



Newsletter Dec 2010

**Thanks again for being in SCOUT! Here's an update on our activities this year.**

### Who's in SCOUT



We invited all children born 2003-05 in VIC or NSW with hearing loss in both years and fitted with hearing aid(s) or cochlear implant(s) by 4 years old to join the SCOUT study. Viv Martin and Karen Wirth (centre, above) have visited SCOUT families since September 2008. Thanks for making our job so enjoyable!

### SCOUT Numbers

52% of SCOUT children are from NSW and 48% from VIC. 38% are also in the LOCHI (*Longitudinal Outcomes of Children with Hearing Impairment*) study. 69% children wear hearing aid(s), 19% have cochlear implant(s), and 10% have both.



### SCOUT Update

SCOUT stands for '*Statewide Comparison of Outcomes of Hearing Loss*'. It aims to find out the benefits of hearing programs for whole populations. We're doing this by comparing outcomes (like language) and cost (spent on services) in two programs offered to babies born in 2003-05. At that time, NSW offered hearing screening to all babies, and Victoria screened only babies at risk. Now, both states offer the hearing screen to everyone.

### Progress

We've now finished visiting all SCOUT children. Thank you again! However, the hard work is just beginning for us! To answer the SCOUT questions, we're preparing all the information you and your child gave us. Then we'll compare the results between children in the two states.

We are also looking at how much it costs to support a child born with hearing loss in the two states. You told us what help you got for your child's hearing loss. With your permission, services also told us the help they gave your child. Combining this information tells us what it all costs!

You can stay up to date with SCOUT's findings on our website: <http://www.rch.org.au/ccch/scout>

### SCOUT into the future

Overseas teams with similar questions are keen to join forces with SCOUT. Then we could compare findings in different countries. If possible, we will also ask your permission to see your child again at about age 10, to look at later outcomes. This depends on funding, however!!

### SCOUT Presentations and Publications

SCOUT is such an important study that we've been telling people about it! Recently we've presented on SCOUT at:

1. International Newborn Hearing Screening (NHS) Conference (Cernobbio, Italy), 2008 and 2010
2. Australasian NHS Conference (Adelaide), 2009
3. The UK NHS Conference, 2010
4. NHS Symposium, Netherlands, 2010

### Other Hearing Work at RCH/MCRI

**VicCHILD:** Soon we hope to start our VicCHILD project. VicCHILD is a databank to track outcomes of hearing loss over time. A databank is an information store that grows over time, with families' permission. It could help improve care and treatment for children with hearing loss.

Victorian families with children born with hearing loss will be able to join from 2011. We hope SCOUT families will consider joining! We'll contact you when it's ready to go.

**VIHSP:** The Victorian Infant Hearing Screening Program checks babies to find hearing loss as young as possible. By Dec 2010, it will offer a screen to every newborn in Victoria. To read more see: <http://www.vihsp.org.au>

**CHIVOS:** In 2010, we've also been visiting 17-19 year olds born with hearing loss. We first saw these children in 1999 when they were just 7-8 years old – when CHIVOS (the '*Children with Hearing Loss in Victoria Outcome Study*') first started. Now, we're learning about their hopes and dreams as young adults. Find out more at: [http://www.rch.org.au/ccch/research.cfm?doc\\_id=10634](http://www.rch.org.au/ccch/research.cfm?doc_id=10634)

### Other Hearing Work at NAL

**LOCHI:** Some of the SCOUT children are also in LOCHI (the *Longitudinal Outcomes of Children with Hearing Impairment* study). LOCHI is run by the National Acoustic Laboratories (NAL), and is now in its 5<sup>th</sup> year. You can read more about LOCHI at: [www.outcomes.nal.gov.au](http://www.outcomes.nal.gov.au)

### Keeping in Touch

We'd love to stay in contact for possible future follow-up. We include a contact details slip with this newsletter – please check and amend, and post back to us! You can get in touch with us at:



**Website:**

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