



## The impact of speech and language on social inclusion for children with hearing loss: A model for evaluation

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# First Voice – who are we?

- Est. 2010 as the National Voice for member organisations whose primary focus is the provision of listening and spoken language to children with HL.
- 5 Centres in Australia
- 1 NZ



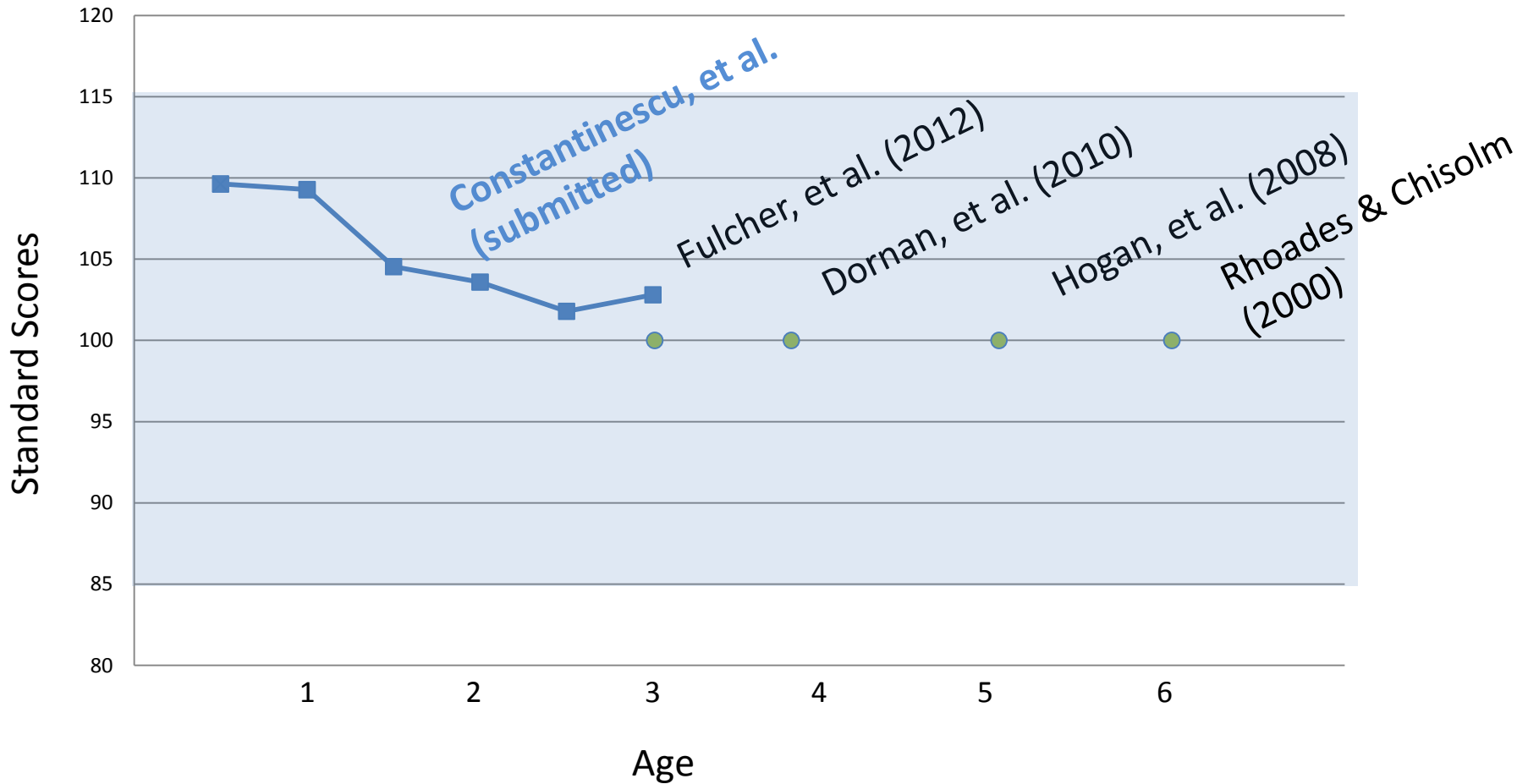
# First Voice – who are we?

- Aims of First Voice:
  - To improve the speech, language, social, cognitive & academic development of children with HL and support their families
  - To raise awareness of early childhood HL and advocate for evidence-based early intervention listening and spoken language services for children with HL

# First Voice – who are we?

- First Voice Centres
  - The largest cohort of children with HL in the world, supporting more than 1,000 children with HL
  - About 720 in early intervention
  - Actively involved in a wide range of research relating to deafness and hearing impairment

# Language Research



# Social Inclusion Research

- Social inclusion (SI) may be influenced by the child's communication mode, speech and language skills
- Percy-Smith et al. (2008); 167 children with CI
  - Higher level of SI = exposed to spoken language alone than spoken language & supportive signs or spoken language & sign language
  - Association between higher level of SI and clear speech production, good speech understanding & a large vocabulary

# Social Inclusion Research

- Hadjikakou et al. (2008); 69 children HA & CI
  - Oral communication skills suggested as causal factors in academic inclusion of children with HL exposed to spoken language
- Further large scale studies needed to quantify these findings and look at the impact of early intervention on SI for children with HL

# First Voice Research Study

- Aims:
  - Investigate SI in children with HL enrolled in First Voice Centres
  - Investigate the relationship between speech, language and SI
  - Method of benchmarking and monitoring efficacy of services
  - Ensure that measures of SI are meaningful and relevant



# Social Inclusion – definitions

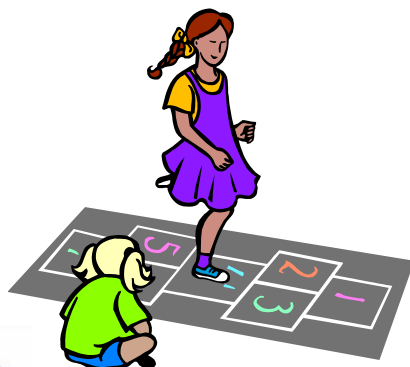
- Multiple ways of approaching SI
  - Participation in economy and community life (Commonwealth of Australia, 2009)
  - Full and effective participation and inclusion in society (United Nations, 2006)
  - Achieve economic participation, experience choice, wellbeing and opportunity to live as independently as possible (Council of Australian Governments, 2009)
  - To be seen to be included, the person must participate in the ‘ideal’ manner

# Social Inclusion - definitions



Australian  
National  
University

- SI refers to the connectedness of the individual with their social setting rather than their 'presence' (Taylor, Hogan & Dornan, submitted)



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THE FUTURE IS HEAR

The Hearing House  
deaf kids talking  
a firstvoice centre

cora barclay  
centres  
teaching deaf kids to speak  
a firstvoice centre

Hear and Say  
a firstvoice centre

The Shepherd Centre  
giving deaf children a voice  
a firstvoice centre

Taralye  
The oral language centre for deaf children  
a firstvoice centre

Telethon Speech & Hearing  
Helping children's potential  
a firstvoice centre

# 5 Faces of Social Inclusion



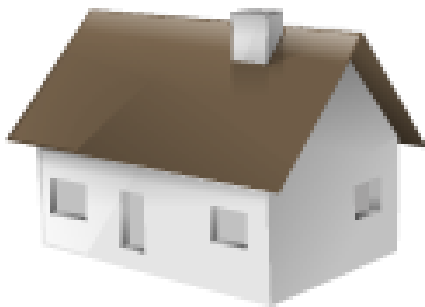


# *Growing Up in Australia: The Longitudinal Study of Australian Children*

The first decade of life

# Health and Access to Services

- Health and disability
- Community resources
- Housing
- Social accommodation



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# Health and Access to Services

- In general, how would you say your child's current health is?
- During the past 4 weeks, how much emotional worry or concern did each of the following cause you?
  - Your child's emotional well-being, happiness or behaviour



# Health and Access to Services

- To what extent do you agree or disagree with these statements about your neighbourhood?
  - There are good parks, playgroups and play spaces
  - There is access to close, affordable, regular public transport
  - There is access to basic services such as banks, medical clinics

# Education

- Education participation
- Education and skills
- How well does your child's teacher, centre or pre-school let you
  - know about your child's progress in the program or class
  - give you information and advice about how to help your child at home





# Interacting with Society and Fulfilling Social Roles

- Social networks
- Social participation
- Acceptance
- Role functioning and acceptance
- Behaviour
- Social resources

# Interacting with Society and Fulfilling Social Roles

- In the past month, has your child done any of these things with you or another family member?
  - Gone to a movie
  - Gone to a playground
- How frequently does your child get invited to social activities (e.g. birthday parties, play dates, sleepovers)



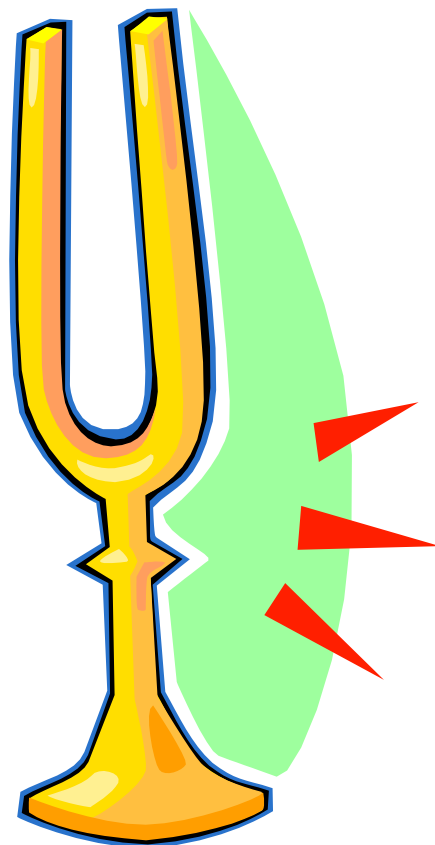
# Economic Participation - Parent

- **Work participation**
- **Material/economic resources**
- How many homes has your child lived in since he/she was born?
- What are your own main activities at present?
- Last week, did you do any work at all in a job, business or farm?

# Research Study Design

- 180 parents of children 4-6 years
- Online survey covering 4 faces of SI
- Results will be analysed
  - Against dataset from the Growing up in Australia: The Longitudinal Study of Australian Children
  - In combination with speech and language data on standardised assessments

# Stay Tuned...



# Acknowledgements

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