

All ears for education

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

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.

Matthew Cox, Director of Logan Together, 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. Chris McCarthy, CEO Hear and Say 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," said Mr McCarthy.

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

Emma Rushbrooke, Clinical Director Hear and Say, 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," said Ms Rushbrooke.



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

"With more than 200 students in the school to be screened we can now provide teachers and parents with greater reassurance that students can hear and therefore are in the best position to learn", said Mr Bunce.



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