

2023 Impact Report

EAR SCIENCE INSTITUTE AUSTRALIA





Since 2001 Ear Science Institute Australia (Ear Science) has been discovering and delivering innovative treatments for hearing loss.

A centre of excellence, the institute brings together a multidisciplinary team of the brightest minds from across the globe, with researchers, surgeons, audiologists, clinicians and scientists collaborating to enhance the lives of people with ear and hearing disorders.

We are committed to implementing new treatments in clinical care and finding cures for tomorrow's generations.

Thank you to everyone who contributed to our impact on ear and hearing health in 2023.

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Acknowledgement of Country

We acknowledge the Whadjuk people of the Noongar nation as the traditional custodians of the lands on which Ear Science Institute Australia stands. We pay our respects to Noongar elders, past and present, and acknowledge their wisdom and contribution to positive health and wellbeing outcomes.



Message from the Chairman



Into my second year as Chairman in 2023, I am continually impressed by the talented and diverse team at Ear Science Institute Australia who are working to advance medical science and improve ear and hearing health and treatment for people everywhere.

When I think about Ear Science Institute Australia, there are two words that always come to mind. Integrity and innovation.

The integrity of the Institute is evident in the quality of care it provides to people all around us, helping them to hear better. From the services offered at Lions Hearing Clinics and Ear Science Implant clinics to Indigenous communities in the Pilbara, our people find solutions that make the Institute proud.

Innovation comes in through the commitment of our researchers to seeking answers that will mean improvements and advancements in hearing treatment - ever pushing towards our goal of ultimately finding a cure for hearing loss. I've been involved with the Institute for some time, but as Chairman, I've had the privilege of seeing how all the different components work together so seamlessly.

We are now part way through our 5-year strategic plan, taking actions that will strengthen the Institute's resilience for the future. I look forward to the next chapter, as we can continue our life-changing work of improving people's lives today and moving toward a future where the whole world can hear. The possibilities are endless.

Rob Gordon

Chairman Ear Science Institute Australia

Message from the CEO



As an organisation, in 2023 we made some giant strides forward, and I'm so proud of what we've achieved.

By prioritising increasing awareness of the importance of hearing health, we saw improved access to services and treatments through Lions Hearing Clinic and Ear Science Implant Clinic, and we achieved a significant uplift in surgery attendance rates for children across the Pilbara region.

Thanks to our partnership with MinRes, we kickstarted Outreach Telehealth in 2023 - to connect remote communities to ENT specialists here in Perth. Part of this initiative was the formation of a partnership with Perth Children's Hospital to expand tele-health services to the Pilbara for the very first time, so families can remain on Country whilst accessing the care they need.

We are dedicated to providing quality hearing care, but our ultimate goal is to discover a cure for hearing loss. By pursuing this objective, we aim to prevent the communication challenges and psychological effects that impact so many people around the world.

The achievements and impact outlined in this report would not be possible without our donors and supporters. On behalf of everyone at Ear Science, I offer my heartfelt thanks.

Our commitment to making a difference in people's lives through improved hearing is stronger than ever. I am devoted to ensuring all Australians can access exceptional hearing care, and are offered solutions that can truly change lives for the better.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Sandra Bellekom', written in a cursive style.

Sandra Bellekom

Chief Executive Officer, Ear Science Institute Australia



Our Mission

To improve the lives of those with ear and hearing disorders through research, education and clinical care.



Our Vision

A Centre of Excellence dedicated to improving the lives of those with ear and hearing disorders through research, education and clinical care.



Our Values



EXCELLENCE

We are motivated to exceed expectations and discover more. We celebrate our achievements that bring professional respect and global recognition.



INNOVATION

We challenge boundaries and technologies to lead the field and think outside the square. Our experience and drive ensure we remain at the forefront of our profession to discover new and better outcomes.



SUCCESS

Our independence and experience allow us to devise and tailor solutions to provide people with the most appropriate care. Our leadership position inspires collaborative work with other renowned research facilities to maximise and deliver the best results.



AUTHENTICITY

We remain honest, open, and approachable with our colleagues and our patients. Our integrity ensures that we promote and provide patient-centred clinical care. We foster and encourage a supportive environment for all.



Future focussed Ear & Hearing Research

The work of our research team continued to focus on seeking answers to complex questions relating to hearing loss, with the goal of reducing the impact it has on millions worldwide. The team continually embraces multidisciplinary research and opportunities to collaborate, to discover and deliver innovative ear and hearing treatments.

Our dedication to innovation is our strength as we strive to transform ear and hearing health, for now and the future.

Our five research themes represent a new era of impact

In 2023 we announced an expansion in research, from two themes to five.



1

Hearing Outreach

2

Surgical Science

3

Hearing Devices and Implants

4

Brain and Hearing

5

Hearing Therapeutics

Hearing Outreach

People living in developing countries and Australian Indigenous children carry a large burden of ear disease and hearing loss.

Our Healthy Hearing Outback team has delivered ear and hearing services to the East Pilbara for well over a decade. Working with the community, strategic partners and funders, the Hearing Outreach team focus on developing devices, treatments and services that will reduce the prevalence of ear disease and hearing loss.

In 2023 we collaborated with a variety of international partners to better understand the global burden and risks of ear disease and hearing loss in the Western Pacific Region.

Surgical Science

Close collaboration between scientists and clinicians are critical to research success as we strive to translate research outcomes into clinical practice. This particularly relates to the development of drugs and treatments for middle ear disease and hearing loss, and to cochlear implants.

Our unique environment and structure support medical practitioners to further their research interests in otology and otolaryngology. Medical practitioners at all stages of their careers are integrated into our research programs.

Hearing devices and implants

Devices and software are essential to modern hearing healthcare, and there is a need for new innovations. The demand for hearing care devices, such as cochlear implants and hearing aids, grows as the number of people with disabling hearing loss increases. Rapid advances in connected devices, artificial intelligence and digital health create new opportunities to innovate.

Our depth of expertise in hearing science and clinical care, together with our partners in education, industry and community, allows us to build new devices to improve hearing healthcare.

We are developing more sensitive tests for the identification of early hearing loss through novel tests of real-world listening challenges that detect early changes in the health of cells in the inner ear.

We are developing advanced diagnostics to improve the hearing of patients who have a cochlear implant. Cochlear implants allow a unique window into the way the sensing cells in inner ear behave when they respond to sound and stimulation. A collaborative project is developing our understanding of fibrosis in the cochlear after implantation, and developing treatments.

Our expertise in cochlear implant physiology allows us to develop sensitive tests to improve hearing for those with cochlear implants, hearing aids and other assisted listening devices. Our large databases also provide platforms for studies that enhance our understanding of outcomes and improve hearing implant services. Our work has provided insights into implantation of people with asymmetrical hearing loss, how to improve the referral pathway, and the delivery of services remotely.

Brain and Hearing

The group's flagship project, the HearCog study, has continued, and is due to report the first findings in 2024. The results of the study will encompass hearing, mental well-being, imaging of the brain, and health economics.

The work of the team has expanded with funding from the Future Health Research and Innovation Fund (\$100,000) and the Medical Research Future Fund (\$2.1m) to investigate the impact of hearing loss and address the hearing health needs of older Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander People.



Work is underway to improve the care of people with hearing loss who also have cognitive decline, which includes raising awareness amongst other health professionals. This project involves national partners, and international collaborators in The Netherlands, South Africa, China, Brazil, India and other countries.

Two PhD students graduated in from UWA in 2023: Xinxing Fu for his research in hearing loss and cognition in tonal language speakers, and Hadeel Tarawneh, for her research in developing new hearing-related tests to assess cognitive decline. Five Honours students (from the University of Notre Dame Australia, The University of Western Australia, and Curtin University) and two Masters of Audiology students from UWA completed their research projects. Other research achievements include 11 peer-reviewed publications, and invitations to speak at international conferences.

Hearing Therapeutics

Regenerating inner ear hair cells

The team is a world leader in inner ear regenerative medicine, in a quest to cure or protect permanent hearing loss. The current work focuses on children with Usher syndrome, a rare genetic condition causing deafness and blindness.

In order to incorporate the needs of the community in this work in the path to commercialisation, the Hearing Therapeutics team completed a six-month long CSIRO ON Prime program.

In 2023 this research attracted funding (\$100,000) from the Future Health Research and Innovation Fund, and in partnership with investigators at the Lions Eye Institute, from the Medical Research Future Fund (\$2.24m).

Two new students commenced their PhD research training with this team: Joey Lye, and Melissa Jones, who are investigating personalised regenerative medicine for Usher syndrome and Branchio-oto-renal syndrome.

ClearDrum

ClearDrum is the world's first prosthetic eardrum: a new implantable scaffold based on silk fibroin for the repair of a chronic ruptured tympanic membrane. ClearDrum was developed in partnership with Deakin University's Future Fibers Hub to overcome the challenges with current approaches to surgical repair of the ear drum. It also has applications for sustained drug delivery in the ear, where ClearDrum can be loaded with drugs to target chronic middle ear infections.

Ear Science has established ClearDrum Pty Ltd to commercialise this world-first implant for the treatment of chronic middle ear disease and take the technology to surgeons and patients around the world.

Drug and Device Development

We are investigating the incorporation of various drugs (antibiotics and steroids) into our silk materials in the form of films/membrane, to develop antimicrobial silk grafts. The aim is to provide sustained delivery of drugs to treat chronic middle ear infections.

Packing materials are widely used in Ear Nose and Throat (ENT) and other types of surgery. Our research is focused on developing ideal packing materials, based on silk, that reduce the risk of bleeding, that are capable of drug delivery, and degrade at a tunable rate. It is aimed at improving the use of packing materials after surgery, and allow more in-office treatments of middle ear disease.

We have also extended our knowledge and experience in biomaterials and applied this to cardiovascular applications targeting aortic stenosis, which requires the use of a heart valve replacement.

Spotlight on:



Associate Professor David Sly

David Sly is our Chief Operating Officer of Research. In 2023 David was pivotal in establishing our 5-year research plan, which outlines the expansion from two research themes to five. He is the lead on the new Hearing Devices and Implants research theme and has been pivotal in improving our research governance, structure and processes.

In 2023, David's guidance helped steer the team's success of being awarded \$3.7m in collaborative grants. He also supported the establishment of Ear Science Therapeutics Pty Ltd, the setup of the Ear Science Clinical Research Laboratory at the QEII Medical Centre, and the acquisition of vital research equipment.

David serves as the institute's research ambassador, collaborating with industry leaders and government bodies such as the National Acoustics Laboratories, as well as philanthropic organisations, medical research advocacy groups, and universities across Australia. In 2023, he undertook the supervision of research students at Swinburne University of Technology. He is integral in bringing together hearing researchers from across Australia with the shared goal of improving treatments for those dealing with hearing loss.



Dr Anjula De Silva

Dr Anjula De Silva has a PhD in Electrical Engineering and recently joined the Brain and Hearing Research team to investigate the deep learning models on hybrid EEG-fNIRS data for Assessing Hearing and Cognition. This project is conducted in collaboration with Prof Tele Tan and Dr Hanieh Bakhshayesh at Curtin University and funded by William Demant Foundation. As part of the project, Dr De Silva will be (i) developing machine learning algorithms to improve EEG based hearing assessments (sensory neural and central auditory processing) to be used in non-clinical settings (e.g. age care centres, rural locations) and (ii) investigating the use of fNIRS to detect variations in blood oxygen concentration due to auditory information processing to further improve conventional EEG based hearing assessments.



Achieving more together: Our ear and hearing research collaborative partners in 2023



The University of Melbourne

Our researchers work on several collaborative projects with the University of Melbourne. Dr David Sly collaborated with Prof Gary Rance to complete and publish studies detailing hearing loss in Friedreich ataxia patients and mouse models that permit a deeper understanding of the pathophysiology of this hearing loss. Dr Sly has an adjunct Clinical Lecturer appointment within the Department of Otolaryngology with Prof. Stephen O’Leary to continue long-standing collaborative work in the field of cochlear implants and combined nerve growth therapeutic treatments. Dr Christo Bester (Head of implant Innovation at Ear Science) continues to work with Prof. O’Leary toward improving patient cochlear implant outcomes through development of novel diagnostics.



Association of Australian Medical Research Institutes (AAMRI)

Our sustained collaboration efforts are paying off, with continued growth in positive collegiate relationships with other Medical Research Institutes via our affiliation with AAMRI. The coordinated approach with AAMRI at the helm has seen the creation of a Western Australian branch and has increased interest and support for biotech by the Western Australian State Government.



Cochlear Ltd

Cochlear Ltd continues to collaborate on our research goals and in 2023 supported our projects investigating barriers to cochlear implantation with the Hearing Stages tool and the 60/60 prescription advice. Together with Cochlear Ltd, we remain motivated to continue research in this area, with particular focus on expanding research into clinic use of remote care. Cochlear Ltd supported our pilot study investigating the mechanisms affecting the implant recipient’s ability to use their device with in-kind equipment and expertise. These projects form the foundation for work packages seeking both in-kind and direct funding support in 2024.



Western Australian Health Translation Network (WAHTN)

WAHTN is responsible for coordinating and advocating for translational health and medical research. It was created to address the need for improved collaboration and cooperation among researchers, clinicians, and consumers.

We align with WAHTN’s goal to translate health and medical research discoveries into patient care, community health improvements, and effective health policies and strategies.



Healthy Hearing Sector Alliance (HHSA)

We are one of eight founding members of the HHSA tasked with operationalising the Roadmap for Hearing Health 2019. HHSA continues to serve the Government with advice to improve ear and hearing health services in Australia, advocate for more funding for research, and promote collaboration between researchers.



Curtin University

Ear Science was awarded \$1.5 million from the WA Future Health Research & Innovation Fund to co-design a digital intervention to address mental and ear health for Indigenous children. This project led by Prof Christopher Lawrence, Monash University, includes Professor Bronwyn Myer, from Curtin’s enAble Institute, and Dr Susannah Soon and Professor Aneesh Krishna from Curtin’s Science and Engineering Faculty.



Murdoch University

Adjunct A/Prof Elaine Wong and Prof Marcus Atlas work collaboratively with Prof Steve Wilton to develop hearing therapeutics for people with Usher syndrome. Stem cells taken from patient skin are used to create collections of cells, ‘organoids’ that have many features of those in the inner ear. The organoids are used to study the underlying molecular and cellular mechanisms in hearing loss and to develop novel inner ear cell gene therapies using techniques such as ‘antisense oligonucleotides.’



The University of Western Australia (UWA)

Ear Science, through the Centre for Ear Science in the Medical School at UWA, works collaboratively with UWA researchers on many projects, including the Busselton Health Study, the Raine Cohort Study, further development of ClearDrum® and the relationship between hearing loss, cognitive decline and dementia. With Assoc Professor Cecilia Prêle at the Institute for Respiratory Health at UWA, we are investigating the role of cochlear fibrosis in cochlear implantation and whether anti-fibrotic drugs can reduce the formation of this scar tissue in the cochlea.

Dr Filippo Valente established an ongoing collaboration with A/Prof Helmy Mulders and Dr Kristin Barry at the Auditory Lab to investigate the hearing response in animals treated with novel grafts materials and drugs against chronic otitis media. Analysis includes audiological testing with Auditory Brainstem Response, and histopathology.



Busselton Population Medical Research Institute

Ear Science has led the ear and hearing health aspects of research in the Busselton Health Ageing Study since 2010. After completing two phases of data collection in 2022, the third phase -with a special focus on COVID-19- takes place in 2024. Data that have been collected over these three phases will form the basis for increasing our understanding of hearing loss and how it is associated with many other physical and mental health issues. Research lead is Rob Eikelboom and key collaborators are Dr Inge Stegeman and Dr Diane Smit, Utrecht Medical Centre, The Netherlands.



Telethon Kids Institute

Dr Filippo Valente and his group continued to collaborate with the team of Dr Ruth Thornton at Telethon Kids Institute to study the impact of antimicrobial silk membranes against chronic otitis media biofilms.



Harry Perkins Institute

Adjunct A/Prof Elaine Wong's stem cell team at Ear Science collaborates with researchers in the Centre for Microscopy, Characterisation and Analysis at Harry Perkins Institute on cellular flow cytometry and confocal imaging analyses.



Deakin University

Silk foam/aerogels as hemostatic packing materials: Packing materials are widely used in Ear Nose and Throat (ENT) and other types of surgery. The development of ideal packing materials with hemostatic properties and tunable degradation that are also capable of drug delivery will improve their use and allow more in-office treatments of middle ear disease.



Oticon/William Demant (Denmark)

The Brain and Hearing research team has been collaborating with Oticon and Eriksholm research team including Dr Elaine Hoi Ning Ng (Oticon), Dr Thomas Behrens (Oticon), Dr Hamish-Inns-Browns (Eriksholm Research Centre) and Dr Søren Laugesen (Interacoustics) in the use of fNIRS and EEG in hearing assessments of those at risk of dementia.

Our Grant Successes in 2023

We had a very successful year in competitive grant submissions, totalling **\$3,978,837** to support our vital ear and hearing research.



SoundSmiles for Indigenous children

Together with collaborators at Curtin and Monash Universities, Professor Chris Lawrence (Monash University) and Adjunct Professor Rob Eikelboom were awarded \$1.5 million from the WA Government's Future Health Research and Innovation Fund for the development of SoundSmiles - an ear and mental health education and monitoring technology for Indigenous children.

Indigenous health research

Dr Dona Jayakody secured \$100,000 from the FHRI fund WA Near-miss Awards for the Listen up! Project to investigate the impact of Hearing Rehabilitation on Cognitive Functions, Mental & Psychosocial Well-being of Indigenous Older Adults.

UWA affiliate Dawn Bessarab secured \$2,049,801 from the MRFF Indigenous Health Research Grant Opportunity for the Understanding Hearing Loss Project to address the health needs of Older Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander People.

Prof Rob Eikelboom and the Healthy Hearing Outback team was awarded a \$115,589 grant from the Telethon 7 Trust to develop and analyse 10 years' worth of data from five very

remote Aboriginal communities in the East Pilbara: Newman, Jigalong, Punmu, Parnngurr and Kunawarritji.

Hearing Therapeutics

Dr Elaine Wong secured a \$40,000 Innovation Booster Grant for the Ear Science Hearing Therapeutics team.

Dr Christo Bester was awarded a \$100,000 FHRI: WANMA- Ideas Grant for project: Using Advanced Phenotyping derived from novel functional measures to drive precision diagnosis of hearing loss.

Boost to infrastructure

Professor Marcus Atlas received a \$73,000 grant from Department of Health Office of Medical Research & Innovation (OMRI) for necessary improvements to Ear Science research infrastructure.



"Telethon's support will be instrumental in determining how we plan, operate and implement hearing services in the future."

**Head of Hearing Outreach,
Adj Professor Rob Eikelboom**



Our impact in 2023



Driving excellence in research


\$2,106,956

Raised in the Gift of Hearing Appeal
(donations and philanthropic grants FY23)



\$3,978,837

In research grants awarded calendar year 2023



51

Number of journal articles published in 2023

126 

Implant recipients



Exceeding expectations in client care



44,649

Total number of appointments



Ear Science Therapeutics Spin out established for genetic and small molecule development for inner ear hair cell regeneration

Our impact in the community



215
Hearing aids donated to children in Cambodia and Indonesia



13 Community events



302 people treated
by Healthy Hearing Outback



152
Free screenings provided



Champions of ear and hearing health



134 staff members
Dedicated to enhancing the lives of people with ear and hearing disorders



7 Podcast episodes produced



3747
Podcast downloads



Excellence in client care: our Clinical Services impact

We expanded our network of research-driven ear and hearing services to the East Coast with the opening of our first clinic in Neutral Bay, Sydney.

Our passionate Lions Hearing Clinic team will give Sydneysiders the chance to experience clinical care which incorporates the whole hearing journey, is independent, commission free, and considerate of the time needed to spend with each client to ensure that their hearing needs are met.

In addition, Ear Science proudly opened a state-of-the-art, patient-focused ear and hearing surgical facility in Subiaco, Perth. This innovative facility is located on the ground floor of Ear Science's corporate headquarters, which is co-located with the prestigious Subiaco Private Hospital at the George Jones Family Centre. This cutting-edge surgical facility will provide patients with direct access to highly specialised ear and hearing surgeons enabling timely diagnosis and treatments. With a commitment to placing the patient at the

centre of its ear and hearing care, Ear Science is proud to offer this dedicated surgical facility, which has been designed to attract the very best specialists in the field to Perth.

With the opening of this dedicated ear and hearing surgical facility, Ear Science Institute Australia continues to set the standard for clinical excellence and access in ear and hearing care in Western Australia and beyond.





**In the
Customer
Liaison Centre
listening is our
specialty**

Our Customer Liaison Centre (CLC) based in Mount Lawley is made up of six dedicated and skilled team members that field calls for the whole institute. The centre handles an extensive range of calls - from booking appointments and processing accounts to troubleshooting for clients with hearing aids. On average the team receives around 800 calls per week.

The CLC team strives to make each call a worthwhile and memorable experience for the caller, so that clients know they can trust Lions Hearing Clinic right from the start. We have enormous gratitude for the team's commitment and professionalism.



Around
800 calls
per week





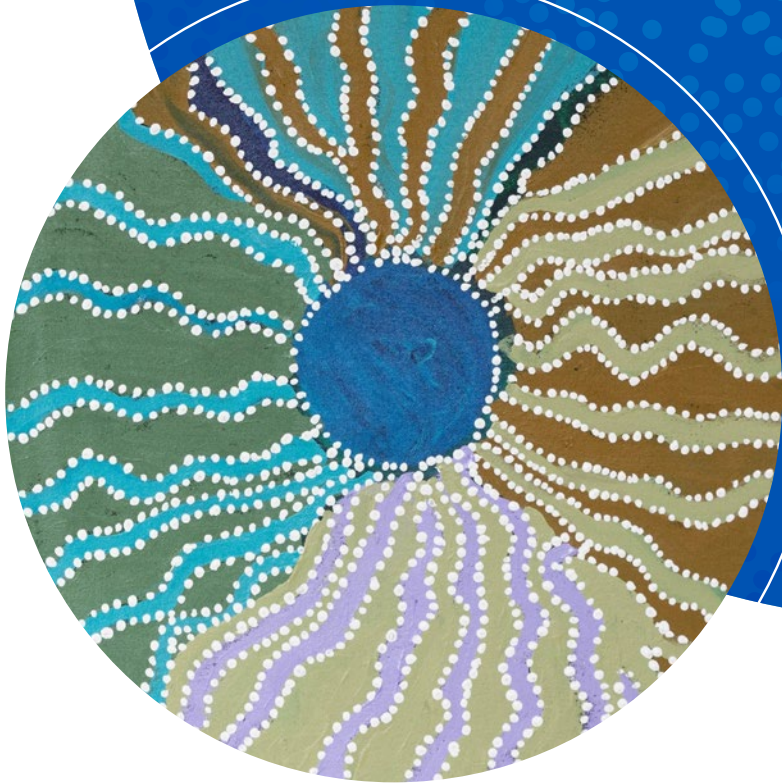
Client Story



Implant *by* Lesley-Ann Brown

My name is Lesley, and I'm a 44-year-old psychologist specialising in work health and safety. After struggling with degenerative sensorineural hearing loss since childhood, I noticed a significant decline during 2021. My hearing aids just didn't seem to be helping anymore, leading me to seek an evaluation from Ear Science. Although I wasn't sure I would be 'deaf enough', I was determined to be an ideal candidate for a cochlear implant (CI), and in November 2022, I received my first implant from Dr. Marcus Atlas.

The decision to be implanted has been simply life changing, I've gone from 'surviving' to 'thriving' in every aspect. It has particularly enhanced my ability to engage confidently at work. I now easily participate in online meetings and no longer experience the cognitive strain of constant lip reading. With a Resound hearing aid in my non-implanted ear, I can seamlessly stream audio content, which has significantly improved my accessibility in daily life. I am proud of my CI and often wear my hair up to encourage people to ask questions. While I am satisfied with one implant for now, I am confident in the care I receive with Ear Science and look forward to the possibility of a second implant in the future.



Ear Science on Country

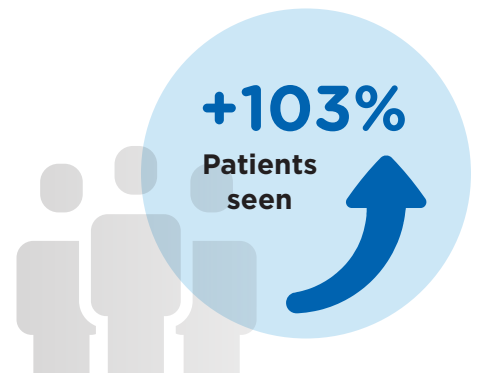
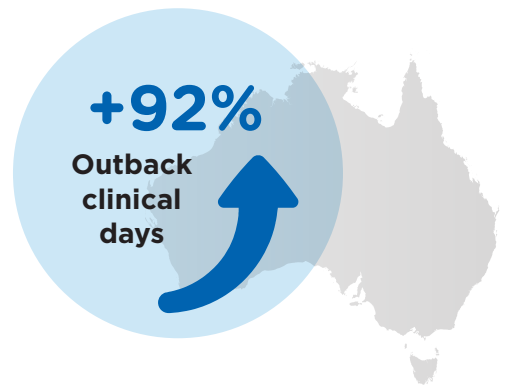
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Collaboration leading to greater impact on outreach ear health

The Healthy Hearing Outback program provides diagnostic audiology and ENT services to Newman, Jigalong, Punmu, Parnngurr and Kunawarritji. Clinical days rose from 13 in 2022 to 25 in 2023, marking a 92% increase. The number of patients seen also more than doubled, from 148 to 300, reflecting a 103% increase.

We saw an increase in community activities in 2023, thanks to the hard work of our teams and their dedication to improve hearing outcomes for indigenous adults and children.

In March, Ear Science secured \$600,000 from Mineral Resources (MinRes) over three years to enhance the Healthy Hearing Outback program. This funding enabled the hiring of a dedicated Ear Health Coordinator to support the program's initiatives.

The Soundsmiles initiative, supported by a grant from the Future Health Research Innovation Fund, aims to develop a mental and hearing health digital platform for indigenous children. This project is a collaboration with Monash University, Curtin University, South West Aboriginal Medical Service, and Puntukurnu Aboriginal Medical Services (PAMS), highlighting a comprehensive and collaborative approach to improving community health outcomes.



Donated

\$600,000



Healthy Hearing Outback Program – Projects in 2023:

Role of the Ear Health Coordinator

Our Ear Health Coordinator, an experienced audiologist, collaborates with PAMS, the local Aboriginal Medical Service to address the hearing needs of the community, particularly children.



Telehealth

The MinRes funding has been instrumental in establishing telehealth ENT services in East Pilbara and the team presented on this achievement at a statewide ear health conference.

A key focus has been to build the local capacity of the clinicians at the local primary healthcare service to facilitate telehealth sessions. This collaborative approach ensures we can increase the access to services for some of the most remote communities in Western Australia.





Community Engagement and Events

We hosted our first community event in Newman, called the Kunyjunyu Kurlka “Healthy Ears” East Newman Activation Event, held in partnership with PAMS, MinRes and the Shire of East Pilbara. This event, which involved several stakeholder organisations, was attended by 34 children, five youths, and ten adults, making it the second-largest activation event in Newman. Additionally, the program actively participated in the Shire of East Pilbara Interagency Network Meetings, further integrating into the community.





The Science of Healthy Hearing Podcast

We released seven episodes of our popular podcast in 2023, covering diverse hearing health topics and perspectives.

Reaching over 3700 downloads in 2023, our podcast provides an accessible format for learning more about hearing health including preventing hearing loss and enhancing overall wellbeing, helping to empower people to make informed decisions and seek intervention when needed.



Episodes released in 2023

A Global Hearing Health Crisis

Marking World Hearing Day 2023, Technical Lead for Ear and Hearing Health at the World Health Organisation (WHO) Dr Shelly Chadha highlights the crisis in hearing health the world is facing and what the WHO is doing to address the crisis.

Hearing and your GP

Dr Tommy Lai discusses the role of the GP in caring for your hearing health. She highlights how GPs, Audiologists and ENTs work together to care for ear and hearing health, and helps us understand who to go to for help.

Understanding Hidden Hearing Loss

In this episode, Scientist and Chief Operating Officer of Research at Ear Science Dr. David Sly shares the latest research on the phenomenon of Hidden Hearing Loss. Everyday clients walk into hearing clinics concerned about their hearing, yet hearing tests show that they have 'normal' hearing; why is this?

The Genetics of Hearing Loss

Two-time Big Brother winner Reggie Bird shares her recent diagnosis of Usher Syndrome. Dr Elaine Wong and Professor Marcus Atlas join Reggie to talk about groundbreaking developments in gene therapy to repair and regenerate hearing.

Hearing and your Health

Dr Rob Eikelboom helps us understand that we should see hearing as part of the whole body, and how it is connected to many aspects of health and illness, and how illness or injury can affect hearing, and vice versa.

To Refer or Not to Refer Exploring the Benefits of Referring Clients for Cochlear Implants

In this Special Episode for audiologists and healthcare professionals, Senior Implant Audiologist & Cochlear Implant Research Lead Dr Cathy Sucher talks with Jody French, a Cochlear Implant recipient and Hearing Implant Support Officer at Ear Science Implant Clinic.

Hearing Loss 101

Audiologist Jordan Bishop provides answers to frequently asked questions in a Hearing 101 session. She shares the signs of hearing loss, strategies to protect our hearing, and how to manage hearing loss, ear wax and more to help maintain healthy hearing.



Lions Healthy Hearing Pop-Up and Lions Van

The Lions Family Hearing Van was launched in September 2023. Overall, we held 13 events and conducted +150 screenings. We visited local libraries, Bunnings, shopping centres, seniors' groups, expos and events, and retirement villages.

A few highlights:

Our first event was a road trip to Bunbury, where we screened locals at Bunbury Bunnings.

In October, the Lions Family Van joined the Padbury Seniors group for their monthly meeting.

In November, the team had an amazing day at Have a Go Day, a seniors' event in Burswood Park.

Our busiest screening day to date was at Whitfords Library, where, despite the rain, we screened over 20 people's hearing.

We visited two retirement villages - Bethanie on the Park in Menora and St Louis Estate in Claremont, with our audiologist giving a talk on healthy hearing, followed by screenings on the van.

We also held several pop ups including at the City of Lights festival in Perth, in partnership with St Barts, offering hearing screenings at their East Perth office to help improve access to hearing care for vulnerable Western Australians, and at the City of Cockburn Seniors expo.



Giving the Gift of Hearing

Ear Science's annual Gift of Hearing appeal raised \$2,106,956 in donations and philanthropic grants to support our research, contribute to our community initiatives and to provide hearing devices to people in need.

The annual Gift of Hearing dinner in 2023 was a great success. Guests heard about Ear Science research and community projects from several key speakers in the beautiful Heath Ledger Theatre in Perth. We thank the 2023 dinner guests for the incredible generosity shown on the night.

We are so grateful for the financial support we receive through the Gift of Hearing Appeal from private donors, partners and organisations who supported us in 2023.





Our incredible supporters in 2023



PRINCIPAL DONORS

- Mineral Resources Limited
- Channel 7 Telethon Trust
- Stan Perron Charitable Foundation
- McCusker Charitable Foundation
- Wheatley Family Foundation
- Lions Hearing Foundation
- Ian & Jillian Green
- Annapurna Pty Ltd
- John & Debbie Schaffer
- Schaffer Corporation
- Sonova Australia Pty Ltd
- Schaffer Corporation
- Sonova - devices (in-kind)
- Minter Ellison

PATRON DONORS

Jim Litis

Chris and Anthea Somas

Darryl and Heather Smalley

King Family Ancillary Fund

Willy Packer

Philip and Janine Fisher

Louise Macfie

Diane & Theo Kailis

Jamie Pasqua

David & Melanie Schwartz

Stephen & Janine Lauder

Robert & Barbara Gordon

Paul Kostsoglo

Shaw & Partners Foundation

Ian & Susan Trahar

Tom & Liz Perrott

Emanuel & Luisa Dillon

Jamie & Eileen Cullen

Allan Erceg

Ian & Susan Trahar

Greg & Nicolet King

Parker & Co

Simpson Estate

PARTNER DONORS

Wilson Parking

Paul & Jenny Simpson

The McClements Foundation

Audrey Cargill (Bequest)

HT Cleaning Services

John & Linda Bond

Anthony & Rose Packer

Longreach Consulting

Wen Giving Foundation

Craig & Cora Carter

Peter Agostino

PINK DONORS

Ian Beacham

John Van Der Wielen

Russell & Tamara Gibbs

Justin & Sue Langer

Professor Marcus Atlas

Robert Martin

Robert Branchi

Jack Hartley

Julie Harris

Lions Club Dardanup

Paypal Giving Fund Australia Company Ltd

Mike Litis

Roslyn Barnes

Rob & Felicity McKenzie

Vintners Ridge Estate

Chris & Sonia Reed

Luen Chicote

Brightside Live - Tickets

Brightside Live - AV discount

Louise Macfie

Grace Farm Winery

Crown Resorts



Board and Executive Leadership Team

Our Boards and Executive Leadership team are committed to representing all our stakeholders in pursuit of better hearing outcomes for our clients and the community.

Board of Trustees



George Jones
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Marcus Atlas

Executive Leadership Team



Sandra Bellekom
Chief Executive
Officer



Tom Deering
Chief Financial Officer



David Sly
Chief Operating
Officer Research



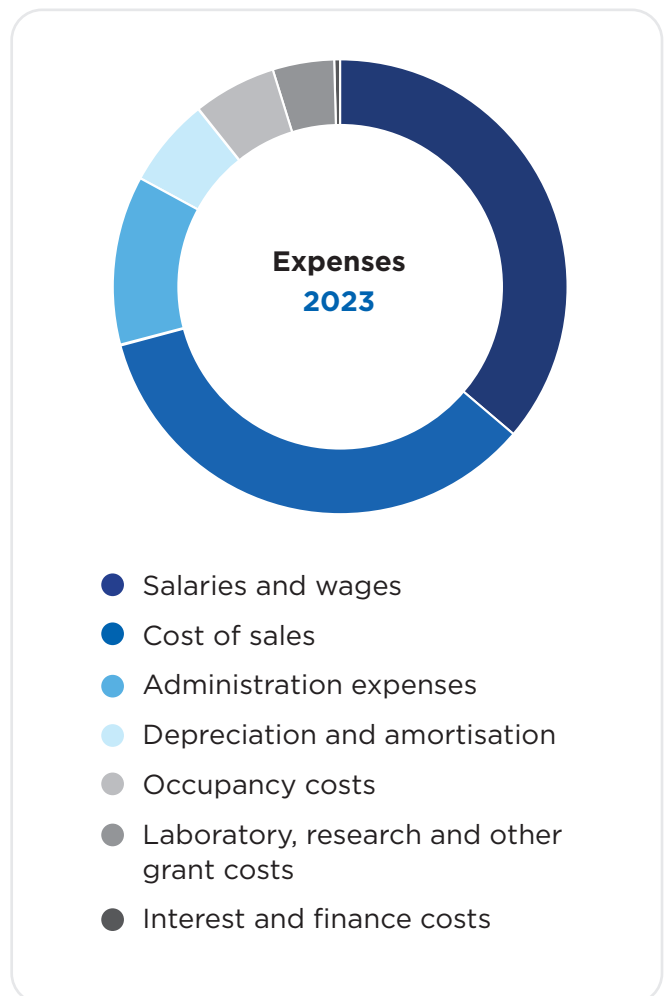
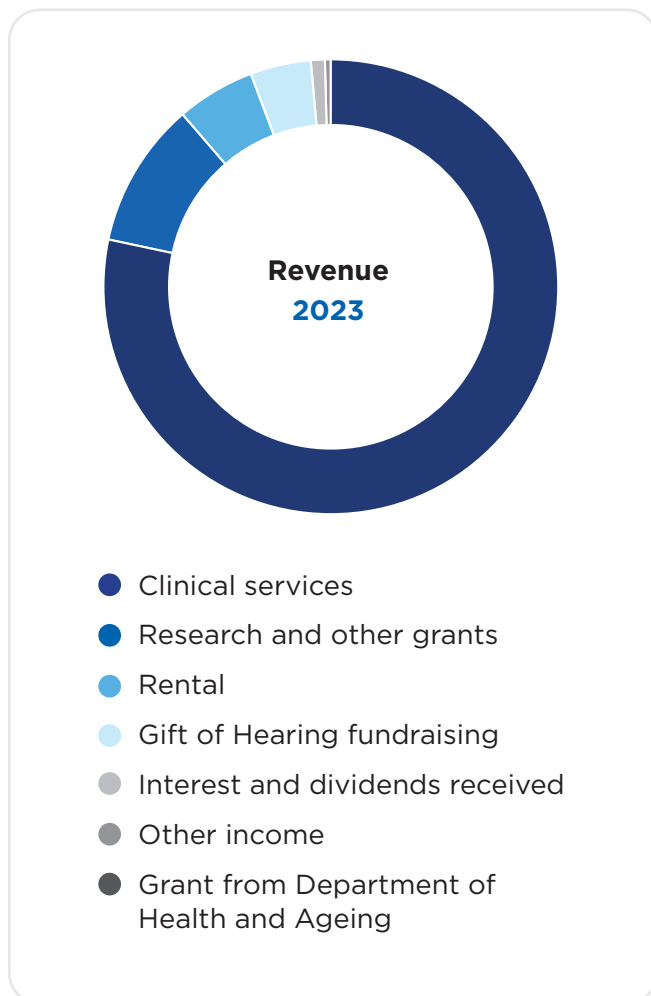
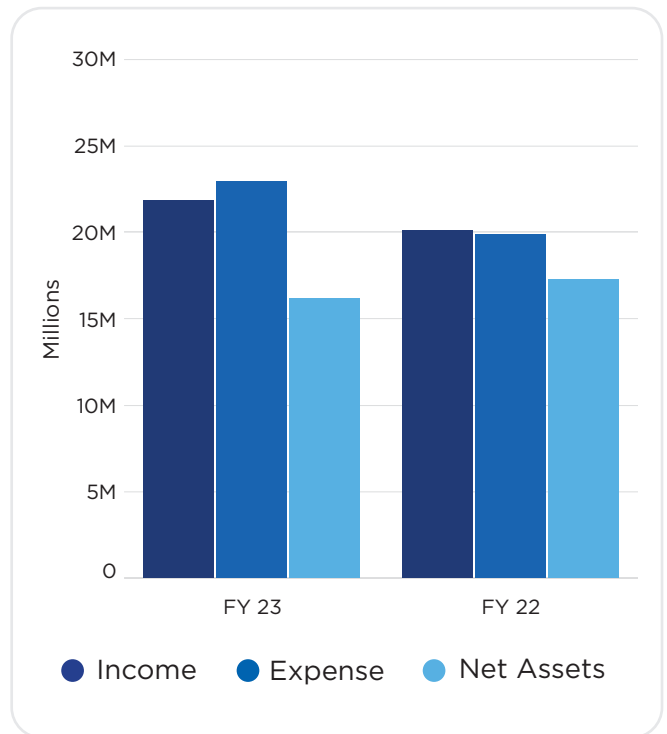
Jacci Williams
Head of People &
Culture

FY23 Financials

Throughout 2023 we fulfilled our commitment to growth, which included the creation of several new positions, the addition of a new surgical facility, and acquisition of a new clinical site.

We had increased grant success in FY23, which influenced the cost of research, compared to our FY22 result.

The format and categories of the Financial Statements for FY23 reporting underwent a change to better reflect our activities.





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