



Cockburn Aboriginal Ear Health Program



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Government of **Western Australia**
Child and Adolescent Health Service



Background

- Program began as a result of research undertaken by Telethon Kids Institute (Djaalinj Waakinj Research Project)
- Issues identified:
 - High prevalence of Otitis Media among Aboriginal infants living in South Metro Area of Perth
 - Lack of access to specialist services for families
 - A range of service providers



What do we need to establish a service?

It was recognised there was a need for:

- A service that is culturally safe and family centred
- Need to integrate services across a range of service providers
- Support for families when children required to attend clinic and for surgery



Achievements to date:

- Established an integrated, culturally safe approach
- Continuity of services
- Service now been operational for over 3 years with over 850 children attending clinics and over 200 children accessing surgery.



Why is the Program Successful?

- Commitment of all providers to the integrated approach established
- Commitment to cultural safety of the program and support provided to families
- No need for GP referrals to attend clinics
- Having one point of contact with referrals for both community and hospital services




Future Plans

- Enhancement of clinics
- Expansion of Hospital Services
- Provision of other support services

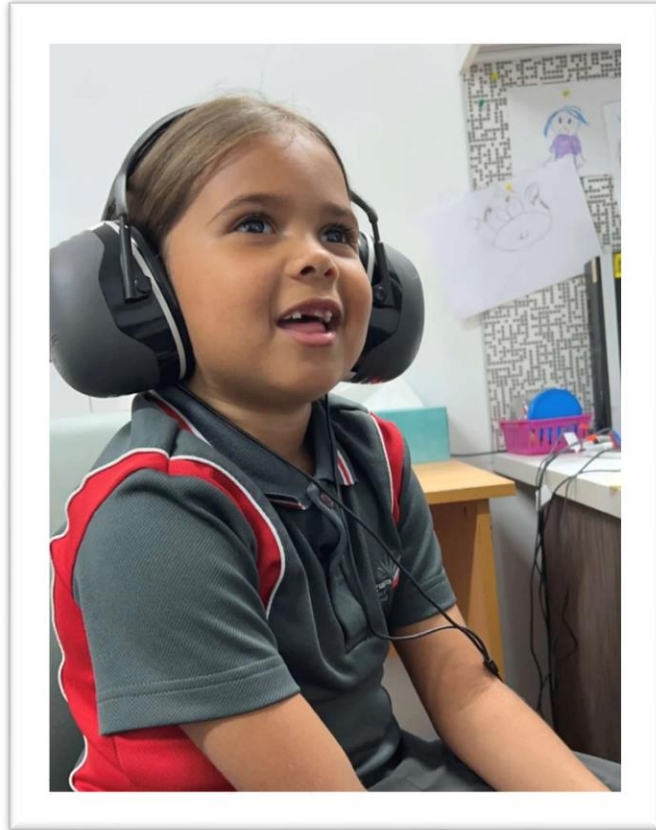




A big thank you to our Partners:

- The Aboriginal Community
 - Telethon Kids Institute/Wesfarmers Centre of Vaccine & Infectious Diseases
 - Moorditj Koort Aboriginal Corporation
 - Hearing Australia – HAPEE Program
 - Telethon Speech and Hearing
 - Rockingham General Hospital
 - St John of God Hospital Murdoch
 - St John of God Hospital Subiaco
 - Child & Adolescent Community Health Service
 - Perth Children’s Hospital
 - Dr Francis Lannigan, Dr George Sim and Dr Tim Cooney
 - Rural Health West
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Family Feedback



Family Feedback



We came to the ENT clinic to get our girl checked because we noticed she couldn't hear us properly and she kept pulling on her ears. We felt the staff at the clinic made us feel welcome and the ENT specialist told us our girl needed surgery. Within 3 months she received surgery and is has changed from miserable and sooky to happy. Our girl can hear us call her from the other room and before surgery she never respond to music and now she gets up dancing all the time, her hearing has changed dramatically!

Thank you to the staff at Moorditj Koort, Rockingham Hospital and everyone else involved.

A big thank you to all the families who have participated in the program

