



# Have you heard?

## Australian Hearing

Helping Aboriginal and Torres Strait  
Islander peoples to hear better



Hearing is a health issue for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples. About 1 out of every 10 Australians say they have a hearing loss, for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples it can be as high as 7 out of every 10.

## Babies and Children

### Could your baby/child have an ear infection?

- Do they have a runny nose or sore ear?
- Do they feel very hot?
- Are they unhappy or grumpy?

### Could there be a hearing loss? Some signs of hearing loss are:

- slow to answer when spoken to
- baby is slow to start talking (delayed speech)
- doesn't seem to hear
- behaviour problems
- easily distracted.

If you think your baby/child may have an ear infection or hearing problem, visit your health clinic. The health worker, doctor or audiologist can help. Early treatment may prevent later damage to your child's hearing.

### Babies and children who have good hearing will:

- be happier
- learn better
- want to go to school more
- have better job prospects.

# Adults

Hearing loss is common as a person grows older. If a person's health is not good, if they work near loud noise or have had many ear infections as a child the hearing loss may start earlier.

## How well do you hear?

Adults with hearing loss might have these problems:

- may not be able to understand what is said when it is noisy but have no hearing problems when it is quiet
- may mishear some words
- may not understand the conversation
- may think other people are always mumbling
- may need to turn the television/radio up very loud.

## What can be done?

Visit your health clinic and talk to the health worker, doctor or audiologist. Medical treatment may improve your hearing. If your hearing problem cannot be treated a hearing aid may help you hear better.

## Adults with good hearing will be:

- less frustrated
- more confident
- able to join in conversations more easily
- able to understand what is being said more easily
- better able to obtain and keep a job.

# How can Australian Hearing help you?

## Australian Hearing can see:

- all children up to 26 years of age
- all Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples aged 50 and over
- all Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples participating in a Community Development Employment Project (CDEP)
- all age pensioners with a Pensioner Concession Card
- most veterans.

## Australian Hearing can provide the following services:

- hearing tests and hearing aids
- special support for babies and children
- assistance for schools where many children have hearing problems
- advice on living with a hearing loss
- ear health meetings and workshops in communities
- ear health care training for health workers in community medical services.

Australian Hearing provides all these services **free** of charge, except for a small annual fee for battery supply and hearing aid repairs.

# Where can you find Australian Hearing?

Australian Hearing has permanent and visiting Hearing Centres in all capital cities and many regional and small towns.

Australian Hearing also has visiting services to many Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander communities across Australia. This program is known as Australian Hearing's Specialist Program for Indigenous Australians. These visiting programs are delivered in partnership with the local community.

## How to apply for help

- To find out how to obtain a service or for more information, please call **13 1797** to be connected to your nearest Australian Hearing centre.
- Your local health service can help with making an appointment.

If you would like to be seen as part of the outreach program (AHSPIA) talk to Australian Hearing to find the closest community visiting site and visiting times.



**Your local contact person**

**Enquiries**

13 1797

**Head Office**

126 Greville Street, Chatswood NSW 2067

**Website**

[www.hearing.com.au](http://www.hearing.com.au)