

interpreters were available so every athlete was able to communicate and be informed about what was going on.

“This was the biggest international event for the deaf ever held in New Zealand, and the pressure to make it a success was huge. The Games were a tremendous boost for the self esteem of the deaf people involved”.

He says the donations from the Oticon Foundation really helped towards New Zealand securing the bid to host the Games.

“We had to be confident that we could deliver adequate means for the athletes to communicate with organisers throughout the competition. The Foundation’s offer to fund interpreter training strengthened our case substantially.”

contributions to mental health

Profoundly deaf since the age of four, Victoria Manning struggled through the mainstream education system, finally graduating with a BSc in psychology.

In hindsight, she describes her efforts to obtain a degree as being an “exhaustive challenge”, with lectures almost impossible to follow. Nevertheless, with sheer determination and the aid of a part-time volunteer note-taker, she made it.

However, at post-graduate level the class discussions and independent work required proved to be an impossible barrier. Victoria was unable to keep up without a sign language interpreter and note-taker for every class and reluctantly withdrew from her studies.

It was then that she heard of the Gallaudet University in Washington DC – the only liberal arts university for the Deaf in the world. She applied and was accepted to the Masters in Mental Health Counselling programme, embarking on two years of study with the aid of a grant from the Oticon Foundation.

“Gallaudet is known as the ‘centre of the Deaf world’, and I learned a lot about the politics around Deaf issues. It was an enriching experience, and with so much information and learning being visually accessible, I grew both personally and professionally,” she says.

After graduating, Victoria worked for a year as a mental health therapist in Boston. In 1997, she returned to New Zealand to work with the Deaf Association under a contract with the Central Regional Health Authority to establish and provide a mental health service for Deaf people and their families.



how to apply for grants

applications must include–

- 1 The name and address of applicant
- 2 If relevant, the organisation represented and position of applicant within the organisation, plus copies of latest balance sheet and annual report
- 3 Details of expenditure involved
- 4 Information about funding you are seeking from any other organisation for this or supplementary projects
- 5 Overseas travel details where applicable. Please state whether applicant/s will be returning to New Zealand permanently after the visit is completed
- 6 How the hearing impaired in New Zealand will benefit from your project/research
- 7 Information about how you will publicise your project and its results. (We would like you to seek as wide an audience as possible)
- 8 Details about how you will promote the Oticon Foundation in New Zealand if your application is successful

applicants applying for project

funding should also include–

- 1 Title of project
- 2 Summary of project (not exceeding 150 words)
- 3 Qualifications of applicant relevant to project
- 4 Aims and design of project, and expected completion date

applications for grants other than

project funding should also include–

- 1 Details of grant requested
- 2 Reasons for request

successful applicants will be required to–

- 1 Submit a report (5 copies) within three months of completion of the project
- 2 Disseminate results or information from the project to as wide an audience as possible, such as to the bulletins and newsletters of professional groups, hearing impaired and deaf groups
- 3 Acknowledge the Oticon Foundation in New Zealand in any reports or publications about your project/research

deadline

Grants are allocated annually. Applications (together with four extra copies) should be made no later than March 31 in any year to:

The Trustees

Oticon Foundation in New Zealand

C/- PO Box 9128 Te Aro

WELLINGTON

the oticon
foundation

IN NEW ZEALAND

HEARING LOSS IS THE
MOST COMMON AND LEAST
UNDERSTOOD CHRONIC
DISEASE IN THE WORLD

the oticon foundation

the oticon foundation

The Oticon Foundation in New Zealand was established in October, 1976 as a charitable trust of Oticon New Zealand Limited.

The Oticon company was first established in Denmark in 1904, making it one of the oldest hearing aid manufacturers in the world. The New Zealand branch of Oticon was established in 1975.

Oticon is a world leader in the development of hearing instruments, and was the first company to develop fully automatic, non-linear hearing instruments (MultiFocus), and developed the world's first 100% digital hearing instrument worn at ear level (DigiFocus).

Income generated from the sale of Oticon products is distributed through the Oticon Foundation to groups and organisations seeking financial support for projects that benefit the hearing impaired.

objective The Oticon Foundation's aim is to improve the lives of the hearing impaired in New Zealand through communication and knowledge. It is committed to finding better solutions to hearing loss and strives to increase public awareness and understanding of hearing impairment.

purpose The Oticon Foundation supports research projects and organisations that:

- disseminate knowledge about hearing and hearing loss
- help remedy hearing loss among children and adults
- improve the quality of life for hearing impaired individuals and their families
- break down the stigma of hearing loss



providing opportunities for children to learn

Even a child with full hearing and impeccable listening skills can have trouble hearing the teacher's voice over background noise.

But for a child with a hearing impairment, it is not only difficult – it is near impossible.

That's why the Oticon Foundation agreed to fund research into the effectiveness of sound field amplification systems in classrooms.

Occupational Therapist at Paremata Primary School, Joy Allcock, approached the Foundation to fund the project after trialling the system and seeing huge changes to the children's ability to learn.

With a microphone worn below the teacher's chin, and four speakers placed around the room at the children's ear level, the teacher's voice was effectively no more than six inches from any child in the room.

The results of the initial trial at Paremata School were "incredible".

"For Euen Scott it was like a magic wand. He was a really bright kid, but he had an auditory processing disorder. This system transformed his learning, and his behaviour," says Joy Allcock.

After one week of the system being in place, Euen's mother, Robina Scott, said her son was a "changed child".

"Euen was concentrating so hard on hearing, that when he came home he was really tired and irritable. When this system was put into the classroom it was like a huge weight had been lifted from him. His self esteem improved dramatically," she says.

The Foundation believed classroom amplification could benefit children throughout New Zealand. It hoped results would be used to persuade the Government to fund systems for other schools around the country.



new zealand's first temporal bone lab

A 'high-tech' training facility for middle ear and mastoid surgery – the Temporal Bone Laboratory – opened at Greenlane Hospital in September 1997 and was the first of its kind in New Zealand.

Dr Hamish Sillars, Consultant Otologist at Greenlane Hospital, spent two years raising funds for the laboratory, which was a joint venture between Greenlane Hospital, the ENT Society and supportive companies and organisations.



Ear surgery is conducted through a microscope, and one operation can take anywhere between one and eight hours. Until the laboratory was opened, ENT registrars had to learn "on the job", looking down a separate viewing eyepiece of a microscope as the surgeon performed the operation, or by watching videos.

The Oticon Foundation was one of the initial sponsors of the project, because it believed it would enhance the quality of life

for many New Zealanders.

Over 400,000 New Zealanders have a degree of hearing loss, and while no one ever dies of hearing loss, the effect on their quality of life is immense.

The Temporal Bone Lab will provide an opportunity for specialists to increase their skills and the public requiring ear surgery can look forward to improved hearing as a result.

world games for the deaf in christchurch

In January 1989, Christchurch hosted the World Games for the Deaf, which were hailed as one of the most successful Games of the decade.

Mike Parsons, who worked on the organising committee, credits the success to the intensive planning and preparation.

As part of the preparation, 100 sign language interpreters were trained with funding from the Oticon Foundation in New Zealand.

"Without competent interpreters, it would have been very difficult to run the Games as well as we did," says Mike. "We had to ensure sufficient numbers of

