

Operational guidelines for funding of parts, repairs, and accessories for children's hearing aids for children identified with hearing loss

The Ministries of Health and Education provide funding to help keep children's hearing aids working well. We have worked together with Ko Taku Reo and Enable New Zealand to develop the following guidelines about where to get your hearing aid repaired and access parts and accessories.

These new guidelines will apply from 1 July 2022 and will be updated as required.

Items funded by the Ministry of Health and provided through Enable New Zealand, the Ministry of Health's contracted provider of hearing aid services

1. New hearing aids including bone conduction hearing aids and bone anchored hearing aids with new operational parts. New parts provided with the recommended hearing aid include for example ear moulds, slim tubes and domes, soft bands and hard bands.
2. Remote Microphone Hearing Aid systems for pre-school children and young people in tertiary or vocational education settings.
3. Replacement ear moulds, softbands and hardbands. Your audiology provider or Adviser on Deaf Children (AoDC) can arrange a replacement through the child's audiologist.
4. Accessories for young people, up to age 21 years, in tertiary or vocational education where there is an essential need for the accessory. Includes charger for rechargeable hearing aids, remote controls, electronic dry aid kits, Bluetooth communication devices.
5. Retention devices such as safety lines for children when these are provided with a replacement hearing aid.

Items funded and provided by the Ministry of Education

6. Remote Microphone Hearing Aid (RMHA) systems for children in primary and secondary school.

Items funded by the Ministry of Education and supplied by Ko Taku Reo for children from 0 -18 years and 18 - 21 years if in full-time compulsory education

7. Repairs and replacement parts for hearing aids including reshells for in-the-ear (ITE/ITC/CIC) hearing aids and RMHA systems for children.
8. Consumables for children such as hearing aid batteries, AdHear BC system stickers, slim tubes and domes, softwear pads for BAHA, replacement tubing for earmoulds where a replacement earmould is not required, safety lines when these are recommended, and a replacement hearing aid is not needed.
9. Drying kits may be provided where there is an essential need.
10. Chargers for rechargeable hearing aids may be provided where an additional one is needed at school.

To find out more about these services please contact:

For newborn through to schooling year 3 contact your Ministry of Education Advisor on Deaf Children (AODC). <https://www.education.govt.nz/school/student-support/special-education/supporting-children-who-are-deaf-and-hard-of-hearing/>

For schooling year 4 through to year 13 contact Ko Taku Reo Deaf Education New Zealand on 0800 3324 235.

Ko Taku Reo Deaf Education New Zealand. <https://www.kotakureo.school.nz/parents-and-whanau/services/hearing-aid-servicing>

For advice on Ministry of Health Hearing Aids Services contact Enable New Zealand on 0800 ENABLE (362 253) or <https://www.enable.co.nz/contact-us/>