

UNIVERSAL NEWBORN HEARING SCREENING (UNHS)

Sydney Workshop 22-24 July 2024

Co-chaired by Professor Catherine McMahon, Chair, AHH Education and Practice Committee, and
Professor Greg Leigh AO, Chair, Australasian Newborn Hearing Screening Committee

SUMMARY

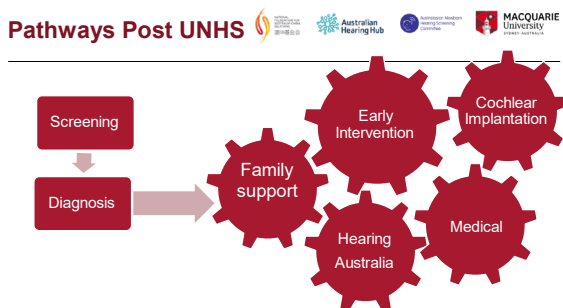
The Australian Newborn Hearing Screening Showcase Program is sponsored and supported by the National Foundation for Australia-China Relations (NFACR).

In July 2024, a delegation of 6 participants from Shanghai engaged in discussions and presentations from Australian hearing health leaders, researchers, clinicians, and support staff from the Universal Newborn Hearing Screening (UNHS) Expert Working Group that visited China in April.

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



Arriving on 22 July, the group joined a group of Australian leaders representing health, hearing intervention and education services to learn about the 30-year history of Australia-China relations in audiology from Professor Philip Newall. This presentation was followed by a seminar outlining the newborn hearing screening proposition in Australia from members of the UNHS Expert Working Group, and a workshop discussion about the programs in China and Australia. The program on 23 and 24 July included visits with Australian Hearing

Hub partners including Hearing Australia, Parents of Deaf Children, NextSense, the Shepherd Centre, and Cochlear.

Members of the Shanghai Delegation

- **Professor Liping Zhang**
- **Ms. Bing Liang**
- **Professor Ying Chen**
- **Pinze Wang**, Year 2 student
- **Wenliang Zhang**, Year 1 student
- **Junyan Zhu**, Year 3 student

Members of the UNHS Expert Working Group:

- **Professor Catherine McMahon**, Head, Department of Linguistics, Macquarie University, and Chair, Education and Practice Committee, Australian Hearing Hub
- **Professor Greg Leigh**, Director, NextSense Institute, and Chair, Australasian Newborn Hearing Screening Committee
- **Dr Zeffie Poulakis**, Director of Psychology and Inaugural Director Victorian Infant Hearing Screening Program, Royal Children's Hospital Melbourne
- **Ms Ann Porter**, CEO, Aussie Deaf Kids
- **Ms Patricia Van Buynder**, Principal Audiologist, Hearing Australia
- **Associate Professor Valerie Sung**, Paediatrician, The Royal Children's Hospital and Senior Research Fellow, Murdoch Children's Research Institute
- **Ms Yetta Abrahams**, Director of Education and Professional Engagement, Cochlear Limited (Asia Pacific)
- **Ms Trudy Smith**, Manager Continuing Professional Education, NextSense Institute
- **Dr Pia Watkins**, Research, Learning and Development Team, The Shepherd Centre

Australian Hearing Hub

Founded by



Members



WELCOME RECEPTION



Attended by:

- **Julie-Anne Nichols**, A/g Deputy Chief Executive Officer, NFACR
- **Nathania Tangvisethpat**, Program Manager, Industry and Economic Section, NFACR
- **Prof. Patrick McNeil**, Deputy Vice-Chancellor (Medicine and Health), Managing Director, MQ Health, Executive Dean Faculty of Medicine, Health and Human Sciences
- **Dr David McAlpine**, Academic Director of Macquarie University Hearing
- **Chris Carlile**, Department of Health
- **Dig Howitt**, Chief Executive Officer and President, Cochlear Ltd.
- **Anthony Bishop**, President, Cochlear Ltd (Asia Pacific)
- **Michelle Nicholls**, Director Clinical Affairs, Cochlear Ltd, (Australia and New Zealand)
- **Ravin Nand**, General Manager, Cochlear Ltd (Australia and New Zealand)
- **Emma Scanlan**, Hearing Australia
- **Viji Easwar**, Head of Paediatric Hearing Loss, National Acoustics Laboratory

SEMINAR OUTLINE

Topic	Presenter
Welcome	Prof. Catherine McMahon, Head of the Department of Linguistics, Macquarie University / Chair Education and Practice Committee, Australian Hearing Hub
Australia-China 30-year partnership	Prof. Philip Newall
Overview of Australian Newborn Hearing Screening System, Newborn Hearing Screening and Diagnostic Testing	Prof. Greg Leigh, Director, NextSense Institute; Chair, Australasian Newborn Hearing Screening Committee; Dr. Zeffie Poulakis, Director of Psychology & Inaugural Director Victorian Infant Hearing Screening Program, Royal Children's Hospital Melbourne

Audiological / Medical management/ Cochlear Implant Pathways	Ms. Patricia Van Buynder, Principal Audiologist, Hearing Australia; Associate Prof. Valerie Sung, Paediatrician, The Royal Children's Hospital; Senior Research Fellow, Murdoch Childrens Research Institute; Ms. Yetta Abrahams, Director of Education and Professional Engagement, Cochlear Limited (Asia Pacific)
Family Centred Early Intervention / Parent and family support	Ms. Trudy Smith, Manager Continuing Professional Education, NextSense Institute; Dr Pia Watkins, Research, Learning and Development Team, The Shepherd Centre; Ms. Ann Porter, CEO, Aussie Deaf Kids
Q & A	Prof. Catherine McMahon, Head of the Department of Linguistics, Macquarie University / Chair Education and Practice Committee, Australian Hearing Hub



SITE VISIT OUTLINE

Activity	Presenter
Hearing Australia paediatric hearing aid fitting (demo)	Hearing Australia
Early Intervention (demo)	The Shepherd Centre
Family Centred/ Parent support visit	Aussie Deaf Kids / Parents of Deaf Children
NextSense site visit and Tele practice (demo)	NextSense
Macquarie University Hospital tour	Macquarie University Hospital
Cochlear site visit	Cochlear
NAL site visit	National Acoustics Laboratory
Dinner Australian and Chinese delegation	

OUTCOMES AND FUTURE OPPORTUNITIES

The Workshop provided Chinese delegates with firsthand engagement with the Australian hearing experts in the field of newborn hearing screening and hearing health care. It 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. This further collaboration serves to ensure an integrated approach to problem-solving the varying challenges which each country has in UNHS.

The Workshop reflected the 30 years history of collaboration in China's audiology development. It featured a keynote presentation in which Professor Philip Newall reflected on the contribution of Australian hearing experts to the development of audiological workforce training in China from the 1990's and the continuing collaboration with Chinese counterparts in clinical practice, hearing education and research. A video has been produced as a record of the presentation as a resource for the future.



Future opportunities through strengthened partnerships will include workforce training and discipline development, research collaborations, and clinical placement opportunities, particularly with Shanghai No.9 Hospital.