

Equipment

for people who are Deaf or have hearing loss



Equipment and Modification Services

Are you Deaf or do you have a hearing loss?

If you need equipment to help you to live safely and communicate with others the Ministry of Health may be able to help.

- study at tertiary level or do vocational training leading to future employment (aged over 21 years)
- do voluntary work (greater than 20 hours per week)
- safely look after a dependent person full time.

Who can get equipment?

If you are a New Zealand resident living in New Zealand, and you have a permanent hearing loss or deafness which isn't covered by ACC or Veterans Affairs, you may be able to get equipment through the Ministry of Health.¹



Hearing aids

You may be eligible for Ministry of Health funded hearing aid(s) if you have:

- had severe long-term hearing loss since childhood
- had onset of sudden and severe hearing loss during adulthood
- a dual disability (such as deaf/blind or hearing loss and an intellectual disability).

You may also be eligible for Ministry of Health funded hearing aid(s) if you have a community services card, and the hearing aids are essential for you to:

- work full-time (greater than 30 hours per week) or registered as seeking work

Hearing aid subsidy

If you need a hearing aid, but do not have a community services card or do not fit the criteria above, you may be able to get help with the cost of the hearing aid through a subsidy. An audiologist will be able to tell you more about this subsidy.

Hearing aids for children

The Ministry of Health provides funding for hearing aids and FM (Frequency Modulation) systems for preschoolers, and hearing aids for children and young people aged 20 years and under who are studying at school or tertiary level. An audiologist in a District Health Board will be able to tell you more about this funding.

How can I get hearing aids?

If you want to get some funding assistance from the Ministry of Health towards the cost of hearing aid(s), you must have your

1. If you have both injury and non-injury related hearing loss you may be able to access funding for hearing aids from ACC and the Ministry of Health. This joint funding is administered by ACC.

assessment and recommendation for the hearing aid(s) undertaken by an audiologist who is a member of the New Zealand Audiological Society. You can have your assessment with an audiologist working at a District Health Board or in private practice. If you visit a private audiologist you will have to pay for this assessment, and any fitting costs.

The audiologist completes an assessment of your needs, and may recommend hearing aid(s) and/or other hearing or alerting equipment. If you need hearing aids for any of the reasons outlined above, the audiologist can make an application to Accessable or Enable New Zealand for funding assistance. You may need to pay towards the costs of the hearing aid(s).

Assistive hearing and alerting equipment

If you need equipment other than hearing aids to enable you to work or study or to help you live safely in your own home, you may be able to get help through the Ministry of Health.

Assistive hearing and alerting equipment include items such as fax machines and visual or vibrating alerts (e.g, smoke detectors or door bells). Standard amplified telephones and smoke alarms are not funded.

Assessors for hearing or alerting equipment can be audiologists, hearing therapists or service co-ordinators from the Deaf Association and Royal NZ Foundation of the Blind (Deafblind services, Ph 0800 24 33 33).

What do Accessable and Enable New Zealand do?

Accessable and Enable New Zealand receive applications from assessors, and check these to ensure the assessor has considered

the different support and equipment options available. This is so any equipment you receive is suitable and the best for you.

Accessable and Enable New Zealand can arrange repairs of funded hearing aids and equipment. See your audiologist about repairs to, and the cost to repair, your subsidised hearing aids.



For more information contact:

Accessable (Auckland/Northland)

Ph: 0508 001 002

Fax: 09 620 1702

www.accessable.co.nz

Enable New Zealand (rest of New Zealand)

Ph: 0800 17 1981

Fax: 06 353 5876

www.disabilityfunding.co.nz

Deaf Association of New Zealand promotes Deaf awareness and the use of sign language, and provides a range of services to the community such as education programmes and interpreter services. They can work with you to help you get the equipment you need.

Ph/TTY: 09 828 3282

Fax: 09 828 3235

Hearing Therapy Services are funded by the Ministry of Health and provided free of charge. Hearing therapists can assess your hearing needs, provide information about hearing aids and other equipment, teach you how to improve communication and help you get the equipment you need.

Ph: 0800 008 011

Fax: 04 499 5853

www.life.nzl.org