



**Hear and Say**  
Opening worlds  
for deaf children



**15 March 2016**

## **LOGAN STUDENTS BENEFIT FROM SCHOOL HEARING SCREENING**

Earlier this month Hear and Say marked World Hearing Day with the launch of its School Hearing Screening Program attended by the Hon. Kate Jones, MP, Minister for Education, along with representatives from schools, education, business and the community.

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. On 16-18 March Logan Village State School will be the first Logan based school to have their students hearing screened followed by Burrowes and Waterford West State Schools in Term Two.

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 has been hugely valuable as our shared priority is to make sure kids get the most from their education.

The launch of the Hear and Say School Hearing Screening earlier this month was the result of a successful school hearing screening program pilot conducted in 2015.

Chris McCarthy, CEO Hear and Say said, we were expecting to find around 15% of students we tested to have an incidence of hearing loss however our pilot demonstrated that many more students are falling through the cracks when it comes to hearing in the classroom.

"We found 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.

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.

Children who fail the initial school hearing screening test are encouraged to seek follow-up care through their GP or by attending Hear and Say's bulk bill audiology clinics.

Hear and Say is taking bookings from schools for semester two, 2016 and semester one, 2017, to find out more or to book your school or childcare centre call 07 3850 2111.

-END-

**Media opportunity:**

Photo of child undergoing hearing screening and interview/photo with Matthew Cox and Alan Bunce – 10am Thursday 17 March.

**Media contact:**

Lois Shuttleworth, Hear and Say 0448 037 663 or [lois.shuttleworth@hearandsay.com.au](mailto:lois.shuttleworth@hearandsay.com.au)

Lauren Cunningham, Logan Together 0479 186 463 or [lauren.cunningham@griffith.edu.au](mailto:lauren.cunningham@griffith.edu.au)

**About Hear and Say**

For 24 years Hear and Say has been supporting children to hear, listen and speak so they can attend a regular school, have wider career choices and can more fully participate in their community.

For children with permanent hearing loss Hear and Say interfaces state-of-the-art hearing technology (digital hearing aids and implantable technology such as cochlear implants) with the Auditory-Verbal Therapy approach.

Children's hearing can change over time which is why Hear and Say also provides a School Hearing Screening Program and paediatric hearing, speech and language and occupational therapy services.

Undiagnosed hearing loss, even if temporary, can result in major learning gaps impacting on a child's education and future career opportunities. If students can't hear, they can't learn.

**About Logan Together**

Logan Together is a 10 year, whole of community campaign to create the best life opportunities for every child in Logan.

We're a diverse group of people from throughout the community who share a passion for our kids' future. By bringing together our broad community experiences we can create real change for the 45,000 children in Logan 0-8 years old.

Utilising a world-recognised Collective Impact approach, we are driving coordination and cooperation between community stakeholders, education, health and social service providers. We are harnessing their energy to make sure every Logan child gets the chance to be their best at each stage of childhood through to the crucial 8-year-old milestone.

Our goal is to see Logan kids overall do as well as or better than the average group of Queensland children - as measured by important indicators of wellbeing like the Australian Early Development Census and Year 3 NAPLAN results.