



soundscape

E-NEWSLETTER OF THE OTICON FOUNDATION IN NEW ZEALAND



Welcome to the Oticon Foundation's March 2017 e-newsletter, timed to coincide with World Hearing Day on 3 March and the National Foundation for the Deaf (NFD) Hearing Week, which runs from February 26 to March 4.

The Hearing Week theme is 'Action for hearing loss: make a sound investment!' For information please see [NFD's website](#).

With this theme in mind, we report on significant projects that the Foundation has supported over the last year.

The Oticon Foundation applauds NFD on the release of its ground-breaking research report *Listen Hear! New Zealand*. This document reports on the social and economic impacts of hearing impairment in New Zealand.

Already, NFD is calling for collaborative action to ameliorate the costs and improve the lives of those who live with hearing loss, and this year the New Zealand Audiological Society will highlight the issues at its July conference in Wellington.

You can also read about Dr Mary O'Keeffe's EarWISE project studying the hearing of those living in retirement villages; the next phase of the University of Canterbury Te Pihareinga research; and our support for the professional development of hearing care practitioners.

The Trustees wish to remind you that it's now time to apply for the Oticon Foundation grants. How can we help you make a difference to the lives of people with hearing impairment? We need your applications by 31 March. See www.oticon.org.nz for how to apply.

Karen Pullar
Secretary to the Trustees

List of grants made in 2016, [read more here ...](#)

Information about the Foundation www.oticon.org.nz

Call for applications

Make sure you get your funding applications in by 31 March ... Grant applications close then, so send yours to the Oticon Foundation as soon as possible. To find out how to apply, go to www.oticon.org.nz.



NFD releases major report on economic and social impact of hearing loss

The organisation behind a ground-breaking report on the cost of hearing loss in New Zealand wants it to be the starting point for discussions with the Government.

[Read more ...](#)

[You can download the full report here ...](#)

Key facts from *Listen Hear! New Zealand*

- Of the 880,350 New Zealanders with hearing loss, 472,961 were male, and 407,388 female
- The 880,350 figure equates to just over one person in every five.
- The \$552.5m per annum productivity cost to the economy of hearing loss is made up of
 - Reduced employment — \$387.1m
 - Temporary absenteeism — \$66.8m
 - Reduced productivity — \$98.5m
- The Government lost \$254.6m in tax revenue in the year ending June 2016 as a result of the negative impact of hearing loss on employee productivity and the amount of informal care provided to people with hearing loss
- Of the \$131.8m annual cost to the health system, the largest component was
 - "Other health professionals" at \$78m
 - Outpatient costs of \$18.7m, and
 - Out-of-hospital medical services, \$16.6m
- Of the \$95.5m per annum in other financial costs of hearing loss
 - The largest component was \$79.3m for aids, equipment and modifications, and
 - \$4m in formal care
 - \$5.5m for NZ Sign Language interpreter support
 - \$6.8m for government programmes
- The total fitting service costs for hearing aids were \$39.1m per annum
- The estimated cost of tinnitus is about \$7.5m per annum
- Noise-induced hearing loss (NIHL) is a significant cause of hearing loss developed by adults later in life. Significantly more males are affected than females.
- From 1998-2000 NIHL was described as the second-most voluntarily reported occupational condition in New Zealand



World Hearing Day: Making a sound investment

The National Foundation for the Deaf believes New Zealand wants to make an investment in issues relating to hearing loss. And it says the release of the ground-breaking *Listen Hear! New Zealand* report on the economic impact and cost of hearing loss will enable that.

[Read more ...](#)



EarWISE project studies hearing of retirement village residents

Dr Mary O'Keeffe has some decisions to make. The first year's work on her EarWISE project studying the hearing of those living in retirement villages is nearing completion, and it's been so successful she has several possible directions for the next phase of her work.

[Read more ...](#)



Te Pihareinga 'has potential use way beyond its initial brief'

A monitoring system being developed to help protect the hearing of patients during delicate ear surgery has potential use way beyond its initial brief, its designers say.

[Read more ...](#)



NZAS conference a timely look at the human impact of hearing loss

The New Zealand Audiological Society will be looking at the wider impact of hearing loss when it holds its conference at Te Papa in Wellington from July 5-8.

[Read more ...](#)



World Congress of Audiology

The role of hearing in issues facing the elderly were key topics for three New Zealand audiologists at the World Congress on Audiology in Vancouver.

[Read more...](#)

The Oticon Foundation of New Zealand was established in October 1976. Income generated from the Foundation's investments is distributed to groups and organisations seeking financial support for projects that benefit the hearing impaired.

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