

It's an incredibly busy and exciting week ahead as we celebrate World Hearing Day, Hearing Awareness Week, launch of the first World Report on Hearing, and Prof Harvey Coates gives his presentation of the 2021 Libby Harricks Memorial Oration.

David Brady, chair of Deafness Forum of Australia has a video message to begin the celebrations. Watch it on [YouTube](#) and [Facebook](#)



World Report on Hearing

This eagerly anticipated report will be launched on World Hearing Day 3 March. The World Report on Hearing aims to provide evidence-based guidance to drive actions for integration of quality Ear and Hearing Care services into national health plans of Member States, as part of their work towards universal health coverage. The report is in four sections:

1. Why hearing matters: hearing across the life-course
2. Solutions for everyone: hearing loss can be prevented and addressed
3. Facing the challenges: improving access to ear and hearing care
4. The vision of ear and hearing care: designing the way forward

The Report argues:

- The number of people living with unaddressed hearing loss and ear diseases is unacceptable
- Timely action is needed to prevent and address hearing loss across the life course
- Investing in cost effective interventions will benefit people with hearing loss and bring financial gains to the society
- Countries must integrate people-centred ear and hearing care within national health plans for universal health coverage

The report will be available [here](#).

One in Six of us lives with deafness or ear disorders. Hearing impairment is the most common disability of adulthood.

Our mission is to *Make ear and hearing health & wellbeing a National Priority in Australia*

Launch of World Report on Hearing

The World Report on Hearing will be launched this week.



Join us for the international launch in a webcast from Geneva on World Hearing Day.

- Musical video by Ndlovu Youth Choir (pic)
- Hearing loss prevention through safe listening: Sandile Majola, Ndlovu youth choir
- Remarks by Tedros Adhnanom Ghebreyesus, Director General WHO
- Introduction to the report: Shelly Chadha, Technical officer WHO
- The potential of ear and hearing care: MALana Nichols
- Implementing ear and hearing care in India: Harsh Vardhan, Minister of Health and Family Welfare, Government of India

When: 3 March 2021

Time: 9pm - 10pm AEDT

Register [here](#)

Australian launch

This webcast is an opportunity for Australia to highlight its world class initiatives. Hear from:

- David Brady, Chair of Deafness Forum and CEO of Hear For You
- Sue Walters, President of CICADA Australia
- Kelvin Kong, ENT surgeon
- Fiona Martin MP, co-chair of NSW Parliamentary Friends of Hearing Health
- Justin Langer, Australian Cricket Team coach
- Brett Lee, cricket personality
- Catherine McMahon, Macquarie University
- Mark Coulton MP, federal minister responsible for hearing health

When: 3 March 2021

Time: 2pm - 2.45pm AEDT

Register [here](#)

The Government's next Budget must make hearing health and wellbeing a national priority for Australia

Deafness Forum of Australia has called for a strong funding commitment by the Australian Government in its next federal budget to elevate ear and hearing health to that of a national priority.

"While we welcome the Government's initiatives, they should be strengthened with further investment in public awareness of hearing health; improved hearing health for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people; and a new approach that will enhance the hearing health of older Australians in aged care," Deafness Forum of Australia Chair David Brady said.

Mr Brady said the [Roadmap for Hearing Health](#) is a blueprint for actions that has the support of the hearing health sector. It must be resourced and implemented by federal, state and local authorities.

"The Government should invest in priority areas and actions that will change lives and address the appalling social and economic costs of unaddressed and under-managed hearing loss," he said.

In its pre-budget submission, Deafness Forum of Australia has called for:

- A national prevention and awareness communication strategy
- Closing the Gap for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander ear care and hearing health
- Significantly enhancing hearing health for older Australians in aged care
- Providing greater support for vulnerable Australians, including those on low incomes in accessing affordable hearing healthcare, and
- Focussing research funding on projects that inform the development of public policy.

[READ THE SUBMISSION](#)

<https://www.deafnessforum.org.au/2021-22-pre-budget-submission/>



Indigenous Ear and Hearing Health — Tackling the Silent Epidemic



International webcast: Friday 5 March 2021

2.30pm (AEDT)

The legendary Professor Harvey Coates AO will deliver the 2021 Libby Harricks Memorial Oration in a webcast from Perth in Western Australia.

The Libby Harricks Memorial Oration is presented in 2021 by the Deafness Forum of Australia, Deafness Council of Western Australia, and Audiology Australia. Since 1999, it has featured the world's leading academics, researchers, policy-makers, advocates, and commentators. It raises awareness of issues of hearing health, deafness, and ear and balance disorders.

This year's orator Harvey Coates has a lifelong interest in otitis media in Aboriginal children since completing his training at the Mayo Clinic. This has included clinical outreach in remote parts of Australia and the South Pacific, as well as working with the WHO, and Committees nationally and internationally. He has well over 100 publications and remains within the top ten cited Australian otolaryngologists.

*** Check [this webpage](#) before the broadcast to get the link to watch Harvey's presentation.



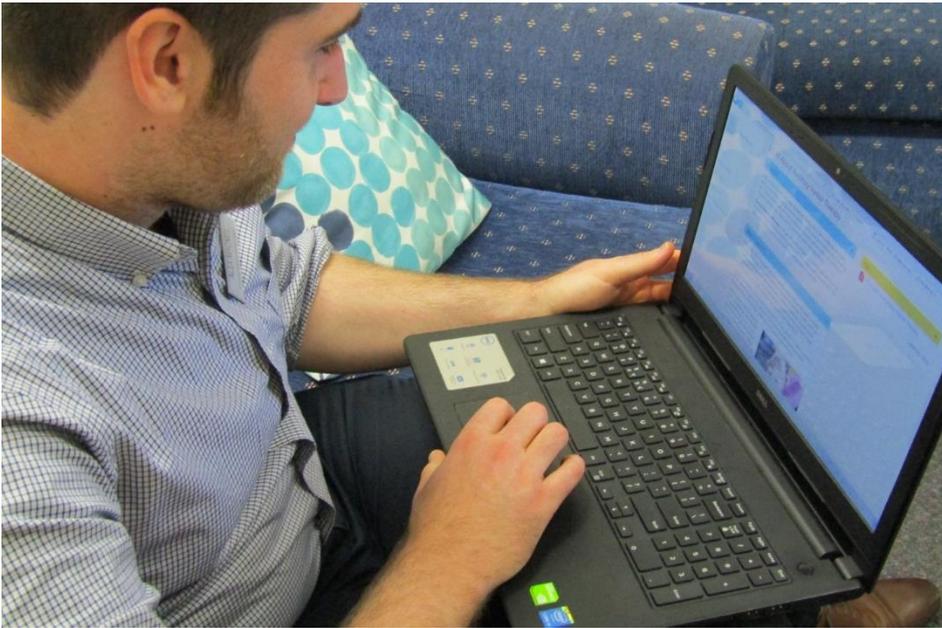
If you are in Perth you can join Harvey Coates in person when he presents his Libby Harricks Oration at 10.30am WA time on Friday 5 March at the Telethon Kids Institute, Perth Children's Hospital, 15 Hospital Avenue Nedlands.

At this event by the Deafness Council of Western Australia, meet WA's Senator Rachel Siewert and be on hand for the presentation of the prestigious Dr Harry Blackmore Award to Pia Leeming.

For more information contact Barry MacKinnon at yrrab@iinet.net.au

Can't attend the Perth event or catch the live webcast? No worries, you can watch a recorded version of Harvey's presentation next week on the Libby Harricks Memorial Oration [website](#)

Children with hearing loss to benefit from online Listening Check



The Shepherd Centre has launched a new, free to access online Listening Check set to help Australian parents and caregivers check for possible signs of hearing loss in children.

Its release coincides with World Hearing Day in 2021.

By answering a set of simple questions, [Listening Check](#) enables parents and caregivers to check a child's functional listening from their home on a personal device.

It provides clear insights into how an individual listens in natural environments and settings, by using everyday scenarios and simple language in the questions.

Adapted from *The Functional Listening Index – Paediatric® (FLI-P)* tool developed by The Shepherd Centre and technology development firm Metarouge, the Listening Check will help Australian families identify whether their child may be impacted by hearing loss.

Aleisha Davis, General Manager of Clinical Programs at The Shepherd Centre, said that the Listening Check will help highlight the importance of listening in children's development, and the impact that hearing loss can have on this.

With increased awareness it is hoped that hearing loss in children doesn't go unnoticed and parents can be equipped with all the information needed to ensure their child reaches their potential.

Visit listeningcheck.shepherdcentre.org.au

"We know that for every child with hearing loss receiving the necessary support, there is another child who isn't, impacting their ability to develop essential speech, language and social skills that will give them the best possible start in life," said Ms Davis.

"The online Listening Check aims to support parents and caregivers in being proactive when it comes to acting on concerns with listening development so they can begin early intervention support as soon as possible. The launch of the Listening Check is a positive step forward in making sure all Australian children with hearing loss or listening difficulties receive the support they need."

My life with cochlear implants



This short, animated film was created by animator and cochlear implant user Eric Giessmann, in collaboration with MED-EL.

The film invites viewers to experience the enjoyment of life and gratitude for the gift of hearing – a timely message for the recent International Cochlear Implant Day and this World Hearing Day.

Watch it on [Youtube](#)

Dementia, Hearing Loss and Hearing Care – saving Australia's Minds

In the context of World Hearing Day 2021, the Hearing Care Industry Association (HCIA) commissioned a White Paper on the most current research into dementia, hearing loss and hearing care.

Dementia, Hearing Loss and Hearing Care: Saving Australia's Minds was prepared by eminent WHO Hearing Health Working Group chair Mark Laurens.



The report provides compelling, peer-reviewed evidence for early hearing care intervention to prevent dementia. A key finding of the latest research finds that Hearing loss in mid-life is the largest modifiable risk factor for age-related dementia.

Today, over 472,000 Australians are suffering dementia.

The work of the Royal Commission into Aged Care Quality and Safety has also raised awareness of significant and rapidly increasing challenges faced by the Aged Care sector in relation to Dementia.

Within the context of an ageing population and increasing costs of providing aged care, HCIA argues that now is the time to seize the opportunity for a preventive hearing health strategy that will address the link between age-related hearing loss and dementia.

The report will be available from 3 March at <https://www.hcia.com.au>

WORLD HEARING DAY

 #HearingChat



Join our Q &A with
Lise Lotte Bundesen
& **Mel Ferguson, PhD**
March 3rd @ 3PM EST



Hearing ^{THE} Journal

In celebration of World Hearing Day, the Hearing Journal is hosting a Twitter chat with Lise Lotte Bundesen from the Ida Institute in Denmark and Dr. Melanie Ferguson from Australia's National Acoustic Laboratories. Use hashtag #HearingChat to join on Wednesday, 3 March at 3 pm AEDT.

Gather your friends and join us for the

INAUGURAL SOUND BITES GALA PICNIC

7th March 2021

A DEAFNESS FOUNDATION INITIATIVE



Gala picnic, 7 March in Melbourne. [More information here](#)



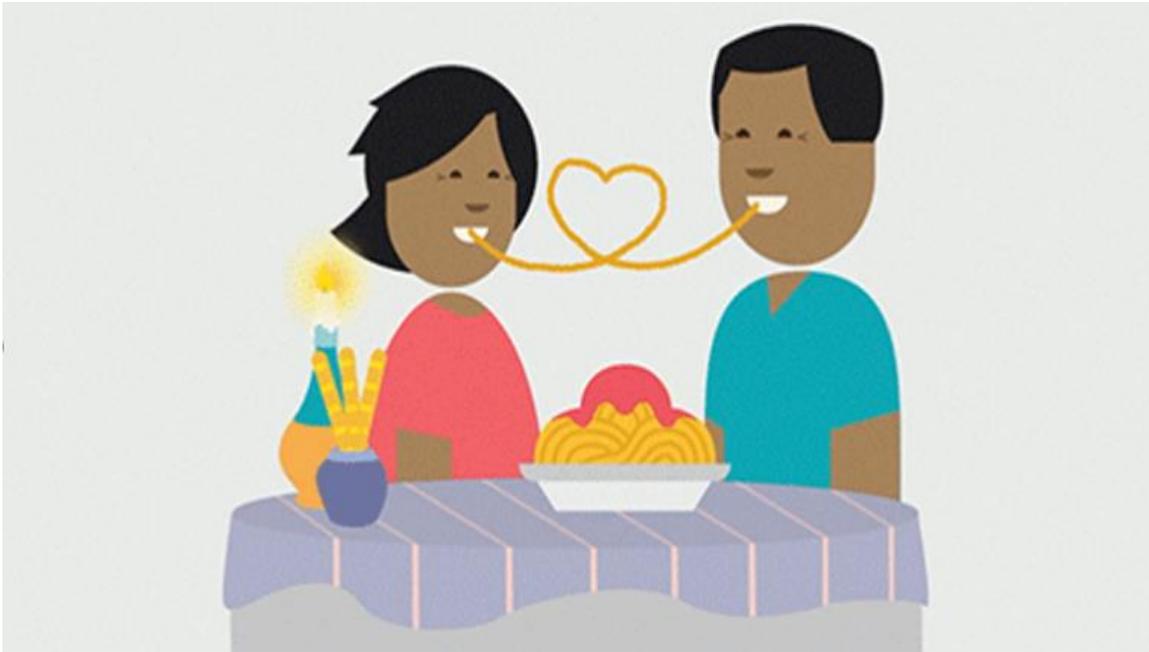
Soundfair is launching The HearMe Report – a document that centres the lived experiences of people with hearing conditions and identifies ten priority areas for society-wide action.

The event will kick-off at 11am AEDT on Friday 5 March. Upon arrival, attendees will be invited to explore the HearMe art installation. The report will be launched at midday with support from The Hon Mark Coulton MP and keynote speakers including Suzanne Waldron, and Dr Caitlin Barr. The launch will be livestreamed, so interested people will be able to attend the event online. More [here](#)

Better relationships through better communication

Communication plays a significant role in a relationship.

To improve communication between people with hearing loss and their communication partners, the Ida Institute in Denmark developed a free suite of tools.



Third-party disability

As a consequence of their significant other having hearing loss, primary communication partners sometimes experience third-party disability, which is defined by the WHO as the disability of family members due to the health condition of their significant other. Of course, primary communication partners can also be parents, children, siblings or even a best friend.

Third-party disability can impact social interactions, emotional wellbeing, and overall quality of life. Communication partners report feelings of frustration and uncertainty and are prone to depression, detachment, and marital discontent. But research shows that by involving communication partners in the hearing care journey, both parties can experience improved quality of life and that rehabilitation outcomes can be greatly improved.

That's why it is crucial for hearing care professionals to involve clients' key communication partners in the rehabilitation process. Ida's suite of Communication Partners tools guides people with hearing loss, their communication partners, and hearing care professionals in managing hearing loss through a more complete picture of the clients' needs and greater support from communication partners.

See the [Communication Partners tools](#) on the Ida Institute website.

The Communication Rings

The [Communication Rings](#) enable clients to pinpoint the people who make up their social networks and identify the frequency and potential challenges of communicating with them. Hearing care professionals can use the tool with clients to raise their awareness about communication relationships and facilitate discussion on rehabilitation goals.

Step 1: Identifying social networks

The tool involves a series of circles in which the client is asked to place the people from their social network, rating them according to their level of importance. The exercise encourages the client to consider how their hearing loss impacts these relationships.

Step 2: Addressing communication disruptions

Next, the client is encouraged to identify environments where they are likely to encounter the various communication partners and consider how successful the given communication is. This helps hearing care professionals achieve a comprehensive understanding of the elements that are central to the client and propose suitable rehabilitation measures.

Step 3: Involving partners

In some instances, when the relationship between the person with hearing loss and the communication partner is challenged, it might be helpful to ask the partner to also complete the exercise. This will remind both parties just how important successful communication is to their general wellbeing.

The People I Talk To

[The People I Talk To](#) is an interactive, online version of the Communication Rings which can be shared with clients before appointments, allowing them to reflect on their communication partnerships beforehand.

Goal Sharing for Partners

[Goal Sharing for Partners](#) is a step-by-step guide developed to facilitate discussions between clients and their key communication partner, helping them to:

- Acknowledge the hearing loss and articulate how it affects them
- Express their feelings and perspectives
- Recognise that successful communication requires a joint effort
- Establish realistic communication goals and identify the needed steps

The Communication Partner Journey

The [Communication Partner Journey](#) offers a visual representation of the typical stages a communication partner goes through. The tool allows hearing care professionals to understand, explore and map the wide range of feelings the communication partner may be experiencing. The goal is to facilitate a better awareness of the partner's perspective and help both the client and the partner grasp how they can be a valuable support.



Deafness Forum is a member of Ida Institute and distributes its information and resources freely in this country to consumers and hearing care professionals.

Family Support for Deaf Teens: A Roadmap to Success

By the National Deaf Centre for Postsecondary Outcomes



As deaf children grow into teenagers, they begin to take a more active role in decision-making and responsibilities. Families are often unaware of strategies to support their deaf teen on becoming more independent. The role of family members is vital in ensuring deaf youth are prepared for life after high school. It's an overwhelming but exciting time for both families and deaf teens.

For deaf teens, it's crucial family members guide and support them through the next phase of their life. Research has shown that [when deaf teens are supported by their families](#), it helps them [be more successful](#) as adults.

Family members can support the formation of autonomy by encouraging them to learn hard and soft skills needed to live independently. This builds confidence and motivation to pursue long-term goals, such as obtaining a college education or securing a new job.

Strategies for Families

Families can consider taking a strengths-based approach with deaf teens to instill life skills, help them develop their self-determination skills, and provide them with opportunities to advocate for themselves.

NDC's [Family Support for Deaf Teens](#) outlines eight strategies to incorporate into everyday situations to encourage essential skill building:

- Develop Independence
- Provide Choices
- Encourage Initiative and Aim High
- Acknowledge Feelings and Perspectives of Teens
- Nurture Self-Regulation
- Support Self-Empowerment
- Be Less Strict: Teach Responsibility
- Strengthen Self-Awareness

Incorporating these eight strategies does not need to be complicated. Use everyday situations to find teachable moments to help strengthen their skill-building, such as ordering for themselves in a restaurant or scheduling their own appointments. Also, involve the deaf teen in crucial conversations and decisions in the household.

Do a Family Project or Activity

Encourage deaf teens to take the lead on a family project or activity and practice any of the eight strategies listed. An example project you could consider: repainting a room in the family home.

Have the deaf teen write up a plan that includes:

- A timeline that outlines what steps need to be done from start to finish.
- Arrange a meeting to discuss with family members about color choices.
- Write up a list of what equipment will be needed.
- Give them a budget and have them research the costs for the project.
- Discuss how to communicate with shop owners or other individuals involved.

This type of project gives deaf teens a variety of opportunities to develop valuable hard and soft skills: time management, decision-making strategies, communication approaches, budget planning, safety awareness, and workmanship.

After each step, have a follow-up discussion to talk about what worked well and what could they do better or different next time.

This is a trial-and-error process. There will be times they fail, but talking about the situation will support more successful endeavors in the future.

Resources to Support Deaf Teens

To learn more about how families can support deaf teens, check out these resources:

- [Family Support for Deaf Teens](#)
- [Research Summarised! Promoting High Expectations for Success](#)
- [Deafverse: Choose Your Future](#)
- [Self-Advocacy Skills and Transition Planning for Deaf Students](#)
- [Self-Determination for Deaf Youth](#)
- [The Role of Self-Beliefs in Predicting Postschool Outcomes for Deaf Young Adults](#)

Know someone who would like to get One in Six?

Drop us a line: hello@deafnessforum.org.au

We acknowledge the traditional owners of country throughout Australia, and their continuing connection to land, sea and community. We pay respect to them and their cultures, and to elders past, present and future. We acknowledge the challenge of overcoming high levels of ear health issues among First Nation people and its role in Closing the Gap. We acknowledge the risk to indigenous sign languages of disappearing and the importance of Auslan.

People with disability have and continue to be subjected to isolation, exploitation, violence, and abuse in institutions. We thank the Australian Parliament for its bipartisan support of a Royal Commission into the evil committed on people with disability.

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