



Hear things differently

Annual Report
2020-2021

Southern
Cochlear
Implant
Programme



Benji Earl, aged 13

SANTA CRUZ



Pictured left to right: SCIP Chief Executive Officer Neil Heslop (far left) with board members – Associate Professor Phil Bird (ENT Surgeon), Catherine Bartlett, Jonathan Cox, Kathryn Ruge, Keith Yardley, David Kent (Board Chair). Absent – Scott Wilson

Message from the Board Chair

It is extremely pleasing to reflect on a year in which we received significant increases in the funding of adult cochlear implants.

Firstly, in February 2021 the Government announced a one-off funding allocation which enabled an extra 35 adults in our region to receive a cochlear implant before June 2021.

Then in May's Budget, it was announced that nationally an extra \$28 million would be allocated over four years to boost adult cochlear implant funding. This meant that, from July 2021, we could increase our contracted adult numbers from 20 to 60 people annually.

It is very satisfying to reflect on the combined efforts of the Southern and Northern Cochlear Implant Programmes over a long period of time. Together, tireless work was put into securing this long-awaited increase in government funding.

I would also like to acknowledge and thank Health Minister Hon Andrew Little and Ministry of Health officials for supporting our efforts and acknowledging the need to better meet the growing demand for these life-changing devices.

Further in this report, Neil Heslop, our Chief Executive will provide details on the actual numbers along with our achievements in the paediatric programme.

The health sector is about to go through exceptional change, and this year saw the release of a comprehensive review of the health and disability sector known as the Simpson Report. While the recommendations for delivery change within the health sector have been widely reported, we still await final details for how this will affect the disability services sector, of which we are a part.

Regardless of what these recommendations may be, our recipients, their families and the wider community can be assured that we remain committed to continual support of all those who are part of our programme.

On behalf of the Southern Hearing Charitable Trust Board, I wish to take the opportunity to express our sincere thanks to Chief Executive Neil Heslop and all the staff at SCIP for their total commitment and support to the programme. Without your expertise and dedication, we could not function.

As Chair I thank my fellow board members for your guidance and support over the past 12 months.

You give your time freely and I value the leadership you provide to the programme. I would also especially like to thank board member Catherine Bartlett who is standing down after 14 years. Thank you, Catherine, for all you have done to help the programme grow and help so many during this time.

Finally, to all our supporters, both corporate and individuals, thank you for your tremendous support – your donations have been warmly welcomed and are incredibly valued. You have helped to profoundly change lives for which we are most grateful.

Ngā mihi nā

DAVID KENT
Board Chair



David Kent, Board Chair

Chief Executive's Report

MORE ADULTS TO RECEIVE LIFE-CHANGING IMPLANTS

As our patients are only too well aware, the onset of total and permanent hearing loss can happen to anyone at any time. It is not part of the ageing process, but a serious disability usually caused by disease or genetics. A cochlear implant is the last and only viable treatment, and the technology is considered a medical miracle by recipients.

This is one of the messages that the Southern Cochlear Implant Programme (SCIP) sent to Ministers over the past two years, as part of a national campaign to increase funding for adult cochlear implants. The number of adults on the waiting list had reached crisis level, and urgent action was needed.

We were delighted that finally, in May this year, the Government listened.

In its Budget 2021 announcement an extra \$28 million was allocated over four years for adult cochlear implants. This means 320 more New Zealanders will receive an implant by 2025.

In our region alone, it means we can now provide 60 adults with a cochlear implant each year – up from 20.

We are now giving patients good news, instead of sending them home to face the prospect that they may never hear again. Many more now have an opportunity to return to work, hear their children for the first time, and participate more fully in their community.

Our patients and their families tell us that cochlear implants are – quite literally – life-changing.

As health professionals, we appreciate the enormous responsibility and challenges associated with Aotearoa's health system, especially balancing community need within restrained budgets. In a Covid-19 world, we were even more appreciative of the Government's support for adult cochlear implants, and its acknowledgement of the social, community and economic return on investment that this technology can provide.



Neil Heslop, Chief Executive

It is important to note that while the Government funding is welcomed and will help us to better meet current and short-term demand, it does not eradicate the ongoing and growing need. Sadly, a number of our patients will still be forced to wait.

There are still more than 148 adults on the SCIP waiting list. Our job now is to ensure that all adults in Aotearoa with severe to profound hearing loss receive timely access to a cochlear implant, to avoid more lengthy wait lists in the future. We'll continue to lobby the Government to make this so.

VIRTUAL TELEHEALTH SERVICE LAUNCHED

Other highlights during the 2020/21 year include the launch of a virtual telehealth service, in partnership with Life Unlimited.

Telehealth is the use of video conferencing and telephone consultations to deliver health services to remote patients. The initiative was launched in Taranaki and will be available in Hawkes Bay in the near future, as we acknowledged people in these regions had the greatest travel burden.

The telehealth initiative supports our goal to remove as many barriers as possible for people who need to access our services. As many of you know, cochlear implant surgery is just the first step – recipients will need ongoing, specialist therapy and equipment from SCIP for the rest of their lives.

In addition to our clinics in Wellington and Christchurch, SCIP audiologists and rehabilitationists regularly travel throughout our region to deliver services. In 2020/21 more than 130 patients were supported via one of our remote clinics, who would otherwise have to travel long distances at great expense and significant disruption.

BETTER ACCESS FOR ALL

A key focus in the coming year is ensuring our service is more responsive to our tangata whenua and all people of Aotearoa.

We know that there are eligible people from Māori and Pasifika communities who are not referred for a cochlear implant – either because they are not aware of our service, or it is not accessible. We want to get out further into the regions and our communities to change these numbers by working with other organisations and referrers where possible.

PAEDIATRIC PROGRAMME CONTINUES TO THRIVE

As highlighted in the clinical report on page 14, our paediatric programme continues to provide children of all ages with cochlear implant surgery and subsequent habilitation. Our youngest cochlear implant recipient in 2020/21 was aged six months at time of surgery.

We are also pleased to be involved in a multi-centre research study tracking the progress of New Zealand children with hearing loss. The results of the study will provide parents with resources and information to support their child's speech and listening development.

FUNDRAISING CHALLENGES

During the last financial year our fundraising programme generated \$435,107 through grants, donations, bequests, and corporate support. While grateful for every dollar we receive, the Covid-19 pandemic has had a significant impact on fundraising revenue for charities throughout New Zealand, with many trusts and foundations reporting decreased giving. For SCIP we are now looking at additional

fundraising avenues, such as a new bequest programme, to help fund more implants and make our services available to as many people as possible.

REFLECTIONS AND GRATITUDE

Covid-19 aside, it has been a much more positive year than 2019/20. The Government's increased funding announcement for adult cochlear implants was a significant and

satisfying milestone - one we have been working towards for a number of years.

I want to thank our staff who continue to work tirelessly to ensure our patients are supported at every step of their cochlear implant journey. Your genuine commitment to the organisation and the people we support is admirable and very much appreciated.

SCIP is also fortunate to be supported by a dedicated Board, who all willingly volunteer their

time to help extend our impact. Thank you for your governance and encouragement during the past year.

I look forward to continuing our mission in the coming year and expanding our reach and services further into our communities.

Ngā mihi nā

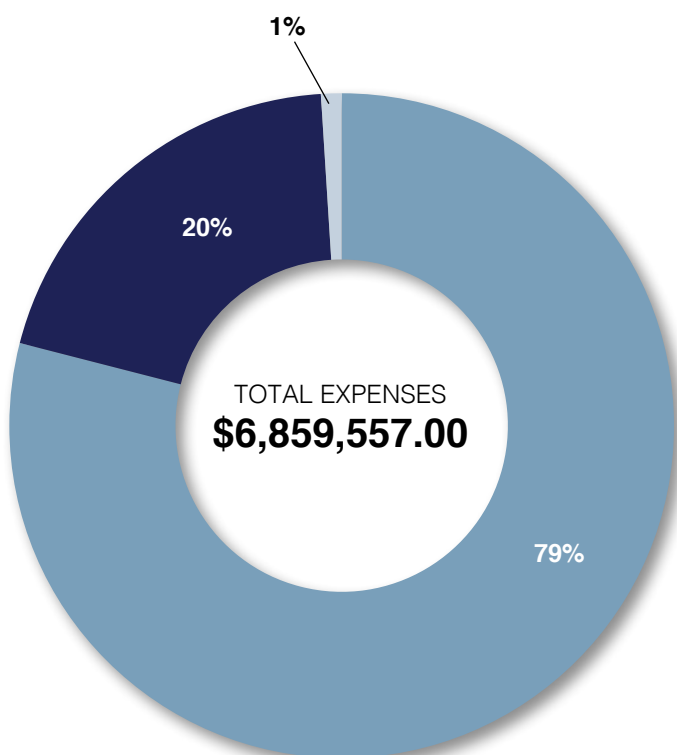
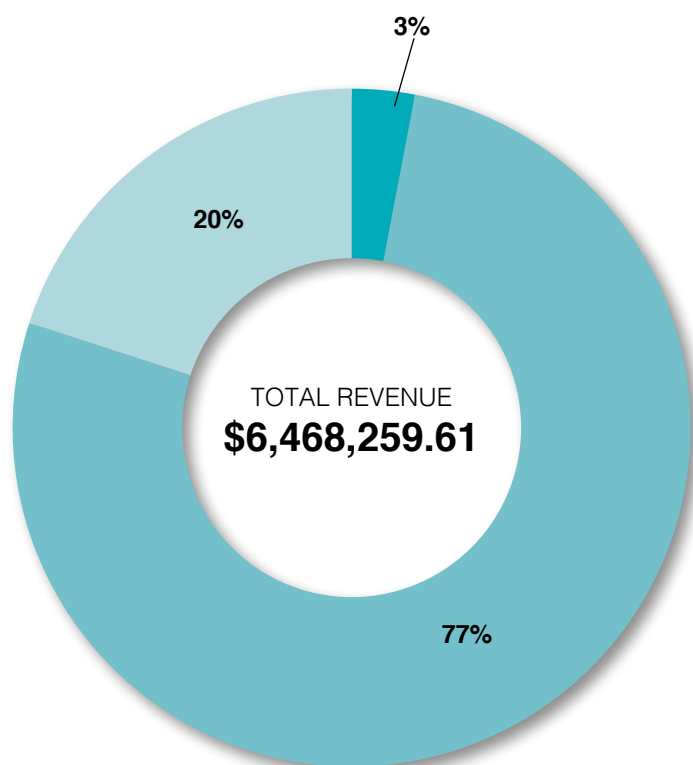
NEIL HESLOP
Chief Executive

Financials

Financial position as at 30 June 2021.

REVENUE

Donations, fundraising and similar revenue	\$210,304.95	(3%)
Revenue from providing goods or services	\$4,983,760.64	(77%)
Trading revenue from providing goods or services	\$1,274,194.02	(20%)



EXPENSES

Costs related to providing goods or services	\$5,429,008.69	(79%)
Employee related costs	\$1,360,047.31	(20%)
Other expenses	\$70,501.00	(1%)

Acknowledgments

In 2020/2021 the Southern Cochlear Implant Programme (SCIP) was supported by organisations and donors who helped us deliver our services. Thanks to their generosity, we can continue to assist our patients toward new sounds, new experiences, and new life.

Note: SCIP's fundraising income in 2020-2021 decreased by \$25,000.00 compared to the previous year. This can be linked to Covid-19, as grants from trusts and foundations were limited due to the pandemic.

GRANTS 2020-2021		
ORGANISATION	GRANT	PURPOSE
Pub Charity	\$75,000	Cochlear implant parts for adults
Lion Foundation	\$50,000	Operational costs
The Southern Trust	\$20,000	Rehabilitation staff salary
National Foundation for Deaf & Hard of Hearing	\$10,000	Remote audiological and habilitation services
Jones Foundation	\$2,500	Administration staff salary
Invercargill Licensing Trust Foundation	\$750	Regional clinics
Grant total	\$158,250	

DONATIONS
received in the last financial year totalled **\$142,057.55**

The largest donation was **\$80,000**
and the smallest donation was **\$20**

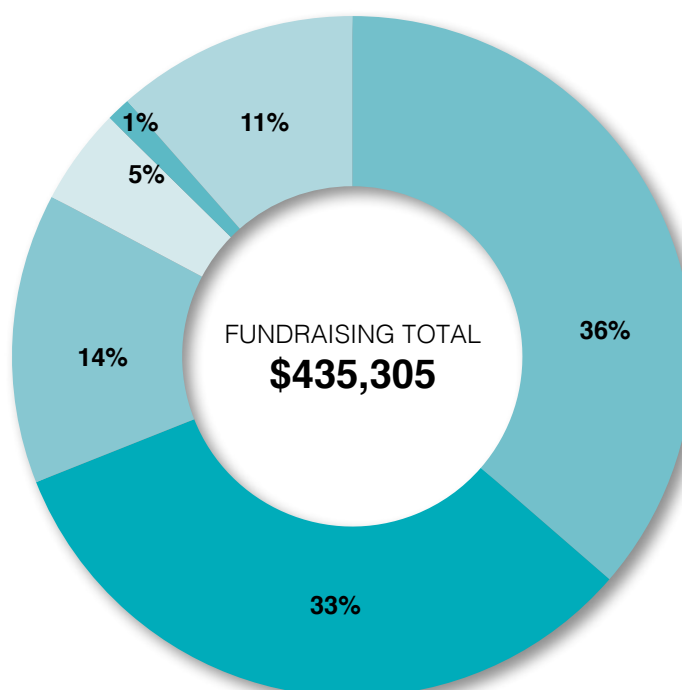
BEQUESTS
\$60,000

CORPORATE SPONSORSHIP
Mutual Credit Finance
\$20,000

SOUTHERN HEARING CHARITABLE TRUST SCHOLARSHIP GRANT
Forsyth Barr
\$5,000

2020-2021 FUNDRAISING SUMMARY

Grants	\$158,250	(36%)
Donations	\$142,057	(33%)
Bequests	\$60,000	(14%)
Corporate support	\$20,000	(5%)
Southern Hearing Charitable Trust Scholarship grant	\$5,000	(1%)
Anonymous benefactor	\$50,000	(11%)
Fundraising total	\$435,305	



Our supporters



Budget 2021 –long-awaited funding increase finally delivered

At the start of 2021 the number of adults on the national cochlear implant waiting list had reached an all-time high. More than 260 people were waiting, and by the end of the year that number was expected to increase by up to 40 percent.

For seven consecutive years there had been no additional, sustainable funding to meet the growing backlog and demand for adult cochlear implants. On behalf of its patients, the Southern Cochlear Implant Programme (SCIP), joined by its Northern Cochlear Implant Programme (NCIP) counterparts, embarked on an intensive advocacy and public outreach strategy urging the Government to swiftly address the issue.

As it stood, New Zealand’s adult cochlear implant funding was one of the lowest in the OECD. Many people were desperately trying to find their own money for the \$50,000 procedure or faced the prospect of never hearing again.

Thankfully, that all changed in May this year.

As part of its Budget 2021 announcement, the Government allocated an extra \$28 million over four years for adult cochlear implants.

This means 320 more New Zealanders will receive an implant by 2025.

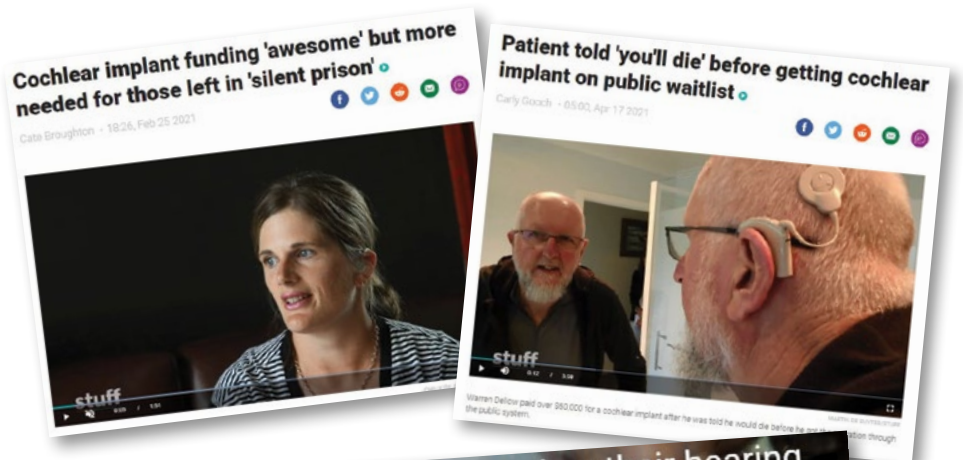
In SCIP’s region alone, 60 adults can now receive a cochlear implant each year – up from 20.

It was a landmark occasion for SCIP, and a result of its tireless campaigning.

SCIP Chief Executive Neil Heslop says, “With more people now able to access this life-changing technology and have their hearing restored, we are extremely grateful to those who shared their cochlear implant story with the media to help raise awareness of the issue.

“We could not have secured the increased funding without your help. Thank you.”

During 2020-2021 several national media outlets covered the funding shortfall and the Government’s subsequent Budget 2021 announcement. Below is a snapshot of some of the headlines:



Should New Zealanders have to buy their hearing back?

Budget 2021: Hundreds more people to get publicly funded cochlear implants



Cochlear implant providers welcome long-awaited funding commitment

Funding freeze means more heartbreak for deaf patients

Budget 2021: Relief at funding announcement - More to receive the gift of hearing

Funding gaps force clinicians 'to play God' when allocating life-changing hearing devices

+UNDOCTORED | Cautious optimism toward Labour's pledge to increase cochlear implant funding



Murray and Julie Beck at home in Taranaki

“Nothing short of a miracle”

Just hours after his cochlear implant was switched on for the first time, Murray Beck celebrated by going to the supermarket to get a bottle of milk – by himself.

This simple, routine chore was a significant milestone for Murray, who is profoundly deaf. It was the first time in years that he had been able to venture out on his own without family members to communicate on his behalf.

His wife Julie was “gobsmacked”.

“I thought he was joking when he said he was off to get some milk,” says Julie.

“He hasn’t left the house without me or another family member for years. It was just too hard as he couldn’t hear or talk to people.”

Murray received his cochlear implant in December 2020. Since

then, he says, his life has changed dramatically.

“It’s nothing short of a miracle. Things just keep getting better and better.

“I can hear my grandchildren, which is magic. I can talk to people now and have conversations with friends that I haven’t had in years.

“I’ve got my life back,” Murray says.

After his hearing began to decline in his late 30s, Murray eventually became profoundly deaf – forcing him to leave his job and lead an isolated life in rural Taranaki.

Until five years ago Murray had a successful career in the oil and gas industry, managing up to 50 staff and millions of dollars’ worth of technical equipment. His 32-year career ended when the daily conference calls and general communication with others became impossible.

Murray’s hearing loss also impacted his family life.

Julie says it was heart-breaking for Murray not being able to hear his three grandchildren, and socialising with friends stopped.

Murray spent his time at the family dairy farm “talking to the cows”.

“He went from someone who sang and whistled all the time to a man who was silent,” says Julie.

“Every year he got a little less engaged and started to lose his vocabulary as he couldn’t hear himself either.”

In 2018 Murray was assessed by the Southern Cochlear Implant Programme (SCIP) and put on the waiting list for a cochlear implant. But the reality was that the waiting list at the time was so long it was unlikely his name would ever come up.

The couple made the decision to fund \$50,000 themselves for Murray's cochlear implant surgery.

"Before the implant my family had to do all the phone work for the farm and go into town for me to pick up supplies and equipment," says Murray.

"I never really left the property by myself. My social circle consisted of Julie, my son, and my daughter.

"That has all changed. I can now take care of the business side of the farm and I'm happy to go out and talk with people again. It's marvellous."

For Julie, the cochlear implant has given her back her husband.

"I've got my old Murray back. He is cheeky again – that disappeared with his hearing loss. He has always been a pretty happy man, but he is beaming now."



"I can now take care of the business side of the farm and I'm happy to go out and talk with people again. It's marvellous."





Leah and John Small, with Louis and baby Cecilia

“Louis’ world changed right in front of us”

There is an understandable rollercoaster of emotions in Leah Small’s voice when she describes the first year of her baby boy’s life. But you can hear pure joy when she recalls the moment nine-month-old Louis heard her voice for the very first time.

“The moment I said ‘hi’ to him, and he knew my voice, he started to cry,” Leah says.

In those first few minutes of Louis’ cochlear implants being switched on, Leah and her husband John could see how their little boy’s world would change.

Louis was born prematurely at 28 weeks and has faced several challenges on the road to recovery – which include being diagnosed with ataxic cerebral palsy at two years old.



In the early weeks, John and Leah spent their time by their son’s side at the Neonatal Intensive Care Unit (NICU) in Wellington and later in Palmerston North.

Leah says it’s believed that Louis’ severe case of jaundice led to auditory processing disorder as a premature baby. Three months after Louis was born he had his newborn hearing test, which showed that he had little hearing in both ears.

Leah says that Louis could only hear muffled sounds, and when he was four months old specialists put them in touch with the Southern Cochlear Implant Programme (SCIP).

“Going ahead with the implants was such a big decision for us. On one hand we wanted him to have the implants so his life would be as normal as it could be, and on

“The moment I said ‘hi’ to him, and he knew my voice, he started to cry,”

Leah says.

the other hand we had had a baby who was quite sick for the first few months of his life, so the thought of an operation was overwhelming and scary,” Leah says.

Leah and John knew that the implants would be life-changing for Louis, so they went ahead with the surgery in Christchurch when he was nine months old (six months corrected).

Fast forward just over two years, and Louis is now an adventurous, intuitive and talkative three-year-old.

“Louis’ world changed right in front of us from the moment the implants were switched on,” Leah says.

The family, who live on their sheep and beef farm at Dannevirke and have since welcomed a baby sister – Cecilia – are enjoying watching Louis grow up and reach all his milestones.

“He is talking heaps and he has nearly caught up with his age group and I swear he can actually hear better than us,” Leah says.

The monitoring of his cochlear implants is ongoing, with regular re-programming to fit Louis’ environment on the farm, with sounds such as tractors in his everyday life.

“The whole process, from our initial meeting to surgery, was very smooth and fast,” Leah says.

“It’s been an emotional three years and every time it gets to his birthday I get emotional about it, but it helps that he’s such a happy little guy who has taken it all in his stride.”

Leah says she is beyond grateful that this technology is available and knows it will bring so many opportunities and benefits to Louis’ life.

“It’s an amazing feeling when we see Louis’ face light up to sounds as he sings along to songs or interacts with his peers. I cannot wait to see how his auditory journey develops even further in the coming years.”



Fundraising report

In 2020-2021 the Southern Cochlear Implant Programme (SCIP) was fortunate to receive continued financial support from various organisations and individual donors throughout our region.

Unfortunately, Covid-19 had a negative impact on our funding applications during this financial period. The amount of grants available from trusts and foundations throughout the country decreased due to the pandemic.

We are pleased to report that our ongoing partnership with Mutual Credit Finance (MCF) continues. MCF supports SCIP through annual donations, and in other non-monetary ways. The Christchurch organisation has been a supporter of our Loud Shirt Day campaign for the past few years, and also allocates space to SCIP on its advertising billboard.

Last year saw a decrease in the number of fundraising presentations and events due to Covid-19 and travel restrictions. Between various lockdowns I managed to speak to the ACC Hearing Loss Unit in Hamilton, an Inner Wheel Club in Christchurch, and Rotary



Belinda van der Monde, Fundraising Manager

Clubs in Christchurch, Palmerston North, and Invercargill. These presentations provide an opportunity to communicate the life-changing benefits of a cochlear implant to a broader audience.

The talk I gave to Rangiora Lions Club last year resulted in SCIP being named as the Club's charity of choice for its 2021 fun run – the Ashley River Ramble. Unfortunately, this event was cancelled at the last minute due to Covid-19 and a change in alert levels. However, SCIP was incredibly fortunate to

still benefit from the event. Many participants chose to donate their entry fee to SCIP (instead of getting a refund), and the Rangiora Lions Club also donated. This unexpected contribution was much appreciated.

Additional fundraising highlights during 2020-2021:

- I attended five regional user group meetings over the last year. It's a part of my role that I particularly enjoy, as it involves meeting our recipients.
- The Financial Assistance Grant that was established last year has been well utilised by our cochlear implant recipients over the last 12 months. If you would like to know more about this grant, please speak to your audiologist.
- We were fortunate to receive a bequest from one of our recipients, to fund cochlear implant surgery for an adult on the waiting list. This generosity will give a profoundly deaf New Zealander the chance to hear again, and for that we are extremely grateful.
- The Sutherland Self Help Trust and the Charities Commission featured SCIP on their websites. This was an opportunity to raise awareness of our services and the great success stories our recipients have.
- The SCIP Supporters Database has doubled to just over 200 members. This is a vehicle for keeping in touch with our supporters, and to provide regular fundraising updates and other relevant news.



Ashley River Ramble Fundraising (L-R): Tini Lawry (President of Rangiora Lions), Belinda van der Monde (SCIP Fundraising Manager) and Kirstyn Barnett (Ashley River Ramble Coordinator)

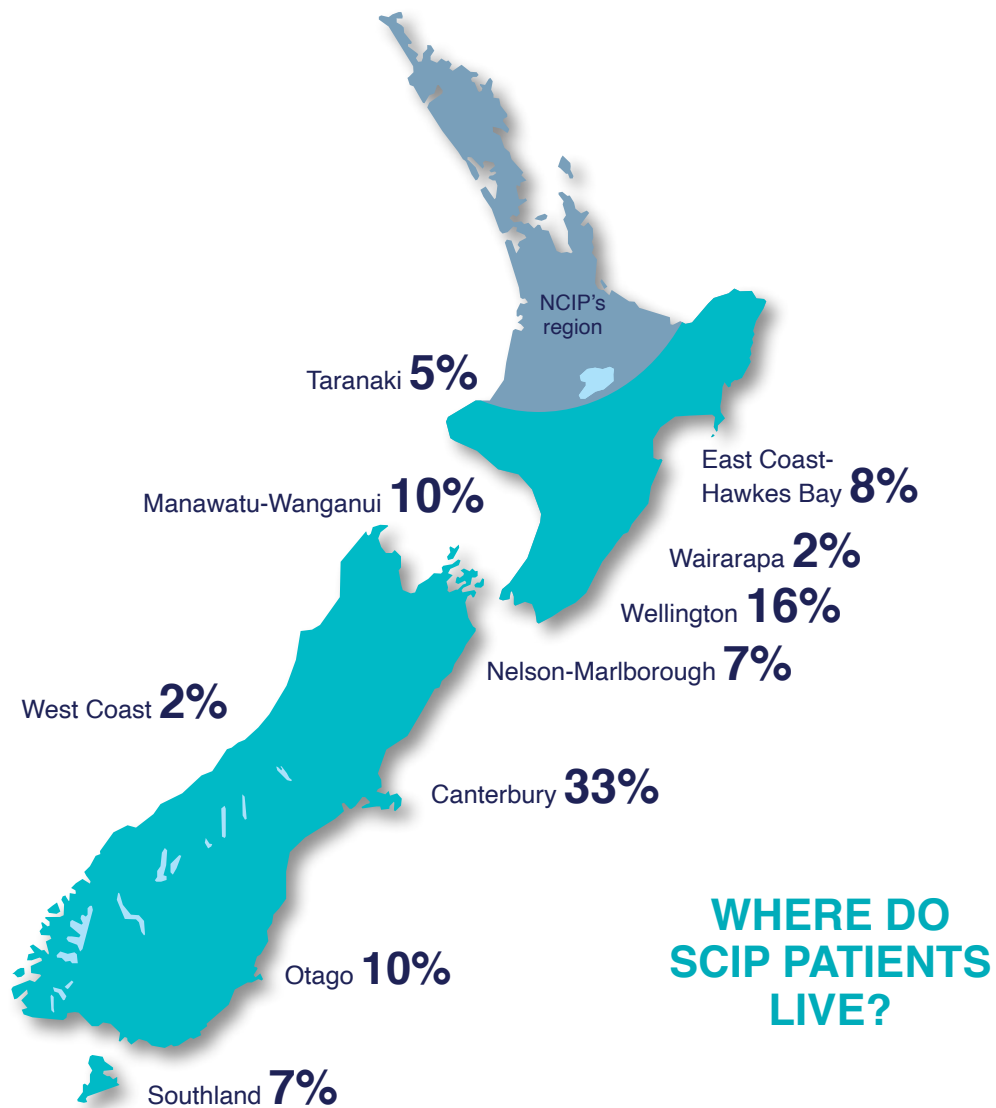
Our fundraising programme will continue to progress in the coming year, as we launch our new bequest programme. This will help to ensure that cochlear implants are available to more people who could benefit from the life-changing technology.

Thank you to all our supporters and funders. It is because of your generosity that we can continue to help our patients achieve new sounds, new experiences, and new life.

Ngā mihi nā

BELINDA VAN DER MONDE
Fundraising Manager

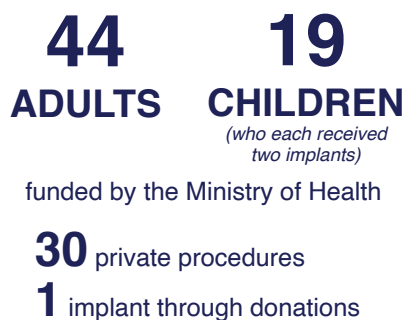
At a glance



TOTAL NUMBER OF RECIPIENTS



2020-2021 IMPLANTS



WAITING LIST NUMBERS



NEW REFERRALS



REPLACEMENT PROCESSORS



MONEY SPENT ON CHILDREN'S REPAIRS

\$167,480



Clinical Report

TELEHEALTH

The Southern Cochlear Implant Programme (SCIP) continues to look at ways to make our services accessible for all people with cochlear implants. This has included delivering regional audiology clinics throughout our catchment area over the past few years.



As a supplement to regional clinics, in 2021 we trialled delivering services remotely via telehealth technology. Telehealth uses video conferencing and telephone consultation to deliver health services to patients in remote locations, to minimise long distance travel to appointments.

Our first telehealth trial clinic took place in New Plymouth, where we also have an annual regional clinic at Taranaki Base Hospital.

As part of this trial, SCIP collaborated with Life Unlimited, a charitable organisation that employs hearing therapists to support adults with hearing loss. From Life Unlimited's New Plymouth clinic, hearing therapist Melita Peselj assisted cochlear implant recipients with mapping tasks, directed via video link by a SCIP audiologist. SCIP also provided technical equipment, spare parts and troubleshooting training.

SCIP has provided three telehealth clinics in Taranaki so far, with positive feedback from all participants. We also plan to offer this service in the Hawkes Bay, again partnering with Life Unlimited.

RESEARCH

SCIP is part of a multi-centre, 12-month research study looking at results for New Zealand children on the Functional Listening Index.



Paediatric Phonological Awareness Intensive Programme

The Functional Listening Index (FLI-P) is a tool used to track auditory skill development in children with hearing loss and follows their progress over time. That information is then provided for discussion with parents about their child's next steps in learning to listen and develop spoken language.

We currently use the FLI-P as part of SCIP's programme to monitor progress in children's listening and language development.

INTERNATIONAL TRAINING

Cochlear implant technology provider MED-EL recently asked SCIP to partner with them to provide videos focused on adult rehabilitation. These videos will be a training resource to help hearing professionals globally, including in developing countries such as Indonesia, Vietnam, and South Africa – where there is little available information on rehabilitation for adults with hearing loss. In many

situations, no rehabilitation is offered post implant.

The resulting videos consisted of questions and answers with SCIP rehabilitationist Penny Monteath, about priorities and methods in adult auditory rehabilitation, and demonstrations of rehabilitation after cochlear implant surgery.

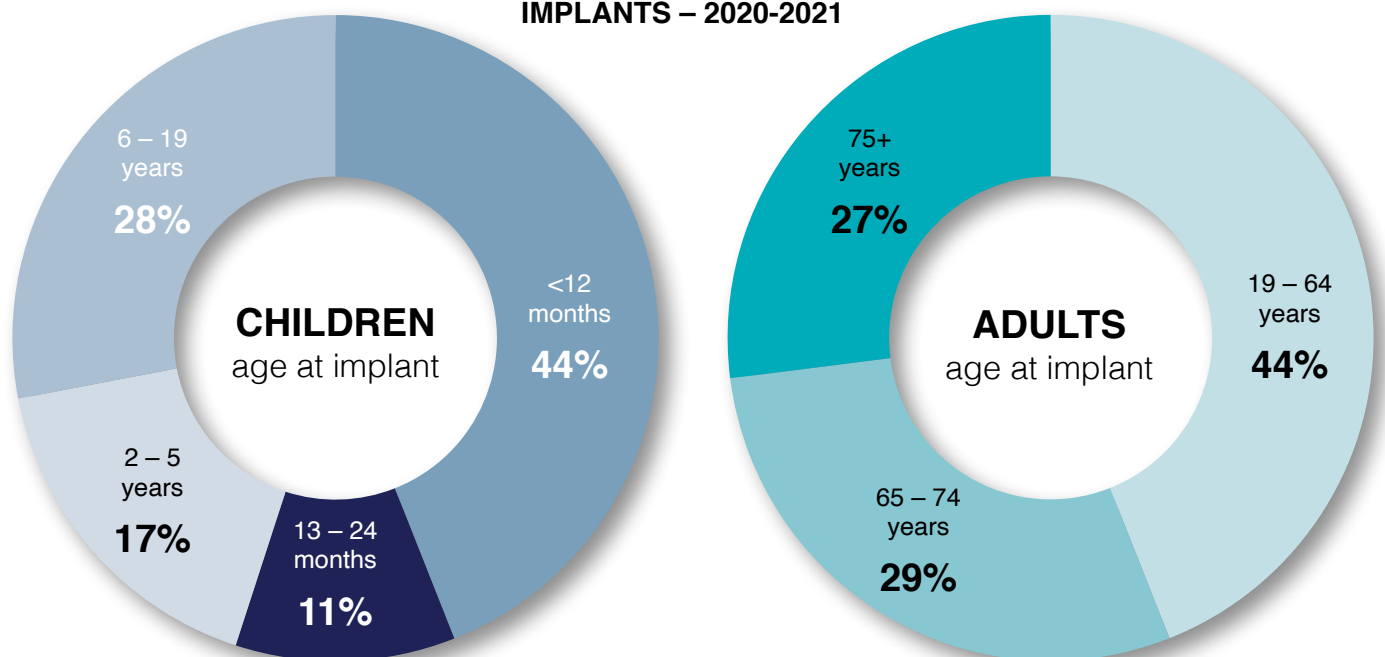
PAEDIATRIC PHONOLOGICAL AWARENESS INTENSIVE PROGRAMME

During the July 2021 school holidays SCIP provided a programme aimed at developing early listening and phonological awareness skills for a group of five and six-year-old children with cochlear implants.

Phonological awareness is the ability to notice and utilise the sound structure of spoken words. There is a continuum of phonological and phonemic skills that children must master to read and spell, and such awareness is an important indicator of how easily a child will learn to read.

Clinical Report continued

IMPLANTS – 2020-2021



AGE AT IMPLANT – CHILDREN

In the last financial year:

- The youngest cochlear implant recipient was aged six months at time of surgery.
- Forty-four percent of the children who received a cochlear implant were aged 12 months and under
- Age at implant ranged from six months to nine years.



Jill Mustard, SCIP Clinical Manager

AGE AT IMPLANT – ADULT

In the last financial year:

- The oldest cochlear implant recipient was aged 89 at time of surgery
- The median age for adult cochlear implant recipients was 67
- Adult cochlear implant recipients ranged in age from 26 to 89 years old

ADULT BILATERAL COCHLEAR IMPLANTS

The Ministry of Health funds one cochlear implant for eligible adults. Some adults choose to self-fund a cochlear implant for their other ear.

Currently we provide post-operative care for 63 adults who have bilateral (two) cochlear implants. Some of these people received two implants in the paediatric programme and moved to the adult programme at age 19, but the majority have funded a second implant themselves after a successful outcome with their first cochlear implant.

“The first cochlear implant is amazing, the second is like adding the icing on the cake.”

Nikki Cleine, adult bilateral cochlear implant recipient

INCREASED FUNDING

SCIP is pleased to have received increased Ministry of Health funding for adult cochlear implants. Already

this has meant an end to a long wait for some recipients. The increased funding will help shorten wait times and provide more implants to those most in need.

Where are they now?

Cochlear implant technology can be life-changing – some recipients describe it as a medical miracle.

Five recipients and their families share their cochlear implant journey and the progress they have made since their first switch-on.



Katrina with her daughters

KATRINA BORTHWICK

- Location: *Wellington*
- Occupation: *Employment relations*
- Date of cochlear implant surgery: *December 2020*

"I'm feeling more confident about my future. I have gone from thinking I wouldn't be able to work in my current job, to thinking about what my next career step might be.

"Both of my daughters (aged two and three) are learning their first words,

which I can now hear. My eldest is in speech therapy so it's important I model things for her and correct where I can. I'm understanding my husband better but surprisingly he talks way too loud!

"I am also relieved that I can go out and people don't have to translate for me.

"I was super surprised when I was able to clearly hear and answer a question from the person at the supermarket counter, even though they were wearing a mask!"



RICKY MCLEOD

- Location: *Raetihi*
- Occupation: *Mechanic*
- Date of cochlear implant surgery: *January 2020*

"My whole life has changed for the better in every way. I laugh more and feel happier in my life.

"I can communicate better with people, and I am more relaxed around people which I couldn't be when I couldn't hear.

"Work-wise I am more confident and enjoy my work more. I can communicate better with my clients, and pinpoint things wrong with a car by hearing it.

"All up, my life is great as a hearing person."



SIMON BALDOCK

- Location: *Picton*
- Occupation: *Psychologist*
- Date of cochlear implant surgery: *June 2020*

"My overall wellbeing is significantly strengthened.

"As a psychologist my cochlear implant has given me greater peace of mind that my clients' needs are being met – I was always worried that I missed information.

"Now I can easily use virtual platforms such as Zoom, make

phone calls, have face-to-face conversations, and participate in – and even lead – small and large group meetings. Ultimately it means I am more accessible for those that I work with.

"I can listen to all my favourite radio shows, podcasts and music, go to the cinema and the theatre, attend public seminars, and even hear in busy cafes.

"My implant has improved my quality of life, and I also hugely enjoy the dawn and twilight bird chorus every day. It was one of the first things I noticed after my surgery."



Owen (right) with baby sister Grace

OWEN GAUDIN

- Location: *Blenheim*
- Age: *Three*
- *Owen was six months old when he received his cochlear implants*

“Owen is now a very happy and very chatty three-year-old! We couldn’t be any prouder of his speech and language, and it always warms my

heart when people compliment on how well he speaks and how clearly they can understand him.

“Choosing to go through surgery and give him cochlear implants meant we were giving him that chance to join us in the hearing world.

“Owen has an Advisor on Deaf Children come to see him quite regularly, either at home or when he is

at preschool. The last time she came Owen was scoring about a year and a half above his age for speech and listening! Safe to say this made me extremely emotional and proud. Owen truly is my little superman.

“We still face challenges, but I would say the best thing we ever did for Owen was give him the gift of sound.”

Kate White, Owen’s mother



(L-R) Gracie, Louie, and sister Millie

GRACIE AND LOUIE CHIN

- Location: *Christchurch*
- Age: *Gracie (8) and Louie (6)*
- *Gracie was two-years-old and Louie was one when they received their cochlear implants*

“As parents the biggest thing is knowing that they can hear us when we tell them we love them.

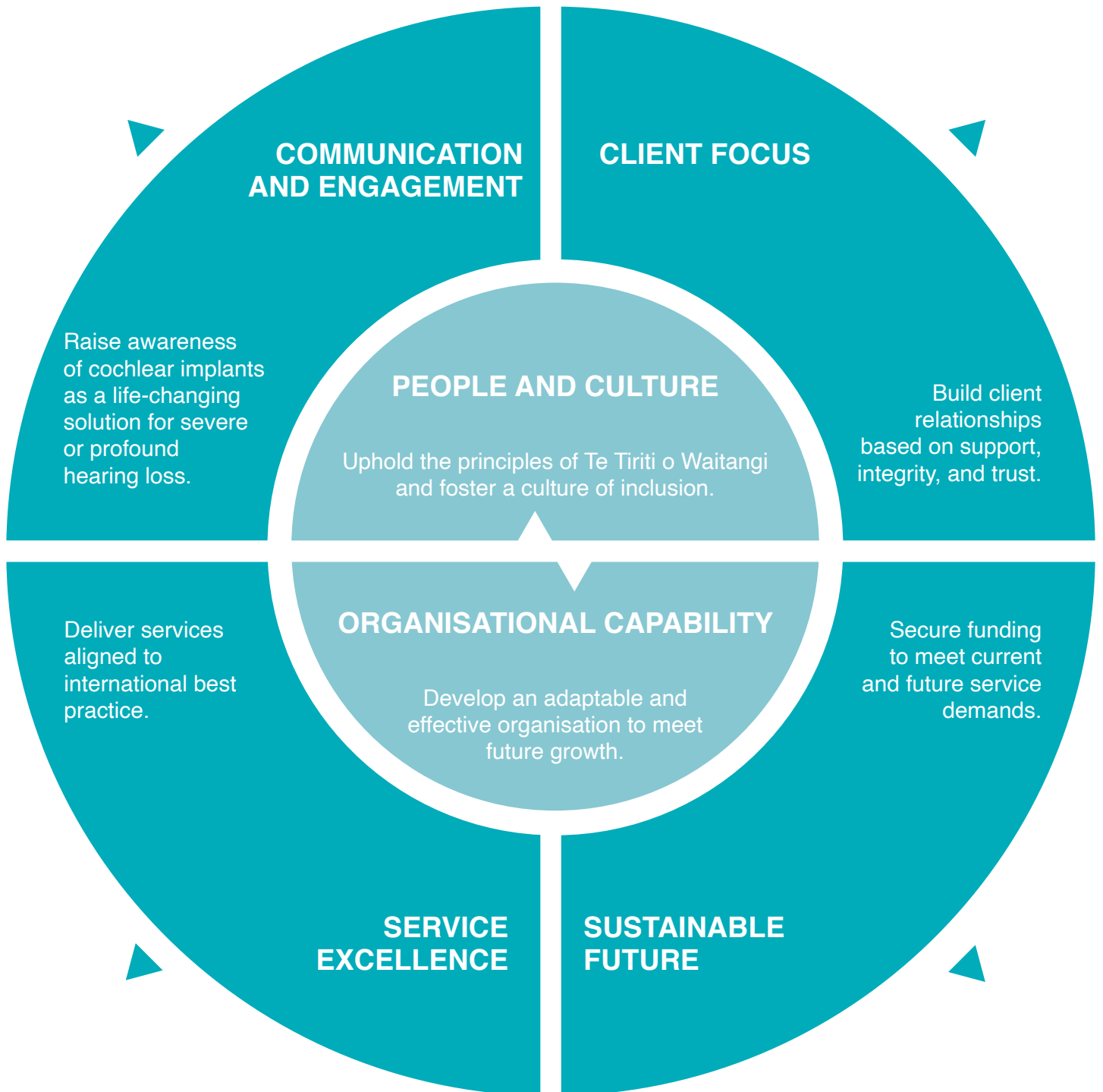
“Gracie and Louie can interact verbally with friends and family, and music is a big part of our life – they just love to sing and dance. They are both great rugby players, and Gracie scored 44 tries this season.

“They are both doing amazingly well, reaching all their verbal milestones and school achievements.”

Jendi Chin, Gracie and Louie’s mother

OUR VISION

New Sounds • New Experiences • New Life



OUR MISSION

To provide cochlear implants to those in need so they can fully engage with their whānau and communities.



Sadie Earl, aged 11



Earl family (L-R): Dad Tony, Benji, Olivia, Sadie and mum Nicola

Our locations

Christchurch clinic

Milford Chambers
St George's Hospital
249 Papanui Road
Christchurch 8014

Freephone: 0800 500 405
Phone: 03 355 3041
Txt: 027 355 3041
Email: reception@scip.co.nz




All private surgery is carried out at our Christchurch clinic at present.

Wellington clinic

JAG Legal Building
Level 1
119 Queens Drive
Lower Hutt 5010

Freephone: 0800 504 405
Phone: 04 589 9853
Txt: 027 589 9853
Email: scip.wellington@scip.co.nz

Connect with us online:

-  www.scip.co.nz
-  <https://www.facebook.com/SouthernCochlearImplantProgramme>
-  [@scip_ci](https://twitter.com/scip_ci)