

## Cochlear Implant Habilitation

There are two Cochlear Implant Programmes in NZ, the Northern Cochlear Implant Programme (NCIP) and the Southern Cochlear Implant Programme (SCIP). The Cochlear Implant Programmes fund the Deaf Education Centres and The Hearing House to provide Habilitation services. The Paediatric arm of the Cochlear Implant programmes each comprise a team of Audiologists, Habilitationists, and ENT Specialist surgeons. SCIP-funded Habilitationists are based in the SCIP clinics in Christchurch and Wellington. NCIP funded Habilitationists are based in The Hearing House and Resource Centres in Whangarei, Auckland and Hamilton.

The Habilitationists in the SCIP region work with deaf children aged 0-19 years. <https://scip.co.nz/> The

Habilitationists in the NCIP region work with deaf children aged 5-19 years. <https://www.ncip.org.nz/>

The Hearing House Therapists work with deaf children in the NCIP region aged 0-5 years. <https://www.hearinghouse.co.nz/>

### What is a Cochlear Implant?

<https://www.ncip.org.nz/paediatric-programme>

A cochlear implant provides access to sound for people with a significant hearing loss who get insufficient access to speech sounds from hearing aids. It consists of internal and externally worn parts. The surgically implanted electrode array is designed to bypass damaged hair cells in the inner ear and directly stimulate the auditory nerve to provide a sensation of sound. The externally worn speech processor picks up sound via a microphone, processes the sound and transmits it to the implant. The brain perceives the signal, and the wearer hears sound across the speech spectrum.



### Cochlear Implant Habilitation

The Cochlear Implant Habilitationists support children who have received cochlear implants to maximise their auditory potential and develop their communication skills. Habilitationists work with young children, students, family, school and other professionals to provide a variety of services.

### What do we do?

- Assess children for cochlear implant candidacy, as part of the clinical team.
- Work alongside Audiologists in clinical appointments.

- Support children to develop language through listening.
- Guide parents to be the primary facilitators of their children's language development.
- Provide regular therapy sessions in the home, clinic, education setting or via ZOOM.
- Provide guidance, modelling and coaching for parents and professionals.
- Assess and monitor progress in listening, language and speech development.
- Provide written reports to document progress and inform future goals.
- Recommend goals, resources and strategies.
- Provide regular in-service training for Resource Teachers of the Deaf, Advisers on Deaf Children, Speech Language Therapists, classroom teachers and Teacher Aides.
- Provide regional support through a visiting service and via Telepractice.
- Support family communication choice.

If you require further information please contact

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