



VIHSP 2005 Update

The VIHSP set-up team has been extremely busy working towards the February 28th starting date for screening in all VIHSP hospital sites.

The Screening and Diagnostic Working groups have finalised screening and diagnostic audiology protocols.

Information documents have also been finalised, and regular meetings have been held at each hospital regarding set-up of the program on-site.

Equipment

The Hearing Screening Machines (12 Algo 3i Hand held AABR units) have been purchased and delivered to VIHSP.

Personnel

Two VIHSP coordinators have begun work initially assisting the implementation team with, set-up, and coordinating set-up at their respective sites. Bernie McCudden will be based at the Royal Women's Hospital, and Carol Matthews, a former teacher of the Deaf, will be coordinating VIHSP at the Mercy Hospital for Women. Applications for a third coordinator position to be based at Monash Medical centre have reopened and will close on xxxx.

Interviews for Screeners have been held, and screeners will be appointed this week. We had a fantastic response from applicants who were all of a very high calibre.

Training

The members of the VIHSP implementation team, along with the coordinators are working hard to organise a week-long training program for the Screeners to be held the week of February 14th. This program will involve intensive training by Scanmedics (Algo) representatives in use of the ABBR, speakers for diagnostic audiology and early intervention services, and in-house training in protocols, communication and data management. Part of the training will occur in hospital sites, so that screeners are capable of successfully screening an infant's hearing by the end of the week.

Artwork/ Design

You will have notice the new VIHSP logo. This was designed by Greer Samson of Women's and Children's Health (Educational Resource Centre). The logo will feature on all VIHSP documents, uniforms and all communications. This logo will soon replace the former VIHSP logo still features on VIHSP risk factor referral forms.

On-site

Regular site meetings have been held at each site throughout December and January regarding implementation and running of the program in the wards. An office for a VIHSP coordinator is being established at the Royal Women's Hospital, the Mercy Hospital for Women and Monash Medical Centre.

A series of In-Services for hospital staff are also currently being held at each site. These information sessions aim to inform staff of development and changes to VIHSP and screening services in Victoria, anticipated benefits of the program, and what to expect in the wards. The response encountered from staff so far has been very interested and positive.

Look out for...

Information packs for paediatricians, maternity hospitals, Maternal and Child Health Nurses, and other professionals regarding the changes to VIHSP will be sent later this month.

The VIHSP website: www.vihsp.org.au

This newsletter is produced by the Victorian Infant Hearing Screening Program Implementation Team for the various professional groups involved in infant hearing screening in Victoria. These include Maternal & Child Health nurses, audiologists, paediatricians, midwifery and neonatal care staff, early intervention staff and key government staff.