Itano, C., & Holzinger, D. (2024). Family-Centered Early Intervention Deaf/Hard of Hearing (FCEI-DHH): Guiding Values. *Journal of Deaf Studies and Deaf Education*, 29(SI), SI8–SI26. Doi: 10.1093/deaf/enad038

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### ASSOCIATE PROFESSOR VALERIE SUNG

Paediatrician, The Royal Children's Hospital,  
Clinician Scientist Fellow, Murdoch Children's Research Institute,  
Honorary Clinical Associate Professor, The University Of Melbourne  
MBBS(Hons) FRACP MPH PhD

Associate Professor Valerie Sung is a paediatrician at The Royal Children's Hospital, Clinician Scientist Fellow at the Murdoch Children's Research Institute, and Honorary Clinical Associate Professor at the University of Melbourne. She is founder and chair of the Childhood Hearing Australasian Medical Professionals (CHAMP) Network which developed national guidelines for managing childhood hearing loss and is a member of the Australasian Newborn Hearing Screening Committee. Sung's child hearing research program has a health services framework encompassing population/clinical cohorts and intervention trials, with specific aims to (i) identify early predictors of child outcomes for precision medicine and improve early prognostic counselling, (ii) establish evidence-based management through interventional trials, and (iii) discover ways to prevent or reduce adverse challenges faced by deaf and hard of hearing children and their families. Sung's research also focuses on using ethically sound and consumer-accepted ways to enable use of (i) routine clinical and health services data for quality improvement and research, and (ii) large-scale registries as platforms to answer research questions and facilitate intervention trials. Her hearing research was recognised by a 2019 L'Oréal-UNESCO Australia for Women in Science Fellowship.

#### RESEARCH EXPERTISE AND INTERESTS

- National guidelines for medical investigation and management of childhood hearing loss
- Child hearing research with a health services framework using population and clinical cohorts and intervention trials

#### RECENT PUBLICATIONS

Sung V, Downie L, Paxton G, Liddle K, Birman C, Chan W, Cottier C, Harris A, Hunter M, Peadon E, Peacock K, Roddick L, Rose E, Saunders K, Amor DJ (2019). Childhood Hearing Australasian Medical Professionals (CHAMP) network: Consensus guidelines on investigation and clinical management of childhood hearing loss. *Journal of Paediatrics and Child Health*, 55: 1013-1022. doi:10.1111/jpc.14508

Sung V, Smith L, Poulakis Z, Burt RA, Carew P, Tobin S, Wake M (2019). Data resource profile: Victorian Childhood Hearing Impairment Longitudinal Databank (VicCHILD). *International Journal of Epidemiology*, dyz168, <https://doi.org/10.1093/ije/dyz168>

Webb E, Gillespie AN, Poulakis Z, Gartland T, Buttery J, Casalaz D, Daley AJ, Donath S, Gwee A, Jacobs SE, Phuong LK, Pszczola R, Purcell R, Saunders K, Kadambari S, Jones CA, Sung V (2021). Feasibility and acceptability of targeted salivary cytomegalovirus screening through universal newborn hearing screening. *Journal of Paediatrics and Child Health*. <https://doi.org/10.1111/jpc.15705>

Downie L, Halliday J, Burt R, Lunke S, Lynch E, Martyn M, Poulakis Z, Gaff C, Sung V, Wake M, Hunter M, Saunders K, Rose E, Lewis S, Jarmolowicz A, Phelan D, Rehm HL, Melbourne Genomics Health Alliance, Amor DJ (2019). Exome sequencing in infants with congenital hearing impairment: A population-based cohort study. *European Journal of Human Genetics*. <https://doi.org/10.1038/s41431-019-0553-8>

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### MS DANIELLE LAM

Principal, Growth and Development  
BAppSc (Speech Path) CPSP LSLS Cert AVT

Danielle Lam is a Certified Practising Speech Pathologist and Certified Listening and Spoken Language Specialist (LSLS). She joined The Shepherd Centre in 2007 and is leading the team in regional growth and development. Lam has a keen interest in ensuring families with children with hearing loss are able to access listening-based communication learning wherever they live in the world. Lam works from a holistic and collaborative model of integrated care. This has led her to develop online telehealth services, professional learning courses, digital assessment tools and training resources for professionals working with children with hearing loss at The Shepherd Centre and beyond as part of HearHub digital platform. Lam is a member of the First Voice Clinical Advisory Committee.

#### RESEARCH EXPERTISE AND INTERESTS

- Family-centred collaborative care
- Listening and spoken language development
- Telehealth and hybrid models of service delivery
- Equitable outcomes
- Early access to sound

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### MS INGE KALTENBRUNN

Best Practice Lead: Early Intervention (Hearing), Nextsense  
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Inge Kaltenbrunn is the Best Practice Lead: Early Intervention (Hearing) at NextSense in Sydney, Australia. In that role, she is responsible for the identification and development of evidence-based, best practice early intervention service delivery models for young children who are deaf or hard of hearing and their families. As a speech pathologist, audiologist, and LSLS Certified Auditory-Verbal Therapist, Kaltenbrunn has more than 25 years of experience working in the field of hearing loss and cochlear implants. She has developed and delivered family-centred early intervention and cochlear implant habilitation programs to children who are deaf or hard of hearing and their families, and provided mentoring and professional training in paediatric hearing loss in Australia and internationally. She currently serves as a member of the Queensland Early Intervention Working Group for Children with Hearing Loss, and chairs the First Voice Clinical Advisory Committee. She represents NextSense in various industry collaborations (eg REIMAGINE National Taskforce for Best Practice in Early Childhood Intervention).

#### RESEARCH EXPERTISE AND INTERESTS

- Family-centred early intervention
- Auditory-Verbal Therapy
- Cochlear implant (re)habilitation
- Program development and coordinating
- Delivery of professional education and training programs

#### RESEARCH PUBLICATIONS

Kaltenbrunn, I.J., Louw, B, & Hugo, S.R. (2005). Young children's use of communication functions before and after cochlear implantation ("Jong kinders se gebruik van kommunikasiefunksies voor en na kogleere inplanting"). *The South African Journal of Communication Disorders*, 52, 15-24.

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### MS PATRICIA (TRISH) VAN BUYNDER

Principal Audiologist, Hearing Australia  
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Trish Van Buynder is Principal Audiologist with Hearing Australia, responsible for the clinical standards and quality in relation to specialist paediatric services. She has extensive experience in the development and delivery of specialist clinical training. Van Buynder previously worked at the National Acoustic Laboratories as a senior research audiologist responsible for overseeing audiologists and audiological implementation on various studies including the Longitudinal Outcomes of Children with Hearing Impairment (LOCHI) study, Children with Unilateral Hearing Loss (CUHL) study and Mild Matters study. She has a passion for improving children's outcomes with research and data. Van Buynder holds honorary academic positions with the University of Melbourne and Charles Darwin University where she provides sessional lectures in paediatric audiology. She is a member of the Australasian Newborn Hearing Screening Committee.

#### RESEARCH EXPERTISE AND INTERESTS

- Paediatric amplification
- Improving client outcomes
- Managing and supporting quality clinical practice
- Family-centred intervention

#### RECENT PUBLICATIONS

Ching, Teresa Y.C., Zhang, Vicky, W., Johnson, Earl E., Van Buynder, P., Hou, S., Burns, L., Button, L., Flynn, C. & McGhie, K. (2017). Hearing aid fitting and developmental outcomes of children fit according to either the NAL or DSL prescription: Fit-to-target, audibility, speech and language abilities, *International Journal of Audiology*, 57, S41-54.

Ching, T.Y.C., Dillon, H., Button, L., Seeto, M., Van Buynder, P., Marnane, V., Cupples, L., Leigh, G. (2017). Age at intervention for permanent hearing loss and 5-year language outcomes. *Pediatrics*, 140(3).

Ching, T.C., Zhang, V.W., Flynn, Burns, Button, Hou, McGhie, Van Buynder (2017). Factors influencing speech perception in noise for 5-year-old children using hearing aids or cochlear implants. *International Journal of Audiology*.

Ching, T. Y. C., Dillon, H., Marnane, V., Hou, S., Day, J., Seeto, M., Crowe, K., Street, L., Thomson, J., Van Buynder, P., Zhang, V., Wong, A., Burns, L., Flynn, C., Cupples, L., Cowan, R., Leigh, G., Sjahalam-King, J., & Yeh, A. (2013). Outcomes of early- and late-identified children at 3 years of age: Findings from a prospective population-based study. *Ear and Hearing*, 34(5), 535-552.

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### MS YETTA ABRAHAMS

Director of Education and Professional Engagement  
BA, BHLthSc, MCLinAud, GradCertMgt, AAudA(CAPA)

Yetta Abrahams is a hearing care professional and leading audiologist with more than 20 years in the field of hearing implants. She is currently Director of Education and Professional Engagement for Cochlear Asia Pacific, and has held previous clinical and research roles with The Shepherd Centre, University of Sydney, Hearing Implants Australia, the Sydney Cochlear Implant Centre (now NextSense), and Sydney Children's Hospital. Her interests lie in leadership and innovation in the clinical arena. She has worked closely and collaboratively with teams of audiologists, surgeons, speech pathologists and researchers to challenge current thinking and embrace the integration of person-centred care and evidence-based practice. She is inspired by clinicians from around the world who share the goal of delivering the best possible services for the best possible outcomes. The focus of her career continues to be innovation and advocacy for people with hearing disabilities of all ages so that hearing is not a barrier in any part of their lives. She is a non-executive director of the Audiology Australia Board and a past board chair of Hear for You.

#### RESEARCH EXPERTISE AND INTEREST

- Hearing implants
- Leadership and innovation in clinical arena
- Advocacy for people with hearing disabilities
- Audiology Australia advanced paediatric certification

#### RECENT PUBLICATIONS

Dettman, S. J., Dowell, R. C., Choo, D., Arnott, W., Abrahams, Y., Davis, A., ... & Briggs, R. J. (2016). Long-term communication outcomes for children receiving cochlear implants younger than 12 months: A multicenter study. *Otology & Neurotology*, 37(2), e82-e95.

Psarros, C., & Abrahams, Y. (2022). Recent trends in cochlear implant programming and (re) habilitation. In *Cochlear Implants: New and Future Directions* (pp. 441-471). Singapore: Springer Nature Singapore.

Aud, M. C. (2012). Maximizing the impact of telepractice through a multifaceted service delivery model at the Shepherd Centre, Australia. *Alexander Graham Bell Association for the Deaf and Hard of Hearing*, 112(3), 383-391.

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### DR ZEFFIE POULAKIS

Director of Psychology

Inaugural Director of the Victorian Infant Hearing Screening Program (VIHSP)

The Royal Children's Hospital Melbourne

BBehSc (Hons) DPsych

Dr Zeffie Poulakis is a senior clinical psychologist and inaugural Director of the Victorian Infant Hearing Screening Program (VIHSP) at The Royal Children's Hospital Melbourne; research officer at the Murdoch Children's Research Institute; and fellow (honorary) at the University of Melbourne. Poulakis has been working in the field of paediatric hearing loss for three decades and oversaw the implementation of universal newborn hearing screening services throughout the state of Victoria. She has a research career spanning three decades, with a focus on investigating psychosocial outcomes in children and adolescents, including those with congenital hearing loss, and is an investigator on competitive research grants. She has expertise in population-based screening frameworks and principles as well as design and implementation and engages in continuous quality improvement in health services. She is Secretary of the Australasian Newborn Hearing Screening Committee.

#### RESEARCH EXPERTISE AND INTERESTS

- Newborn hearing screening (implementation, evaluation and quality improvement)
- Psychosocial outcomes among children with congenital hearing loss
- Population-based screening

#### RECENT PUBLICATIONS

Elliott K, Vears DF, Sung V, Poulakis Z, Sheehan J. (2022). Exploring parent support needs during the newborn hearing diagnosis pathway. *Journal of Clinical Medicine*, 11(5):1389. <https://doi.org/10.3390/jcm11051389>

Bloom T, Nguyen T, Lami F, Pace C, Poulakis Z, Telfer M, Taylor A, Pang K, Tollit A. (2021). Measurement tools for gender identity, gender expression, and gender dysphoria in transgender and gender-diverse children and adolescents: a systematic review. *The Lancet Child & Adolescent Health*, Volume 5, Issue 8, 582–588. [https://doi.org/10.1016/S2352-4642\(21\)00098-5](https://doi.org/10.1016/S2352-4642(21)00098-5).

Chew D, Tollit MA, Poulakis Z, Zwickl S, Cheung AS, Pang KC. (2020). Youths with a non-binary gender identity: a review of their sociodemographic and clinical profile. *The Lancet Child & Adolescent Health*, Volume 4, Issue 4, 2020, pages 322–330. [https://doi.org/10.1016/S2352-4642\(19\)30403-1](https://doi.org/10.1016/S2352-4642(19)30403-1)

Downie, L., Halliday, J., Burt, R. et al (2020). Exome sequencing in infants with congenital hearing impairment: a population-based cohort study. *Eur J Hum Genet*, 28, 587–596. <https://doi.org/10.1038/s41431-019-0553-8>

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### UNIVERSAL NEWBORN HEARING SCREENING EXPERT WORKING GROUP



#### ACCOMPANYING STAFF



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**AUSTRALIAN NEWBORN HEARING SCREENING SHOWCASE**



**AUSTRALIAN HEARING HUB**



The Australian Hearing Hub is an initiative of the Australian Government being conducted as part of the Education Investment Fund.

Macquarie University is a vibrant hub of intellectual thinkers, all working towards a brighter future for our communities and our planet.

**A PLACE OF INSPIRATION**

Macquarie is uniquely located in the heart of Australia's largest high-tech precinct, a thriving locale which is predicted to double in size in the next 20 years to become the fourth largest CBD in Australia.

Our campus spans 126 hectares, with open green space that gives our community the freedom to think and grow. We are home to fantastic facilities with excellent transport links to the city and suburbs, supported by an on-campus train station.

**RENOWNED FOR EXCELLENCE**

Ranked among the top one per cent of universities in the world, we are renowned for producing graduates who are among the most sought after professionals in the world.

**A PROUD TRADITION OF DISCOVERY**

Our enviable research efforts are brought to life by renowned researchers whose audacious solutions to issues of global significance are benefiting the world we live in.

**BUILDING SUCCESSFUL GRADUATES**

Our pioneering approach to teaching and learning is built around a connected learning community: our students are considered partners and co-creators in their learning experience.







**FIND OUT MORE**

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