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School students put their hearing to the test

LAST week, Logan Village State School became the first Logan based school to have their students hearing screened.

Next term will see the program rolled out in Burrowes and Waterford West State Schools

Demand for school hearing screening has been strong, with more than 40 schools signed up to have their students screened in the first half of the year, including schools in the Logan area.

Hear and Say has been working closely with the team at Logan Together to identify opportunities for

children living in Logan to receive optimal access to hearing, listening and speaking providing the best learning environment.

Director of Logan Together Matthew Cox said the partnership had been hugely valuable.

“Our shared priority is to make sure kids get the most from their education,” he said.

A school hearing screening program pilot was conducted in 2015.

Hear and Say CEO Chris McCarthy said they were expecting to find around 15% of students tested to have an incidence of hearing loss.

The pilot revealed that more than 23% of students in the classroom, at any one time, were experiencing

some level of hearing loss.

“This is an incredible result because if students can’t hear, they can’t learn,” Mr McCarthy said.

In most cases the hearing loss was temporary, however there were three children diagnosed with a permanent hearing loss and one case of double perforated ear drums.

Clinical director of Hear and Say Emma Rushbrooke explained that even a temporary hearing loss can have a devastating impact on a child’s ability to learn.

“Children with even a temporary hearing loss may experience speech and language delay, educational difficulties, behavioural problems and often require increased support,” Ms Rushbrooke said.

Principal at Logan Village State School Alan Bunce said he was excited to be the first Logan school involved in the screening.

“With more than 200 students in the school to be screened we can now provide greater reassurance that students can hear and therefore are in the best position to learn,” he said.



LISTEN UP: Prep students Jack Nolan (left) and Zac Howell, both aged 5, get their hearing screened at school.

PHOTO: CONTRIBUTED