

Sound Investment: Graduate outcomes and Deloitte Access Economics cost-benefit analysis findings

Project aim and method

First Voice is the national voice for member organisations, which The Shepherd Centre is a part of, whose primary focus is the provision of early intervention services to children with hearing loss in Australia and New Zealand.

The long-term aim of the project was to gather information on the social, educational and employment outcomes of children graduating from First Voice members' early childhood intervention (ECI) programs in the years 1993 to 2002. These young men and women are now aged between 18 and 28 years.

Survey results

The results show that the overwhelming majority of respondents have developed into independent, contributing members of society, with high levels of education, social participation and full time employment.

Key results include:

- 86% of respondents completed Year 12 compared with a nation-wide figure of 80% of school leavers in 2015.
- 82% of respondents had been accepted into a tertiary study course compared to the national statistics of 59% in May 2016.
- 77% of respondents have at some point been in regular paid employment for six months or more.
- 84% of respondents have been involved at some stage in community activities or organisations.
- For every dollar invested in a First Voice members' early intervention programs there is a \$2.20 return in benefits.

The results indicate that the survey respondents have academic and employment rates equivalent to, or better than, those reported for the general population.

A high percentage of our students have chosen to participate in community and social activities, further embedding them in both mainstream and deaf communities, expanding their networks and meaningful connections in life.

None of it would be possible without the support of the donors like you who make it happen. The Shepherd Centre has been founded and continues to exist on philanthropic support that delivers amazing outcomes.

Mainstream attendance, & highest completed level of schooling



Acceptance in to tertiary or vocational study



Return on Investment

Every dollar invested in the early intervention for deaf children returns \$2.2 in benefits to the society (well being, economic gains, financial)

