

# Hearing Aids, Cochlear Implants and Assistive Equipment

## Ministry of Health - Funded Services

If you need equipment to live safely in your home, to work or study, or to look after someone who depends on you, the Ministry of Health may be able to help.



## 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.

## Hearing Aids for Children & Young People



The Ministry of Health provides funding (money) for hearing aids and FM systems for children and young people aged 20 years and under who are studying at school or tertiary level. Contact Paul Peryman (Audiologist) at van Asch Deaf Education Centre if you wish to find out more about this funding. Email: [pperyman@vanasch.school.nz](mailto:pperyman@vanasch.school.nz)

## Hearing Aids for Adults



The **Ministry of Health/Enable NZ** provide some funding (money) for hearing aids for people:

- in full time study at tertiary level
- in employment (job)
- unemployed (no job) but registered as looking for work
- looking after someone who depends on them
- to communicate with other people - when they have more than one disability (such as vision and hearing loss or intellectual disability and hearing loss)

There may also be money to help people to be independent in their own homes. Ask your audiologist for details or visit the Enable NZ website.

## Hearing Aid Subsidy



If you need a hearing aid, but do not need it for the reasons given above, you may be able to get help with the cost of the hearing aid. An audiologist will be able to tell you more about this subsidy (money you can get to help pay for some of the cost of the hearing aid).

There is a basic hearing aid subsidy of \$198 per aid. It is available to all adult patients once every 5 years. So, if you need two hearing aids, you would get \$396.

The subsidy is available for both new and replacement aids, if you have not claimed in the last 5 years.

The subsidy is organised by your audiologist. So most prices quoted at audiology clinics will already have this subsidy taken off the price. Ask if you are not sure about the subsidy.

This subsidy is only available if you buy your hearing aid from a qualified audiologist (who is usually a **Member of the New Zealand Audiological Society - MNZAS**).

If you are **aged 65 or over** and hold a **SuperGold Card**, you will be able to get an increased hearing aid subsidy. It is not means or asset tested.

If you need a hearing aid, the Ministry of Health can provide a subsidy of up to \$500 (including GST) per hearing aid. This replaces the existing subsidy of \$198. If you need two hearing aids, the total subsidy will be \$1,000 (including GST).

Check the Ministry of Health's website for more information.

[www.moh.govt.nz/moh.nsf/indexmh/disability-fundedservices-hearingsupergold](http://www.moh.govt.nz/moh.nsf/indexmh/disability-fundedservices-hearingsupergold)

## How Can I Get Hearing Aids?



You may have your hearing test with a hospital audiologist. Some hospitals do not fit hearing aids so you would need to see an audiologist privately. If you visit a private audiologist you will have to pay for the hearing tests and any hearing aid fitting costs.

When the audiologist has finished an assessment of your needs he/she may recommend hearing aid(s) and/or other hearing or alerting equipment. If you need hearing aids for any of the reasons given above, the audiologist can make an application to **Accessable** or **Enable New Zealand** for funding help. You may need to pay towards the cost of the hearing aid(s).



**For more information contact:**

**Accessable** -Auckland/Northland only

Ph: 0508 001 002

Fax: 09 620 1702

<http://www.accessable.co.nz>

**Enable New Zealand** – for the rest of New Zealand Enable New Zealand administers the Ministry of Health funding for disabled people for the provision of equipment, on behalf of the Hamilton, Wellington and South Offices of the Ministry of Health.

69 Malden Street

P.O. Box 4547

Palmerston North

New Zealand

Call Free 0800 362253

Ph: (06) 353 5800

Fax: (06) 353 5876

Email: [enable@enable.co.nz](mailto:enable@enable.co.nz)

Website: <http://www.enable.co.nz>



Website: <http://www.disabilityfunding.co.nz>



## Hearing Aid Bank

The NZ Audiological Society has a Hearing Aid Bank for people who can't pay for hearing aids and who can't get other assistance (help). Your audiologist (MNZAS) will help you apply, if appropriate.

## Hearing Aid Repairs



If your hearing aid is funded (paid for) by the **Ministry of Health**, Accessable or Enable New Zealand can arrange repairs of funded hearing aids and equipment. See your audiologist about repairs to your subsidised hearing aids and ask about the cost of the repair.

If your hearing aids are **not subsidised** take your broken hearing aids to the audiology clinic you have been going to. You could also try to contact the New Zealand manufacturer or distributor of the hearing aids and ask if you can use their repair service.

## Hearing Aid Batteries



You can buy hearing aid batteries from the Hearing Association

<http://www.hearing.org.nz/branches.php>

and supermarkets, etc. A good online New Zealand site for batteries is

<http://www.goldhealth.co.nz/products.php?id=31>

Compare the prices of the batteries you want to buy.

## Assistive Hearing and Alerting Equipment



If you need equipment other than hearing aids to help 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 (eg, 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 coordinators from the Deaf Association and Royal NZ Foundation of the Blind - Deafblind services.

<http://www.moh.govt.nz/moh.nsf/indexmh/disability-fundedservices-equipmentforhearingloss>

## What Do Accessable and Enable New Zealand Do?

Accessable and Enable New Zealand get the applications from assessors, and check these to make sure the assessor has thought about the different support and equipment options available. This is to make sure any equipment you get is suitable and the best for you.

## Cochlear Implant Support



Van Asch Deaf Education Centre provides cochlear implant care to recipients (people who have a cochlear implant) up until they leave school or the end of the year in which they turn 18 years, whichever comes first.

Once you leave school or reach 18 years old you will be told about your transfer to the adult cochlear implant programme. You will then need to attend the adult cochlear implant programme for all future cochlear implant care.

The southern region adult programme is located at:

### Southern Cochlear Implant Programme – Adult (SCIP-A)

Milford Chambers  
249 Papanui Road  
Christchurch 8014  
Ph: 03 355 3041, 0800 500 405  
Fax: 03 355 3045  
Email: [scipa@xtra.co.nz](mailto:scipa@xtra.co.nz)  
Website: <http://www.scip.org.nz/data/adultprog.html>



The paediatric (child) programme at van Asch Deaf Education Centre pays for the cost of spare parts, repairs, and batteries. Van Asch Deaf Education Centre continues to pay for these things provided that:

- you are not in work and are enrolled in a course of study
- you are under the age of 21 years

If you are working or are not currently enrolled in any course of study or have reached 21 years, you will have to pay for your own spare parts, batteries, and out-of-warranty processor repairs.

At the time of writing the information was the latest available. Information however does change, so please check for updates on the **Ministry of Health's** website.



[Print this](#) [Email this](#)

### Disability in New Zealand

You are here: [Disability in New Zealand](#) > [Ministry-Funded Services](#) > Equipment for people who are deaf or have hearing loss factsheet - online version

#### Ministry-funded Services

##### Equipment for people who are deaf or have hearing loss

Are you Deaf or do you have a hearing loss?  
If you need equipment to live safely in your home, to work or study, or to look after someone who depends on you, the Ministry of Health may be able to help.

##### 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.

##### Hearing aids

You may be able to get Ministry of Health funding towards the cost of hearing aid(s) if they are essential for you to:

- work full-time or to your maximum capacity
- study at tertiary level or do vocational training leading to future employment (full-time or to your maximum capacity)
- register as a job seeker to help you find a job
- safely look after someone who depends on you
- communicate with other people when you have more than one disability (such as intellectual disability and hearing loss, or vision and hearing loss).