

# Beyond Unilateral Hearing Loss (UHL) Diagnoses and Parental Grief

## Unibubs Program Rationale

In a national cohort of almost 800 preschool aged children with a hearing impairment, 20% or 160 children, had a UHL (Deloitte, 2017). A study on parents' reflections on experiences and outcomes of UHL described the following (Fitzpatrick et. al, 2016):

- Parents felt that professionals minimised the importance of milder HL
- Parents appreciated learning early about hearing loss
- Experiences with the early process were mixed
- Substantial uncertainty about the need for interventions (e.g. hearing aids, cochlear implants)
- Parents desired specific guidance

Earbus NBHS	Newborns Screened	ABR Results Outside Normal Limits	UHL Diagnosis (and ABR %)
2018	8,602	23	10 or 43%
2017	8,844	23	5 or 22%

## Program Co-design with Parents

- Parent education, support and connection with other families
- Resources e.g. videos on educational impact of UHL on children in school at different ages, localisation of sound and safety

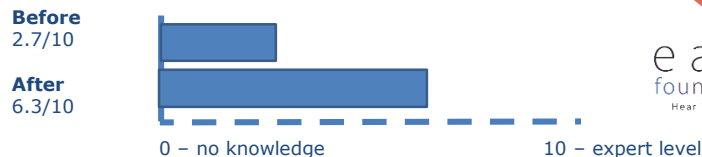
## Unibubs Program 2019

- ❖ UHL Parent Seminars
- ❖ UHL Resource Hub (online and offline)
- ❖ UHL Family Connect Groups



## Parental Survey Results

Knowledge about UHL before and after diagnoses:



After diagnosis parents sort additional information from:

1. **Websites** – 100%
2. **Family** – 67%
3. **Other Services** – 67%
4. **Friends** – 33%

Hear Today Clinic satisfaction:

Process and Communication



Information by Audiologist



Overall Experience



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earbus foundation of WA  
Hear Today, Shine Tomorrow

### References

Deloitte (2017). Cost-benefit analysis of First Voice's early intervention program. Deloitte, Access Economics.  
Fitzpatrick E, Grandpierre V, Durieux-Smith A, Gaboury I, Coyle D, Na E, Sallam N (2016). Children With Mild Bilateral and Unilateral Hearing Loss: Parents' Reflections on Experiences and Outcomes, *The Journal of Deaf Studies and Deaf Education*, 21(1), 34-43.