

MEDIA RELEASE

Oticon Foundation of New Zealand

Monday 3 March 2008

Funding available to help improve the lives of hearing impaired New Zealanders

A special fund has now opened for people or organisations with research, educational or other projects to apply for grants for work that helps the lives of the hearing impaired.

The Oticon Foundation in New Zealand aims to improve the lives of the hearing impaired and is calling for applications for funding for new projects now. Grants close on 31 March 2008.

“The Oticon Foundation is looking for projects or research that really makes a difference to New Zealanders and our community,” says Karen Pullar, Secretary, The Oticon Foundation. “The funding is a resource that people can apply for to support activity or work over and above anything they might be doing as part of their regular work or study.

“In the past 12 months grants have been awarded to a diverse mix of projects. In Christchurch, the University of Canterbury has been able to set up a Vestibular Disorders Clinic – dealing with dizziness and balance problems – thanks to funding for equipment from the Oticon Foundation.

“The new equipment gives audiology students hands-on clinical experience, better preparing them for practice in vestibular diagnosis,” says Ms Pullar.

“Two Auckland nurses, Khan Bury and Sarah Williams, who were so inspired by a Foundation funded visit from United States based hearing expert Dr Billy Martin and his Dangerous Decibels programme in schools to prevent hearing impairment, that they’ve started work on their own initiative in local schools.”

Thanks to the Oticon Foundation substantial research projects by students at the University of Auckland are contributing to enhancing the knowledge and understanding of hearing care professionals both in New Zealand and overseas. Mike Sander’s is pursuing PhD research which puts the spotlight on the physiological and psychological mechanism of background noise tolerance.

In addition Jeanie Morrison-Law, now an audiologist in Palmerston North, has been awarded the joint Oticon Foundation and University of Auckland prize for research of outstanding quality for her work evaluating an auditory training programme which actively engaged the attention of two groups of people suffering from high frequency hearing loss.

More information about the 2007 recipients is available at http://www.oticon.org.nz/pdf/Soundscape%20Feb_08.pdf

the oticon foundation

Applications are now invited from organisations or individuals for projects that:

- disseminate knowledge about hearing and hearing loss
- help remedy hearing loss
- improve the quality of life for hearing impaired individuals and their families
- break down the stigma of hearing loss.

The Oticon Foundation in New Zealand was established in October 1976. It is a charitable trust of Oticon New Zealand Limited and aims to improve the lives of the hearing impaired in New Zealand through communication and knowledge. It is committed to finding better solutions to hearing loss and strives to increase public awareness and understanding of hearing impairment.

More information is available from www.oticon.org.nz. Applications for 2008 Oticon Foundation grants must be in by 31 March 2008. Successful grant recipients will be notified by 30 June 2008.

Ends

For more information please contact: Karen Pullar, Secretary to the Oticon Foundation in New Zealand. Email: info@oticon.org.nz, Telephone (04) 473 3330 or FreePhone 0800 684 266 or Mobile 021 647 330.