

# Sound Matters

Issue №4 • Nov 2011

Northern Cochlear Implant Program

## Introducing Leigh Martelli, Audiologist, The Hearing House



Leigh Martelli with Feya Du at switch on

Leigh joined The Hearing House on a part-time basis in July 2010. At the time, she was also working at Dilworth Hearing. Leigh initially worked at The Hearing House with Rachel Cooper, an audiologist from America. Rachel stayed at The Hearing House until June this year, as she sadly decided to return home to the States. Leigh accepted a full-time role as Team Leader for Audiology in June.

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## Who's on the NCIP Audiological Team?

### PAEDIATRIC

Leigh Martelli - Audiologist  
Kate Jepsen - Audiologist  
Ruth Lin - Audiologist

### ADULT

Ellen Giles - CI Rehabilitationist  
Gayle Watson - Hearing Therapist

### UPDATE ON NCIP WEBSITE

By December 2011 the Northern Cochlear Implant Programme website - [www.ncip.org.nz](http://www.ncip.org.nz) - will be launched. The website will be an online resource for clients of the programme as well as health professionals. It will also provide useful information for adults and parents who are considering a cochlear implant. Information about the programme providers and the Northern Cochlear Implant Trust will also be available.

Health professionals will be able to use the website to access referral criteria for adults and children and to help them better understand the assessment process. Current and past Sound Matters newsletters will be available to download from the website.

Should you wish to know more about the NCIP website please contact [gurdeep@hearinghouse.co.nz](mailto:gurdeep@hearinghouse.co.nz)

## Paediatric & Adult Programme Update

We were delighted that additional adults were funded for their cochlear implants at the end of the 2010-2011 financial year.

### UPDATE ON ADULT NUMBERS

ADULTS IMPLANTED IN 2010-2011	
Number of adults implanted under full funding	26
Number of adults implanted under the subsidised scheme	8

Funding for 2011-12 has been allocated. The Adult programme received funding for 5 fully-funded implants and 5 subsidised cochlear implants.

The referral rate for the July 2010-June 2011 year was an average of eight adults per month. The average for July and August 2011 was 6 adults per month.

### STAFF CHANGES FOR ADULT CI PROGRAMME

Locum Audiology cover has enabled us to continue to see clients for assessment from September. The new Audiology position is in recruitment.

ADULT NUMBERS 2011-2012 YEAR (AS OF 20/09/2011)	
Number of adults in assessment	23
Number of adults referred but not yet ready to start the assessment (referred to Hearing Therapists or ENT departments in the local area for further testing)	44
Number of adults on eligibility list	70
Number of adults implanted under full funding	0
Number of adults implanted under the subsidised scheme	0

### UPDATE ON PAEDIATRIC NUMBERS

Since May 2011 (May being the month of the previous Sound Matters), 12 children have received a cochlear implant. Of these children, 2 had previously received a publicly funded cochlear implant and underwent surgery for implantation in the contralateral ear. The costs of their surgery and devices are privately funded.

Two children underwent removal and replacement of their cochlear implant due to complications with the device.

There are 6 children who already have a date for an upcoming surgery.

AGE YRS	IMPLANT RECEIVED 1/5/11-30/9/11		
	Public	Private	Reimplant
0-2	3	1	
3-5	3	1	
5-12	1		2
13-19	1		

### STAFF CHANGES FOR PAEDIATRIC CI PROGRAMME

At the time of publication Ruth Lin and Kate Jepsen have commenced their roles as Audiologists at The Hearing House. Days of work for the Audiology team are; Leigh Martelli Monday to Friday, Ruth Monday and Tuesday, and Kate Wednesday and Thursday.

## Information Required from Professionals When Referring to the Paediatric Programme

While we welcome referrals from any individual Advisor on Deaf and Hearing Impaired Children, Audiologist or Otolaryngologist, we prefer that referrals be considered a team process from all these professionals involved in the care of the deaf child.

### THE KEY ELEMENTS OF A REFERRAL SHOULD INCLUDE:

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#### Hearing status:

The middle ear status, pure tone thresholds unaided and in best aided conditions should be included for children of age to perform this task. Otoacoustic emission data should be included. For younger children, ABR data should be double read.

#### Language status:

This is most relevant for older babies and children in order to help clarify development of central nervous system language areas. A transcription of language or digital file of a language sample is often very helpful. Often details of family circumstances and their ability to access services can be very helpful.

#### Diagnosis:

This should include the details of history, examination, genetic testing, eye testing and imaging. The programme should be informed if further tests have been completed (eg CMV studies) or if investigations have been ordered but the results are still pending.

Ideally all referrals will contain separate professional reports covering these areas, but in recognising the need for expediency in the face of a narrow time window of neural plasticity, please do not delay a referral when this information is not yet complete.



### DEVICE RECALL

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On 11/9/2011 Cochlear Ltd announced a voluntary recall of their CI500 series on implant. All adult CI recipients and parents of children implanted with a CI500 series array were contacted by letter to be advised of this situation.

Unfortunately 3 adults experienced device failure in the month prior to the recall of the CI512 implant. All 3 adults were successfully re-implanted and switched on without delay and have quickly returned to their previous level of performance.

## Cochlear Implant Recipients



Feya Du

### FEYA DU

Feya is a 27-month old girl who was diagnosed with a profound hearing loss in May this year.

Feya had spent the first 21 months in China with her grandparents. When she returned to NZ in May, her parents were concerned that she was not meeting speech and language milestones. She was then seen at Dilworth Hearing at which time a profound hearing loss was diagnosed which was later confirmed by an ABR under GA at Starship Children's Hospital. Following completion of her CI candidacy assessment, she underwent surgery for cochlear implantation by Michel Neeff, ORL, on August 12 and came to The Hearing House for her 'Switch-On' on August 30. It is very early days but so far Feya is progressing as expected, becoming more responsive to the sounds in her environment. Feya's mother Leann says:

"She looks good on the first day to switch on the implant. After that she can gently start to listen to sound. And also good teach lesson in The Hearing House. Start from last week we can feel that she can 80-90% she find the source of the sound. Sometimes we knock the door or call her name she can directly turn to source of sound. We want her just like normal child and starting at normal school and play with normal kids. Everything like normal."



Michael Allen

### MICHAEL ALLEN

Michael had his first CI in 1999 when he was 16 years old in his right ear. He had his 2nd (bilateral CI) in March 2010 in his left ear. Below is an update from Michael on his recent visit to Kenya:

"I took some time off work in July and flew out to Kenya on my own to do some volunteer work in Limuru, a small town on the outskirts of Nairobi. It was a challenging but memorable few weeks immersed in the sights, sounds and smells of Africa, helping with projects at a local orphanage, school, home for abandoned babies and the Kibera slum. Each day was different but mostly involved painting, gardening, looking after kids to give the staff a break, going into the slums and even cooking cabbage and bean stews for the orphans.

I also went on safari for a few days to spot the Big Five and could hear lions roaring near my tent at night!

The highlight of my time in Africa was meeting the children of Kambui School for the Deaf. I jumped at the chance to help in their classroom for a day because I was born profoundly deaf and now have bilateral cochlear implants. Deaf people are outcasts in Kenya so most of the 350 students live at the school in appalling conditions because their parents can't cope with them. Many of the kids don't have hearing aids and are left with self-worth issues and no hope for the future.

As soon as I walked into the tiny classroom, I was swamped by excited kids who clearly loved to communicate. They patiently taught me some American finger spelling and laughed a lot during the day. Their positive attitudes, in the face of such hardship, had a lasting impression on me and reminded me how privileged we are in New Zealand."

## REFERRALS & FEEDBACK

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The Hearing House  
deaf kids talking  
a firstvoice centre

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Te Whare Wānanga o Tāmaki Makaurau