



Hear our Heart Ear Bus Project
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Dear valued supporters

Many thanks for your support in helping us to make a positive difference in the lives of children in Dubbo and surrounding areas. Here are some of our achievements so far this year.

- We are very excited to announce confirmation from the Walter and Eliza Hall Charitable Foundation that they will be providing funding of \$150 000 per year for next 5 years. This has enabled us to make some firm plans for improvement, knowing that we have secure finances for these plans. CEO Helen Cook visited last month to see all aspects of the project in action and to present us with our first cheque. She also met locals significant to supporting the project; Sainsbury Automotive, Alloy Welding team, Dr Ridha, Mark Gardner at Vanguard Business Services, Brenda Moon Regional Australia Bank and Principal Eileen Day at DWPS. Helen was very keen to promote that although this is a significant donation, ongoing local donations are still needed to sustain our current footprint and take on more schools.
- Thanks to the Walter and Eliza Hall donation we would like to introduce our new staff members. Part time Healthy Ears Teachers Therese Quigley and Hayley Rees. Admin and hearing testing assistant Anita Rudolph. Hayley is also doing an extra day to cover media, marketing and healthy ears promotions.
- We have been very busy over the last few months. During second term alone, we visited 11 schools/preschools in Dubbo and 7 schools/preschools in surrounding towns. We are very grateful to all the audiologists who helped us with hearing testing. These audiologists volunteer most of their time and we could not operate our service without them. Thank you Delwyn, Martha, Gemma, Robyn, Kimberley, Jana, Rachel and Margo in Gilgandra LHD, and Trish George/ Trish Thorne from WACHS in Wellington.
- We particularly thank RIDBC for their continued support in our testing program. In the last week of term 2, audiologist Kim Ter-Horst flew in on Monday morning to start testing at Dubbo Public School. On Tuesday and Wednesday she tested children at Warren Preschool and Warren Possums. On Thursday she tested children at Dubbo and District Preschool then jumped on a plane at 5:30 back to Sydney. Busy week!
- To cater for all children in our communities we provide Community Day clinics. Parents can ring to book their child in. Testing is in the Ear Bus at the HoH Office in Erskine St, at Narromine Hospital and Barnardos Wellington. So far this year we have provided a total of 50 days hearing testing at schools/community days, with over 800 children being seen by an audiologist. That's amazing!
- In partnership with the Department of Education Hearing Team, 17 schools and preschools so far this year have received healthy ears/hearing loss education, which is a very important part of the HoH program to ensure that staff and children understand the need for good ear health and how to achieve it. This number has increased significantly since our new teachers started.
- In partnership with the Department of Education Hearing Team, we hosted 25 Medical Students from University of NSW Medical Outreach Australia, in Dubbo from 25-28th June. We thank Dubbo West Public and Dubbo West Preschool (Baird Drive) for their wonderful support in helping the students gain an understanding of both the HoH testing program and the Healthy Ears program in all classes Preschool to Year 6. From all reports the medical students did a wonderful job with the puppet shows. Our audiologists Robyn and Delwyn ran education sessions for the students to improve their skills in diagnosing middle ear issues and Dubbos' new public Ear Specialist, Dr Sirigiri, also held a session with them. What a great week!
- We are truly delighted at the ongoing efforts all our schools are making with fundraising to help cover some costs of running the program. Please keep check our Facebook page for up to date news of schools fundraising activities. We plan on updating our website with these activities now we have more staff.
- During Term 2 school holidays, one of our volunteers, Margo Lawry, attended the Australia and New Zealand Educators of the Deaf Conference in Adelaide. On behalf of HoH Margo presented the success of our project, with Donna Rees via video link up, We thank Ray Tobin for making the sign used in this presentation.

Regards on behalf of all the HoHEBP town committees

Sue Went

Volunteer Communications Co-ordinator