

MEDIA RELEASE

February 2018



Telethon Speech & Hearing promote children's hearing and ear health with free checks

FREE EAR HEALTH & HEARING CHECKS FOR CHILDREN

Wednesday 28 February 2018 / 8:30am – 4:30pm

Telethon Speech & Hearing, 36 Dodd Street, Wembley 6014

Bookings required. Please contact Telethon Speech & Hearing

on speech@tsh.org.au or call 9387 9888.

FEBRUARY 2018, WEMBLEY WA – ‘Hear the Future’ is this year’s theme for Hearing Awareness Week. Telethon Speech & Hearing aims to make sure all WA children have a future to hear by offering **free ear health and hearing checks for children on Wednesday, 28 February 2018.**

In a bold move by the organisation, Telethon Speech & Hearing will accept bookings for young babies and children in its world-class facilities in Wembley. All checks will be performed by qualified Audiologists under the guidance of its newly appointed Head of Audiology, Ian Henderson.

Hearing loss is a significant disability in Australia. Around 3.6 million Australians (14.5% of the population) are affected by hearing loss, at a cost to the Australian economy of an estimated \$15.9 billion.

Yet hearing health and wellbeing is not one of Australia’s national health priorities.

“Otitis media or ‘glue ear’ is one of the most common childhood illnesses and may be a contributing factor to speech, balance or learning difficulties,” said Mr Henderson.

“However, it is easily overlooked because *it isn’t always indicated by ear pain*. Young children can’t express this hearing loss and often parents mistakenly feel their child is ignoring them.”

Mr Henderson advises parents may pick up clues of ear troubles by a child’s ear-tugging (or poking), irritability or disrupted sleep. He also cautions children can develop hearing loss any time after birth, and the consequences of prolonged hearing loss can significantly impact a child’s development and quality of life.

“Even when a child passes newborn hearing screening, speech delay may result later on from ear infections and congestion,” he said.

“Even a mild or partial hearing loss can have life-long impacts to a child’s education and development. If you have a child less than five years of age, book a free appointment with one of our experienced audiologists and ensure your child has a sound future.”

Telethon Speech & Hearing will run free hearing checks for children and adults on February 28 from 8:30am to 4:30pm at 36 Dodd Street, Wembley. Bookings are required. Telethon Speech & Hearing will check the ear health of your child. If hearing or other assessment is also needed we will do this and/or recommend a full assessment later.

Please contact Telethon Speech & Hearing on speech@tsh.org.au or call 9387 9888 to arrange an appointment. GP referrals are not required. However, it is recommended that you bring in any previous medical or audiology results.

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Hearing facts

- Hearing Awareness Week will run from 25 February to 3 March 2018. World Hearing Day is 3 March.
- Hearing loss is a significant disability in Australia. Around 3.6 million Australians (14.5% of the population) are affected by hearing loss, at a cost to the Australian economy of an estimated \$15.9 billion.*
- More than one third (37%) of hearing loss cases are preventable.
- Approximately 49% of child hearing loss is estimated to be preventable.
- Hearing Awareness Week is an opportunity to raise community awareness about hearing health and wellbeing; also to create awareness about what it is like for the 1 in 6 Australians who are affected by hearing loss.

About Telethon Speech & Hearing

Telethon Speech & Hearing is a Western Australian not-for-profit charity, registered NDIS provider and independent school assisting children and adults with hearing, speech and language impairments.

Originating in 1966, Telethon Speech & Hearing is a world class provider for audio-verbal and speech-language related therapies, programs and services.

Telethon Speech & Hearing is the only place in WA that provides education, therapy and audiology services all in one location.

Learn more at: www.tsh.org.au.

Reference

*[The Social and Economic Cost of Hearing Loss in Australia – June 2017](#), prepared by Deloitte Access Economics for HCIA.