



REVIEW OF
CENTRES FOR
HEARING IMPAIRED

Information for Parents and Schools



Government of South Australia

Department for Education and
Child Development

Review of the Centres for Hearing Impaired

This fact sheet contains summary information on the review, its findings and provides information for families with children at the centres to help with their decision-making.

About the review

An in-depth review of the 6 Centres for Hearing Impaired was conducted at the request of the Minister for Education and Child Development. The purpose was to develop a service model for the Centres for Hearing Impaired for South Australia to support these facilities to raise student achievement and sustain high performance in the next decade.

Review findings

The report puts forward :

- having a bilingual-bicultural approach using both Auslan and English within the centres and ensuring that the curriculum meets student needs
- ensuring staff at the centres are highly skilled, provided with sound leadership and professional learning opportunities
- students at the schools located with the CHIs be given the opportunity to learn Auslan
- increasing engagement with families and the better promotion of deaf awareness within the community
- ensuring learning conditions and classrooms use available technology to support students with their learning.
- providing additional support from speech pathologists, psychologists and educational interpreters .
- strengthening the transition program between centres and to post school options.
- maintaining existing resource levels for the centres.
- consistent provision of support structures by achieving a critical mass of students, and consolidating the six centres into four.

The full report is available at the DECD website www.decd.sa.gov.au

Consultation

A Steering Committee with representatives from all the centres guided the review. Extensive consultation with the centres' students, families, staff, governing councils, allied services and the Deaf community delivered a wealth of information, enriched by literature research and relevant data and formed the basis for the review and its findings.

Implementation of the Review of the Centres for Hearing Impaired

The review put forward recommendations which will result in the following:

- Primary centres will be located at Brighton Primary School in the south and Klemzig Primary School in the north.
- Secondary centres at Windsor Gardens Secondary College and Adelaide High School will remain.
- Elizabeth Park Primary and Hillcrest Primary centres will close at the end of 2016.
- Under the new model, there will not be an overall reduction in staff numbers dedicated to Deaf and Hard of Hearing students across the Adelaide metro area.

Over the coming months, the school will provide support and work with families to plan the next steps for themselves and their child.

Support and information for families

The principal and centre coordinator will be available to support you with information and guidance. Families with children at Hillcrest and Elizabeth Park Primary will be offered an appointment to discuss any issues and concerns at a convenient time.

You may like to ask a friend or a person who can act as your advocate to go to meetings and visits with you to help you collect information.

All the agencies that work with families who have children with hearing impairment were involved in the review and are aware of the changes. You could contact your particular support person to talk about it.

What are my options if the primary centre my child attends closes?

There are 3 options available to families:

- Staying in your current school and negotiating your child's classroom placement with the principal. They will still receive their eligible resource.
- Moving to another neighbourhood school close to your home. Again your child will be supported with their eligible resources.
- Transferring to the nearest Centre for Hearing Impaired, Klemzig Primary CHI in the northern suburbs or Brighton Primary CHI in the southern suburbs.

Help with decision-making

All parents of children at Elizabeth Park and Hillcrest Primary Schools will receive an information package describing the CHIs available, the school and programs.

You can also refer to school websites for information about the schools near your home or the two primary schools with centres for hearing impaired at:

- Brighton Primary School
<http://www.brightonps.sa.edu.au>
- Klemzig Primary School
<http://www.klemzigps.sa.edu.au>

Information is also available about the secondary CHI facilities to support your future pathway planning with your child.

- Adelaide High
<http://www.adelaidehs.sa.edu.au>
- Windsor Gardens Secondary College
<http://www.wgsc.sa.edu.au>

Support available for transition to a new centre for hearing impaired

Transition planning – the principal will invite you to a meeting to develop an individual transition plan that takes into account your child's personal learning and support plan.

Transition visits – The transition plan will include arrangements for visits to the new location to become familiar with new surroundings.

Uniforms – each school has a designated uniform and it has been agreed that you will be supported to purchase the new uniform

Transport – the DECD Transport Assistance Program may provide transport assistance to the closest Centre for Hearing Impaired, subject to eligibility criteria.

Resource eligibility – as your child has been verified as a student with a disability (hearing) they will continue to receive their entitlement wherever they attend

Negotiated Education Plan – your child's strengths and needs will be individually reviewed and their pathway planned in negotiation with you through their learning and support plan involving the current teachers and those from the new setting.

Explaining changes to children

Following the announcement for parents, schools invited children to hear the news with their parents present and to talk about what is happening.

The teachers and principals will work with you to ensure your child is supported and reassured that they will still be able to remain friends and keep in touch with their class mates.

You may like to identify someone you trust to support you in answering your child's questions. There are support people at the school and through the agencies that already work with you.

Sibling arrangements

For those that have more than one child at the school, and are considering transitioning to a different school with a centre for hearing impaired, your preferences for the family's education will need to be taken into account in working out your family's transition plan.

The arrangements regarding siblings will depend on the school, their policies, family location and individual circumstances.

Will my other children be able to learn Auslan?

As a result of the review if your other children attend a school that has a centre for hearing impaired, there will be opportunities to learn Auslan

How will my child benefit if they move to the new centre?

Under the new model, CHIs will provide

- a curriculum with specialist subjects that can meet the special needs of students
- a bilingual-bicultural approach that values both English and Auslan
- increased leadership and professional learning opportunities for staff
- introducing centre-based speech pathology and psychology services across centres
- introducing Educational Interpreters in secondary centres
- introducing a standard in Auslan for staff
- a consistent promotion of deaf awareness, including Deaf and Hard of Hearing role models
- technology to support learning
- a flexible model of integration
- increasing opportunities for mainstream students and teachers to learn Auslan
- improved transition programs
- greater collaboration between the centres
- adult role models
- acoustically treated facilities
- a community of students with similar learning needs
- support to manage hearing aids, FMs and implants
- support for the development of speech and language
- learning beside their peers in integrated classrooms.