

Universal Newborn Hearing Screening – Australia

Australia is globally regarded for its newborn hearing screening programs, which have very high rates of capture (> 97% of all births nationally) and very low rates of loss to follow-up (< 5% on average across jurisdictions). The success of these programs is based on several factors including the support that families receive before, during and after the screening and diagnostic process, and the high quality of intervention services for children and families when a hearing loss is identified.

Slightly different models of screening operate across the various states and territories in Australia, with all jurisdictions broadly conforming to a common framework for the delivery of Newborn Hearing Screening programs (i.e., the National Framework for Neonatal Hearing Screening). Similar screening protocols are used in all jurisdictions with a strong emphasis on quality in all aspects of the early detection and intervention pathway, ensuring that families are well supported to access a range of services to develop their child's language, communication, and other critical skills.

Data collection, continuous monitoring, and ongoing quality improvement strategies all serve to support tracking of individual children along the pathway and the evaluation of overall program outcomes.

Families are provided with unbiased and accessible information that enables them to make informed decisions about the intervention options for their child and their preferred service provider. In addition to the support services provided with early intervention programs, families are supported by parent-led organisations such as Aussie Deaf Kids and Parents of Deaf Children to help families build confidence in raising their child and to offer opportunities to connect with other families.

Early intervention programs are provided by a range of providers that are funded by the National Disability Insurance Scheme. Service providers, like NextSense and The Shepherd Centre, adhere to the principles of family centred early intervention, building the capacity of families to create natural language learning environments at home. Intervention services employ multi-disciplinary teams of professionals that conform to national professional standards and employ evidence-based practices.

Cochlear implant services are funded variously by State and Federal Governments. Cochlear implantation for infants is facilitated and coordinated by, or provided in strong collaboration with, early intervention programs. Audiologists, otolaryngologists, habilitationists (speech pathologists or teachers of the deaf), psychologists and social workers all work collaboratively with the family and child for candidacy evaluations, implant surgery, fitting, ongoing evaluation, and habilitation.

Australia's national hearing services organization, Hearing Australia, is funded by the Federal Government to provide equitable access to high-quality hearing care including free access to ongoing hearing assessment, hearing aids, and upgrades to cochlear implant processor technology after initial implantation. This comprehensive range of hearing services is provided for all Australians with permanent hearing loss up to the age of 26 under the Federal Government's Children's Hearing Services Program.

NFACR Acknowledgement

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

澳大利亚新生儿听力筛查计划：助力听力健康，培育未来

澳大利亚以其全球闻名的新生儿听力筛查计划而著称，该计划具有非常高的覆盖率（全国范围内超过97%的出生）和极低的失访率（在各个司法管辖区平均不超过5%）。这是因为在整个服务过程中，家庭得到支持，以确保他们的孩子能够获得服务，发展最适合家庭的语言和沟通技能。

澳大利亚各州和地区在新生儿听力筛查方面采用不同的模式，但所有司法辖区都大致遵循新生儿听力筛查计划的共同框架。各个司法辖区都采用类似的筛查方案，强调筛查路径，这一过程远不止最后的筛查测试和听力诊断。

数据收集、持续监测、不断改进质量，支持追踪孩子发展的路径，评估个体的成功。

家庭可以获得公正且易于获取的信息，使他们能够对其孩子的沟通选择和首选服务商做出明智决策。家庭得到慈善组织的支持，包括澳大利亚聋哑儿童协会、澳大利亚聋儿家长协会等，以帮助家庭在抚养孩子方面建立信心，并提供与其他家庭交流的机会。

早期干预计划，如NextSense和The Shepherd Centre，坚持以家庭为中心的原则，专注于培养家庭在家中创造自然语言学习环境的能力。它促进合作团队工作，遵循专业标准的循证实践，对家庭负责，采用以结果为导向的方法。

植入人工耳蜗的服务由澳大利亚各州和联邦政府资助。这在早期干预的背景下，采用多学科方法。例如，耳鼻喉科医生、听力学家、康复师、心理学家和社会工作者与家庭和孩子合作进行候选资格评估、植入手术、设备适配和评估。

澳大利亚的联邦资助机构，Hearing Australia，为儿童提供平等获得高质量护理的机会。从出生到进入职场，为年龄在26岁以下的永久性听力损失儿童提供全面的听力服务支持。

特别鸣谢

澳大利亚新生儿听力筛查展示由澳中基金会赞助支持

媒体关键词：新生儿听力筛查，家庭支持，早期干预，人工耳蜗，澳大利亚听力

