

Allied Health Ground Round *Putting Yourself in the Patient's Shoes*



Emma Gee captivated an audience of over 150 Allied Health staff on the 27th August 2008 as she shared her remarkable story of trauma, rehabilitation and survival. Emma was diagnosed with a congenital arteriovenous malformation, underwent brain surgery and latter, a consequent stroke in 2005. Her open, honest and at times, confronting account of her experiences as a patient, provided us all with an opportunity to reflect on our client-centred practices and become a little more aware of the impact, both positive and negative, that we make to the patient journey.

Thank you Emma for helping us to put ourselves in your shoes.

Audiology

The Audiology Department at Southern Health has a long association of supporting Universal Neonatal Hearing Screening (UNHS) in Victoria. UNHS aims to screen the hearing of all infants at or near birth. The incidence of permanent, congenital hearing loss is approximately 1-3 per 1000. There is strong evidence to suggest that diagnosis and intervention of infants with permanent hearing

loss by 6 months of age equates to better communication skills, including spoken language.

MMC was included in the first phase of UNHS in Victoria, and the Audiology Department played an integral part in the screen-diagnosis-intervention pathway. State coverage was 30% and median age of diagnosis went from 20 months to 1.1 months of age.

VIHSP will roll out Phase 2 of its UNHS program, expanding to include 11 additional hospitals, including Dandenong and Casey Hospital, with a coverage rate of 57% of the States births.

The Audiology Department will continue to be significantly involved in UNHS by:

1. supporting screening for all babies born at Southern Health.
2. provide outstanding diagnostic services to families whose children fail newborn hearing screening.
3. ensuring a rapid and smooth transition to early intervention.

Universal coverage is expected to occur by December 2010.

A day in the life of an Audiologist - Peter Carew



Wednesday - 8.45am

Arrive at Monash Medical Centre Clayton, first day of the timetable change and I (luckily) remembered not to drive down to our Cranbourne site. Stop at reception, check the day's schedule and collect my pile of reports that need proof reading and signing.

9.00am

Start the morning's assessments – today it is infant Auditory Brainstem Response (ABR) testing. First little baby (2 month old) sleeps like the proverbial and results are indicating normal hearing in both ears. Finished very quickly, which was fortunate given there were two children who needed two audiologists to assist with testing. One was a two year old with Down Syndrome, who turned out to be a very curious little boy who loved to cheat in all the games we were using to assess him! The other was an 18 month old ex-premature boy, still receiving oxygen and breathing so noisily that we couldn't use conventional test techniques to assess hearing down to threshold level. Reverted back to traditional rattles and noisemakers and got the basic information required.

10.30am

The next infant arrives, an ex-premature baby from Newborn Services who had failed its hearing screen up in the ward and required diagnostic investigation. Currently aged 3 weeks corrected, the infant was born at 24 weeks gestation and was gradually being weaned off C-PAP, so there was a caravan of equipment that arrived with her. The baby was a little unsettled but slept enough to determine that there is a significant permanent hearing loss in