



DISABILITIES RESOURCE CENTRE

Hearing Aid Funding For Children

Eligibility

Children who are New Zealand citizens living in New Zealand or who are permanent residents may be eligible.

What Is It All About?

Hearing aids funded by Whaikaha - Ministry of Disabled People are for pre-schoolers and children at school, or young people up to 21 years of age if they are in full time education. Most children's hearing aids are fitted through the public hospital system. Some private audiology clinics also fit them, but you may need to pay for this service.

If you want to get some funding assistance from the Ministry towards the cost of hearing aids for your child or young person, they must have their assessment and recommendation for the hearing aids undertaken by an audiologist who is a member of the New Zealand Audiological Society

They can have their assessment with an audiologist working at a local hospital or in private practice. If you visit a private audiologist with your child, you will have to pay for this assessment and any fitting costs. The audiologist completes an assessment of a child's needs, and may recommend hearing aids and/or other hearing or alerting equipment. If a child needs hearing aids, the audiologist can make an application to Enable or funding assistance.

Enable New Zealand is the organisation that receives applications for hearing devices from audiologists, and checks these to ensure the audiologist has considered the different options available. This is so any equipment a child receives is suitable and the best for them.

Where To From Here?

Only Audiologists who are full members of the New Zealand Audiological Society can access the Ministry of Health's Hearing Aid Funding Scheme for their clients.

See also: Hearing Therapy Fact Sheet