

So thank you to everyone who has understood and recognised the urgency of the work of SCIC and supported their work with a donation.

You have helped not only our family undertake this amazing journey from despair to celebration, but many other families with similar stories as well.

Amelie is now a feisty, determined little girl who is full of life and conversation. I think every parent delights in hearing their child's first words and sentences but when you do not know if that will ever be possible the joy is indescribable.

A few nights ago, when we put her to bed, Amelie threw her arms around us and said "Love you to de moon and back Mummy and Daddy".

What greater gift could a parent ever receive?
Simone.



hear together

SCIC - Sydney Cochlear Implant Centre, strives for excellence in the provision of services to those who are profoundly deaf and their families, who seek the opportunities provided by a cochlear implant.

Our aim is to enrich the lives of those who are deaf by encouraging the development of communication, speech and language through the use of audition.

Donations can be made online at www.scic.org.au



Why don't you play a part in the miracle?

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hear together



Simone's Story

Our beautiful little girl Amelie was born in September 2008. As with most new mothers, I was besotted with her. I held her tight, whispered, "I love you" and wondered what she made of all the new sounds and sights she was experiencing.

Then on day three she failed her SWISH (newborn hearing) test with a zero reading in both ears! We were told it was probably fluid or bath water in her ears and not to worry, she would more than likely pass her repeat test but a week later she failed the 2nd test as well.

While we waited for the next set of more comprehensive tests we clapped and shouted and even broke a saucepan banging it to see if she would startle to any loud noise but she didn't, so when her results came back as having a severe hearing loss in both ears we were devastated but not surprised.

Life turns upside down

Hospital visits, blood tests, genetic tests, social workers, MRI's, CT's, hearing aid fittings, early intervention service visits and information OVERLOAD!! It was so over

whelming and at times I felt like I was drowning in questions and decisions and all I wanted to do was enjoy my little girl.

To say my world had fallen apart is an understatement. My little girl lived in a silent world and there was nothing I could do to help her. Every instinct in a mummy wants to make everything perfect and I couldn't do anything except sit by her bassinet patting her or gently rocking the bassinet with tears endlessly rolling down my face. I tried to imagine her future, how she would cope, how we would cope and it felt at times like my own world had become silent and black too.

When Amelie was three months old we got the further devastating news that her hearing loss had deteriorated to profound so now she could hear nothing even with the highest strength hearing aid.

Where to now?

The only option left for us to explore was cochlear implants so we took her to SCIC to see if she would be a suitable candidate. Unfortunately, Amelie failed the first round of medical investigations so there was a chance that the implants would not help but thanks to the fantastic support of the staff at SCIC, who talked us through every aspect and possible outcome of the procedure, we decided to go ahead with her first implant.

Walking up to meet Professor Gibson after Amelie's surgery and hearing that the implant had been successfully implanted and all 22 electrodes were working perfectly was at the same time the most terrifying and then overwhelming experience of our lives. We spent the next few hours on the phone sharing our news with family and friends. It was so wonderful to finally have some joy to share and many shed tears of happiness with us. Seven months later Amelie had her second implant done and despite a few unexpected complications, it too is working perfectly.

A very bright future!

So fast-forward two years - we now have a little girl who can now hear!

Amazingly, thanks to intensive habilitation sessions at SCIC with our fantastic speech therapist Kylie, Amelie has learnt to hear and talk. So despite an incredibly rocky start in life, Amelie is already beyond age appropriate in both receptive and expressive language and she will be starting at a mainstream pre-school next year.

With her cochlear implants and the many support services provided by SCIC, Amelie leads a very regular life. Listening to her chat to her brothers as they play brings a smile to our face every day.

I really can't express how grateful we are that SCIC was there to help our family when we felt so overwhelmed with the knowledge that Amelie would not be able to hear like other children.

Providing these life-long services for the many children who are part of the SCIC program is expensive. I am particularly thankful that SCIC has such generous supporters who understand how crucial it is that children like Amelie have access to the early intervention services they need in order to have the chance to attend mainstream schooling.

