

# firstvoice

## 2021 SOUND OUTCOMES:

Transforming lives of children with hearing loss through early intervention



### FIRST VOICE AT A GLANCE

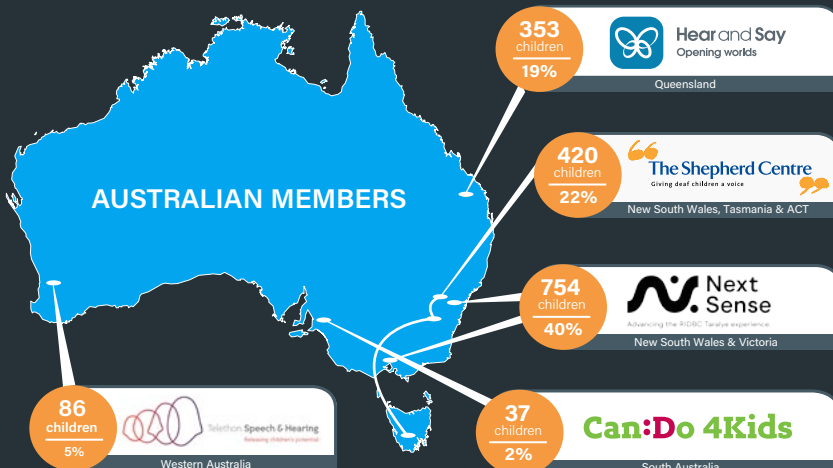
First Voice is an association for centres across the globe who provide specialist listening and spoken language early intervention services to children with hearing loss. In 2020, 1,868 children aged 0 to 5 years were enrolled in a First Voice early intervention program.

### OUR EARLY INTERVENTION WORKS

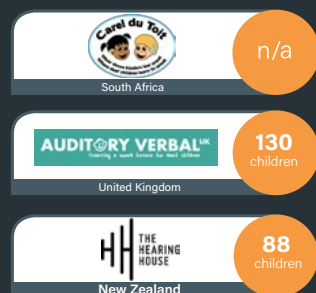


**50%** of Australia's children with hearing loss are not receiving the specialist services they need for development of spoken language.

**86%** go on to complete high school education, which is higher than the typical population.




#### INTERNATIONAL MEMBERS



Working collaboratively, the First Voice members aspire for each child to reach their maximum potential.

# CHILDREN SUPPORTED BY FIRST VOICE

 **17%** had an additional disability that impacted spoken language learning

 **33%** spoke a language other than English and were supported to learn their home language



## OUR GROWTH

**2015** **696** Children Supported

**2018** **1433**

**2020** **1868**

**2015** **118** Additional Disability

**2018** **258**

**2020** **317**

**2015** **125** English as a second language

**2018** **458**

**2020** **616**

## Diagnosis

Of these children:



**77%** diagnosed through Universal Newborn Hearing Screening (UNHS)



**23%** developed late onset hearing loss or were born overseas with no screening or were not screened as a newborn

## Level of hearing loss



**75%** had a bilateral hearing loss (both ears)

**25%** had a unilateral hearing loss (one ear)



The majority of those with bilateral hearing loss have a 'disabling loss', as defined by WHO

## References

1. First Voice 2021 Sound Outcomes report. Available here: <https://www.firstvoice.org.au/wp-content/uploads/2022/02/FV-Sound-Outcomes-2021-Report-Final.pdf>.

\*Outcome data is collected from the centres annually for the previous calendar year. Children in the study met specific criteria for inclusion and were assessed according to the First Voice protocol which includes standardised and non-standardised assessments.