

# 'No discipline is an island': Working together to support families who need it the most

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The Shepherd Centre is a proud member of First Voice, a national alliance of member organisations whose primary focus is the provision of listening and spoken language for children who are deaf or hearing impaired



a firstvoice centre



# The Shepherd Centre

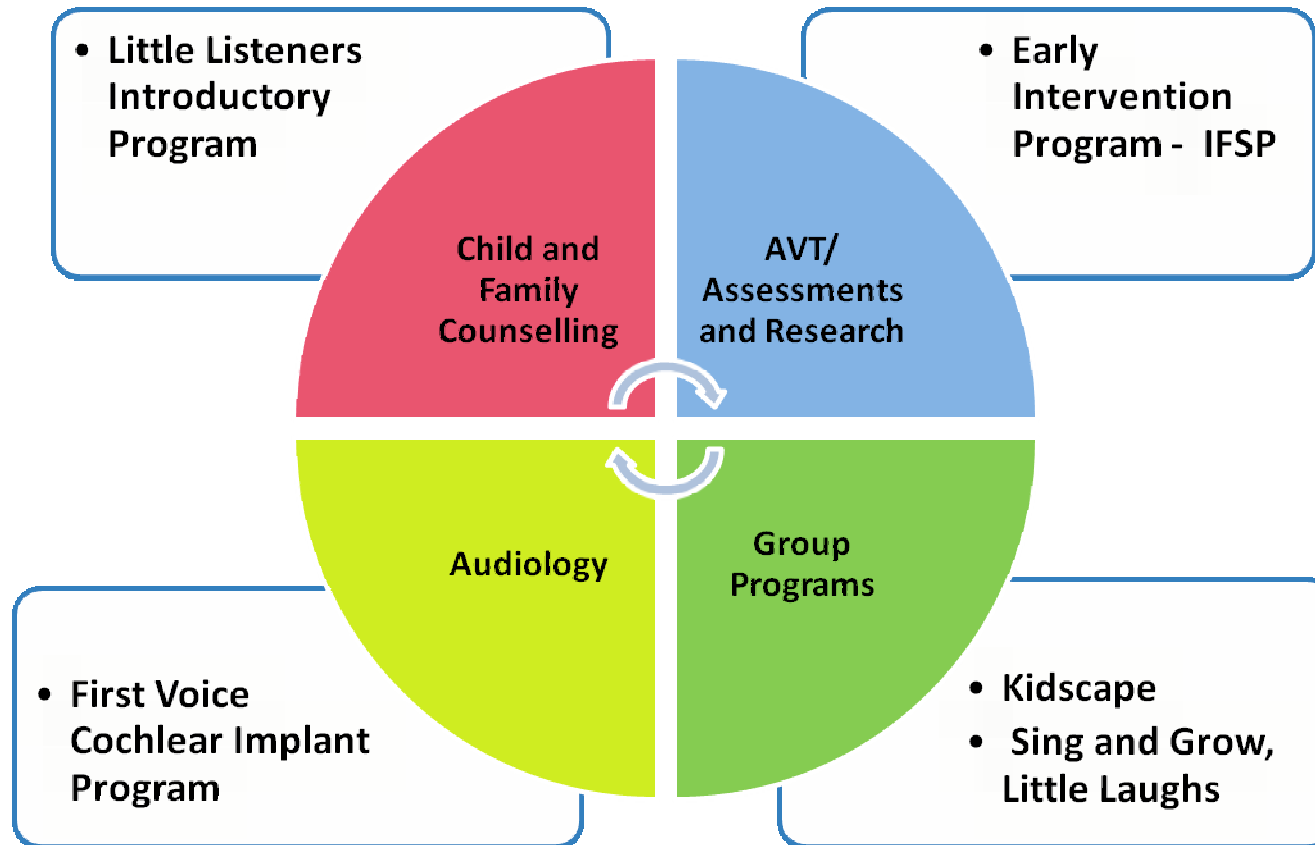
- Early intervention & Paediatric Implant Program
- Focusing on **Listening and Spoken Language** (Auditory–Verbal Therapy)
- **Interdisciplinary team** including Paediatric Audiologists, Child & Family Counsellors, Assessments and Research.
- Programs at **5 centres** across NSW & ACT (including one here at the Hearing Hub)
- Since 1970 > **2,000** children, Currently providing services to > **400 families**
- Families with a wide range of backgrounds: geographical, linguistic, cultural, SES.
- Children with
  - **All levels of hearing** from mild and unilateral through to profound and total
  - **All devices** including CI, HA, BC, Baha, & a small number of unaided
  - Additional needs, late onset, early and late entry to EI, learning English & other languages



# Interdisciplinary Team Work



# How this works at TSC



# Past twelve months

- 6215 Clinical appointments with families
- 1198 joint appointments with families
- 19 % joint appointments with families



# Family –Centred Model

“Professionals view families as equal partners. Intervention is individualised, flexible and responsive to the family-identified needs of each child and family. Intervention focuses on strengthening and supporting family functioning. Families are the ultimate decision-maker”.

Marilyn Espe-Sherwindt, Support for Learning, vol 23, no. 3, 2008



# Why a Child and Family Counselling Service ?

- Importance of family engagement, expectation levels of family, cultural differences, parental stress and family functioning.
- Introducing the Karitane Parenting Confidence Scale – to identify families early.





# Case Example

- Child diagnosed with bilateral profound hearing loss at 18 months
- No hearing screen at birth – overseas.
- Progressed to CI evaluation
- Bi-lateral CI's
- Family struggles around keeping CI's on.



# Challenges and Questions

- Are we really as family-centred as we think?
- Is our program as socially inclusive as we would like?
- How can we do this better?
- How can we use further research, input from families and services sharing information to make a difference to families!



# Acknowledgments

CEO: Jim Hungerford

Director of Clinical Programs: Aleisha Davis, LSLS Cert AVT

**Listening & Spoken Language Therapist: Child & Family Counsellors Cochlear Implant Surgeons**

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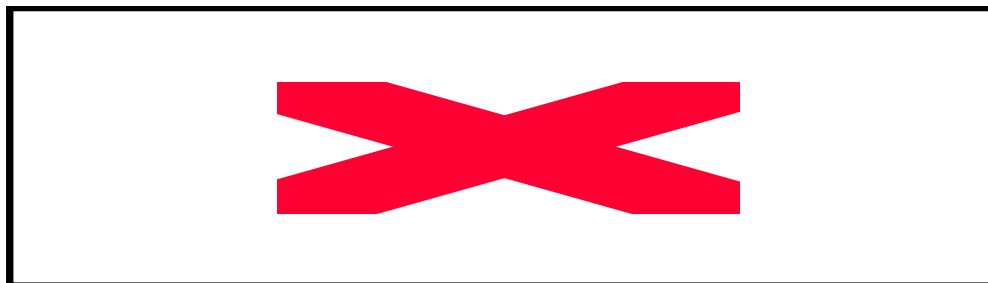
Ann Wright

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“ Thanks for listening this much!”

