

## UNIVERSAL NEWBORN HEARING SCREENING (UNHS)

### Participation in China National Deafness Prevention Conference, 2 – 7 September 2024

The Australian Newborn Hearing Screening Showcase Program is sponsored and supported by the National Foundation for Australia-China Relations (NFACR).

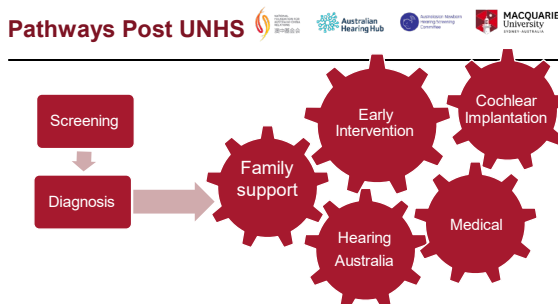
In September, Professor Greg Leigh AO, Associate Professor Valerie Sung, and Mr Stephen Fan attended the China National Deafness Prevention Conference, held in Shijiazhuang.

The UNHS Expert Working Group is a joint initiative of the Australian Hearing Hub at Macquarie University and the Australasian Newborn Hearing Screening Committee.

This program has been established to share Australian knowledge and experience in the development and enhancement of programs for early detection and intervention for newborns with hearing loss with colleagues in China.



### The Australian UNHS Pathway



### SHIJIAZHUANG

The visit to Shijiazhuang began with a dinner reception. We were honoured to host representatives from the China National Health Commission, together with senior hearing professionals from hospitals, research centres, and universities to celebrate the long-established collaboration between Australia and China in audiology.



### BEIJING

Arriving on 3 Sep, the delegation attended the Friends of the Foundation event, hosted by Mr Gary Cowan, CEO of National Foundation for Australia-China Relations, at the Ambassador's residence, Australian Embassy, Beijing. The event provided a welcome opportunity for grant partners in China to connect with each other. The delegation had the opportunity to meet with Mr Gary Cowan, as well as reconnecting with Mr Scott Dewar, Ambassador to the People's Republic of China, who also hosted a reception event for the earlier delegation in Beijing in April.

### Australian Hearing Hub

Founded by



Members





## China National Deafness Prevention Conference Friday 6 September 2024

The following day the Australian delegation attended the National conference and delivered the presentations with consecutive translation services provided. The topics presented by were:

- Early identification and intervention in sensorineural hearing loss: The Australian UNHS System and outcomes – by Professor Greg Leigh, Director, NextSense Institute; Chair, Australasian Newborn Hearing Screening Committee/Professor of Disability Studies, Macquarie University.
- Building and early identification and intervention in sensorineural hearing loss in Australia: Utilising national data for system development – by Associate Professor Valerie Sung, Paediatrician, The Royal Children's Hospital; Senior Research Fellow, Murdoch Children's Research Institute;



## OUTCOMES AND FUTURE OPPORTUNITIES

To promote Australia and China collaboration in the field of Newborn Hearing Screening, several resources have been developed and distributed amongst stakeholders and have received much positive feedback. These include:

- A 5-minute promotional video (English and Chinese versions) that showcases the Australian Universal Newborn Hearing Screening experience and capability.



- An edited video produced from the speech delivered by Professor Philip Newall to celebrate the 30-year history of Australian engagement with China in the development of audiology (long and short versions). The short version was presented at the dinner reception preceding the China National Deafness Prevention Conference.



- An Australian Newborn Hearing Screening Showcase Program web page on the [Australian Hearing Hub website](#), recording the activities conducted under the NFACR grant program.

The visit enabled delegates in Australia and China in the field of hearing health care to reconnect, 30 years after the initial development of audiology in China. This visit follows many years of collaboration between specific individuals and organisations with expertise in the delivery of hearing healthcare for children and workforce training to support those activities.

Attendance at the national conference has greatly enhanced the project members' understanding of policy and practice updates in China, and how we can best exchange our experiences in hearing healthcare.

Future opportunities through strengthened partnerships will include collaboration in workforce training and development and research, in addition to further clinical and academic exchange.