

# Opening Doors

to your child's communication journey

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An information and resource guide for families  
with children who are Deaf or hard of hearing



**WA Foundation  
for Deaf Children**

## Acknowledgements

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- Queensland Hearing Loss Family Support Service
- All organisations featured in this publication
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We acknowledge the collective contribution to this publication

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## Who are we?

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The West Australian Foundation for Deaf Children (Inc) is one of the State's oldest charities. It was established in 1896 to improve the lives and education of Deaf and Hard of Hearing children in Western Australia. The Foundation has a long and rich history of supporting deaf education in Western Australia.

**Our purpose is to make a difference to the lives of deaf children and their families, from cradle to career.**

We aim to promote and support education, life skills and learning opportunities for Deaf and Hard of Hearing children and young adults. The Foundation will achieve this through:

- Advocacy on behalf of the children, their parents, other carers and their families.
- Providing information and support.
- Fostering training and development.
- Providing resources.



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# Introduction

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The West Australian Foundation for Deaf Children (Inc) has created this guide for families of children who have a hearing loss. Perhaps you have recently been told that your child has a hearing loss. You may be feeling overwhelmed or confused and are searching for helpful information. It is important to recognise that you are not on your own. Each year, 4 in 1000 children in Western Australia are born with some degree of hearing loss. This is in line with worldwide figures.

It is hoped that this booklet will help you to make informed choices for service needs. Each child is unique and the choices made at the beginning of your journey may change as your child's needs change. More than one choice may be considered at any given time and applied simultaneously. For example, a speech and sign language program can be considered separately or together. Your professional team will assist you in making timely, informed decisions about how best to support your child's hearing needs.

**Choices made now do not have to be permanent.**

This booklet provides information to:

- help you understand what your child's hearing loss might mean for you and your family
- help you make informed choices
- provide practical tips that may assist you moving forward
- frequently asked questions
- real stories from families following similar pathways
- support services for you and your children

This document is not conclusive but aims to give you a broad unbiased understanding of services in Western Australia.

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Government of **Western Australia**  
Department of **Communities**  
**Disability Services**

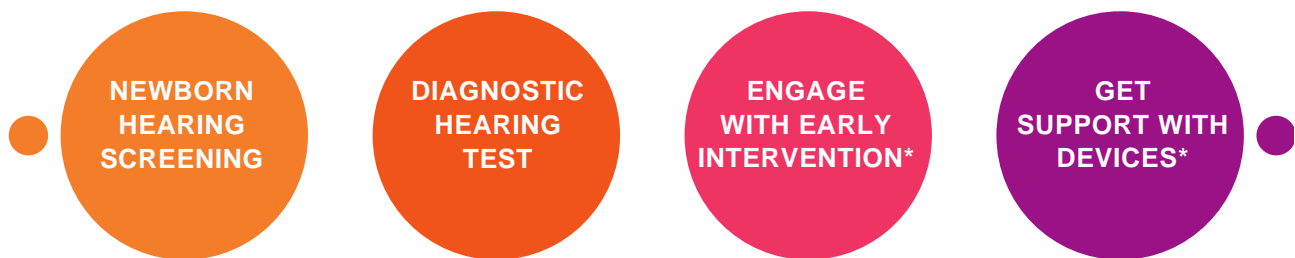
*This project is a NDIS Information, Linkages and Capacity Building (ILC) initiative*



## What has happened so far?

Your baby has had two newborn hearing screening tests that were performed in the hospital or soon after birth. This test gave an indication of how your baby hears in each ear at the time of the screening. This screening test showed that your baby required further investigation by a Paediatric Audiologist.

You have attended a Diagnostic appointment and your child's diagnosis has now been confirmed. The Audiologist has discussed this with you.



\*Steps can occur in a different order.

## What happens now?

If the diagnosis has shown a hearing loss, the tests will also show whether it is likely to be temporary or permanent and your baby will now be referred for appropriate support.

If your child is 0 – 6 years old, Hearing Australia will refer you to the National Disability Insurance Scheme (NDIS) Early Childhood Early Intervention (ECEI) provider. The ECEI provider will help you to identify the type and level of early intervention support your child needs to achieve their best outcomes. Early intervention in the early years is critical to achieving the best outcomes for your child.

As a parent, you may experience a range of emotions on being told this news and, at the same time, you may be very busy visiting different services and professionals.

Families or carers may contact the West Australian Foundation for Deaf Children (WAFDC) for independent information or support. There is no cost involved.

**We can put you in touch with other parents who have experienced what you are experiencing. Our Peer Parenting Support Network can support you when you are ready. We provide information on how to navigate the system.**



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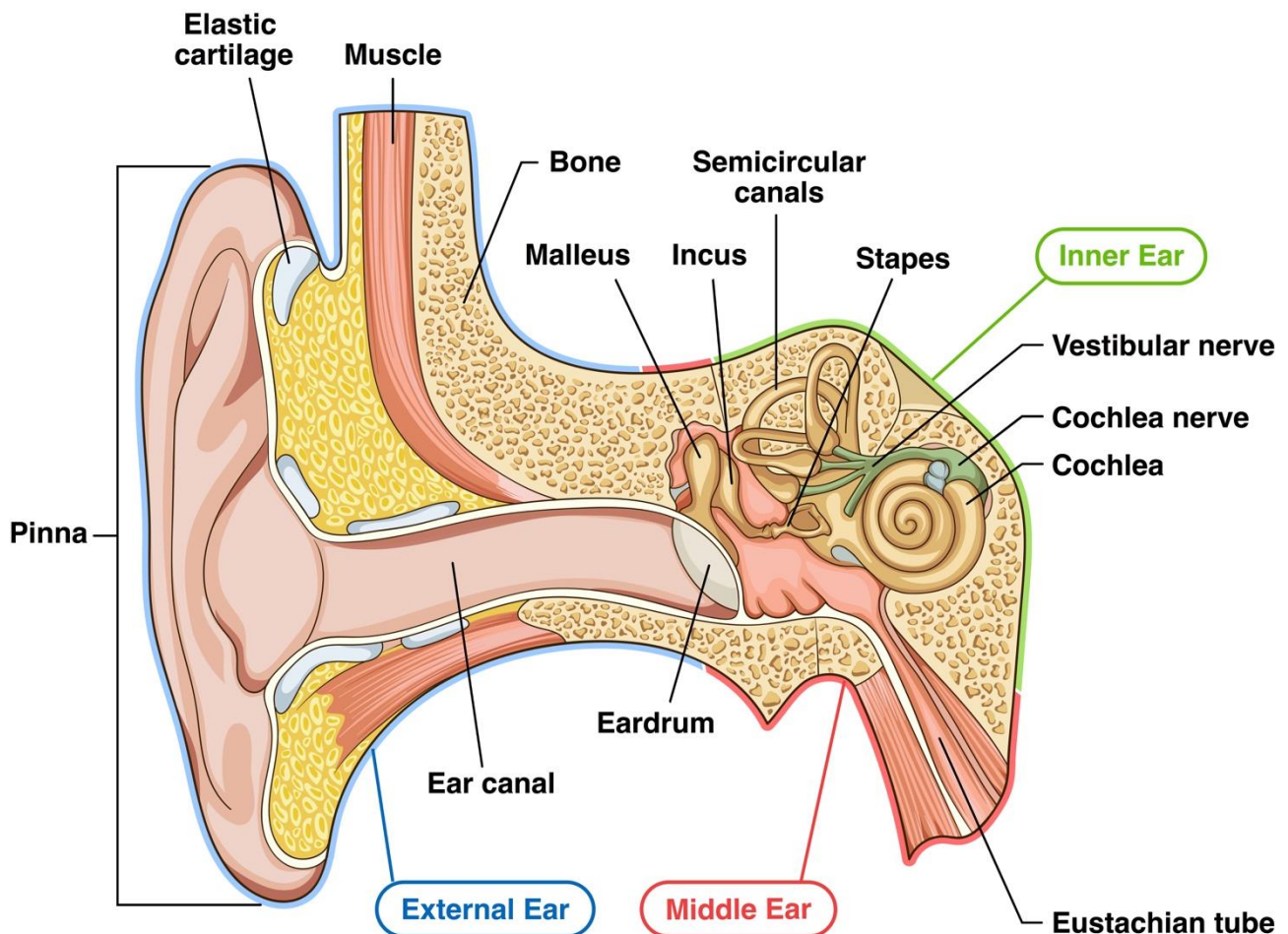
## Who will your baby see now?

After your baby has had a second “refer” result from the Newborn Hearing Screening Program your baby is referred for Audiological Diagnostic Assessment. The following services might be able to assist you if your baby is diagnosed with a hearing loss at this assessment.



## What does Hearing and Hearing Loss mean?

We hear with our brain. Our ear is a sophisticated messenger that delivers sound to our brain that then makes sense of the information. The ear is not only the shell you see on the outside. It is arranged into three parts. These are called the outer ear; the middle ear; and the inner ear. Each of these parts has a different role to play in transporting sound to the brain.



### The degree of hearing loss

There are varying degrees of hearing loss; 4 official categories, descending in severity. They are mild, moderate, severe and profound.

The following classifications describe the effects on hearing ability.

A decibel (dB) indicates the loudness or intensity of a sound. A whisper is about 20dB, ringing telephone is around 65dB and a jet engine taking off is about 150dB.

**Mild Hearing loss (21–40dB):** If your baby has a mild hearing loss; they will have trouble hearing at playgroup or family gatherings, even though they can often manage quite well in quiet situations.

**Moderate hearing loss (41–60dB):** If your baby has a moderate hearing loss; it is very hard for them to understand what you are saying, especially in background noise. Hearing aids will assist hearing ability.



**Severe hearing loss (61–90dB):** If your baby has severe hearing loss; they cannot hear normal conversation and so they will not learn to speak naturally by themselves. Hearing aids will assist hearing ability and sign language skills may assist in communication.

**Profound hearing loss (91dB+):** If your baby has a profound hearing loss; they would need considerable assistance to hear talking and noises. There are specialised hearing aids, designed specifically for larger hearing losses that do just that. Also, the option of having a device called a cochlear implant to further support enough access to speech sounds is available. Although spoken communication is more common with a cochlear implant, research has shown sign language to be very beneficial to assist understanding and cognition.

**PLEASE NOTE:** Hearing aids and/or cochlear implants assist the ear to hear sounds and send them to the brain. However, it is through early intervention services that parents and the child access the support needed to assist the child's brain to make sense of sounds. This supports communication development.

## Types of hearing loss

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### Sensorineural hearing loss (SNHL)

A diagnosis of SNHL means the hearing loss is of a permanent nature. "Sensorineural" refers to problems with either the cochlea (sensory hearing loss) and/or the auditory nerve (neural hearing loss).

It can be present at birth (congenital), through birth complications, or acquired after birth. It may be acquired from a serious infection such as meningitis or mumps; from certain medications; or in many cases, the cause is unknown.

There is poor function in the part of the inner ear called the cochlea in one or both ears. The function of the hearing nerve can also be affected.

Your baby at this point can be referred to an Ear Nose and Throat Specialist (ENT). The ENT Specialist, as part of their investigations, may refer your child to a variety of other professionals e.g. Geneticist, Ophthalmologist or request further tests e.g. MRI scan, CT scan.

A review hearing assessment is usually carried out after 3 months by the Diagnostic Paediatric Audiologist to monitor any changes to hearing loss. Hearing Australia's Paediatric Audiologist will monitor the benefit your baby has had as a result of using hearing aids. Other options may be investigated if appropriate e.g. cochlear implants or other surgical procedures; learning sign language as part of bilingual communication.

### Unilateral/Single sided (one ear) SNHL

A sensorineural unilateral hearing loss affects only one ear. It can range from very mild to total hearing loss on the affected side.

There is increasing recognition of the potential impact of a unilateral hearing loss and it should not be underestimated with regards to the development of language and communication

Children with unilateral hearing loss can have difficulty with:

- Hearing in noisy surroundings
- Locating where sound is coming from
- Hearing when sound is on the same side as the affected ear
- Communicating in noisy or multi-speaker/multi-directional (group) conversation
- Social participation
- Speech and language development

Whilst not every child will have problems with language development, some children may miss being fully included in everyday conversation. To minimise the risk of missing this important incidental language learning, children and their conversation partners, including family and friends, should make sure they get the other person's visual attention before and whilst speaking.

### **Bilateral (both ears) SNHL**

Sensorineural bilateral hearing loss is any degree of permanent hearing loss that affects both ears. Children with bilateral hearing loss can have difficulty with:

- Hearing quiet or loud sounds
- Differentiating between similar sounds
- Speech and language development
- Hearing speech when there is background noise

### **Conductive hearing loss (CHL)**

Conductive hearing loss is usually temporary in nature and means there is a disruption to the way sound waves are carried through the middle ear to the inner ear. It may be the result of an infection and causes hearing to be muffled. If it is likely your child has CHL, he/she will be referred to your General Practitioner (GP) for treatment and monitoring. A follow-up hearing test will be carried out if needed. If normal hearing thresholds are obtained no further medical treatment is required. Some examples of temporary conductive hearing loss are:

- Blockage of the ear canal with wax
- Otitis Media (middle ear infection) and/or fluid build-up (glue ear)
- Perforated eardrums

In rare cases, conductive loss may be permanent. A child may also have both a conductive loss and a sensorineural loss. Your paediatric Audiologist is able to identify the likely site of the hearing problem and will refer you to the most appropriate professional(s). In this situation, you will be referred to an Ear Nose and Throat Specialist (ENT). Your Paediatric Audiologist may refer you to Hearing Australia for hearing aid fitting.

### **Causes of conductive hearing loss: Otitis Media**

Otitis media is caused by a virus or bacteria that leads to a build-up of fluid behind the eardrum in the middle ear.

This condition can result from a cold, allergy or respiratory infection. The accumulation of fluid in the ear may cause earache, swelling, redness, discharge and prevent the eardrum from vibrating properly.

Mild cases of middle ear infection often resolve of their own accord. More persistent cases may need medical attention and antibiotic treatment. It may be necessary for your GP to refer you to an Ear Nose and Throat Specialist (ENT).

Sometimes if the build-up of fluid lasts for long periods of time a condition called glue ear may develop. In some of these cases, an ENT Specialist may decide to insert ventilation tubes (grommets).

### **Treatment of conductive hearing loss: What is a grommet?**

A grommet is a tiny tube inserted into the eardrum under general anaesthetic. It allows air to enter the middle ear space to prevent the accumulation of fluid. This normally results in improved hearing. Grommets generally stay in the eardrum for 7–12 months and fall out on their own. Some children need more than 1 set of grommets.

### **Additional disabilities**

Some children may have another disability too. Your child and family will need support from a team of specialists, not only those who specialise in hearing loss. Your Early Intervention team will be able to support your child and your family.

### **Dual sensory loss or deafblindness**

The combination of hearing and vision loss is often referred to as 'dual sensory loss'. Most children will have some degree of hearing or sight. Very few are both profoundly deaf and totally blind. The term 'Deafblind' is used for children who are totally blind and profoundly deaf. Some people also use this term when speaking about children who have both a significant hearing loss and a significant vision loss but may have some degree of hearing or vision. Each child will have different needs depending upon the combination of hearing and vision impairments affecting them.

## Options for my child

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### Hearing Aids

- When developing listening and speech it is imperative that hearing aids are worn every waking hour so that the auditory and brain systems have the same opportunity to develop as that of a baby with normal hearing.
- Hearing aids should not be uncomfortable or painful for your baby if they are fitted correctly.
- Each hearing aid is attached to an ear mould that is the exact size and shape of your baby's ear.
- The Audiologist at Hearing Australia will take regular impressions of your baby's ears so the earpiece or ear mould fit snugly as your baby grows.

### Cochlear implant

For some children with a permanent severe/profound hearing loss, even the strongest hearing aid may not provide enough sound information for normal language development.

A cochlear implant is a sophisticated hearing device that is implanted surgically. More information can be obtained from your Audiologist or cochlear implant team.

### Auslan

This is the name of the sign language used in Australia by the Australian Deaf community. The word 'Auslan' comes from Australian Sign Language. Like spoken languages, sign language is not a universal language, for example, ASL is American Sign Language, BSL is British Sign Language and NZSL is New Zealand Sign Language. The Australian government recognised Auslan as an official language in 1991.

Auslan is a visual language that uses signs to create meaning by way of hand shapes, orientation, location, movement, and facial expression. Signs are related to concepts, not words. Auslan cannot be read, written or spoken.

Auslan is acquired or taught to children, where families have chosen a bilingual or signed approach to communication.

### Sign Supported English

Using hand signs at the same time as a sentence is a complementary communication system providing additional visual support for children developing listening skills. It can assist with the learning of written and spoken English.

## What is Early Intervention?

Early childhood intervention is a system of coordinated services that promotes a child's growth and global development and supports families during the critical early years from birth to school entry.

Early childhood intervention works as a multidisciplinary approach which means all professionals involved with your child and family should be working together with you to get the best outcomes for your child. Early intervention programmes for children with hearing loss primarily focus on communication development, but also consider intellectual, social, emotional and physical growth needs.

It is important that sign and/or spoken language early intervention occur during the key language acquisition time between 0–5 years of age.

***It is vital to choose early intervention services that have qualified Teachers of the Deaf and professionals experienced in working with Deaf and hard of hearing children specifically and core knowledge and skills to optimise your child's development and wellbeing.***

### Accessing early intervention services

Early intervention (EI) services are offered by both government and non-government organisations in Western Australia. The variety of services available may include one-to-one or group spoken language intervention therapy, bilingual/bicultural education (Australian sign language/ English literacy), playgroups, in-home family sign language program, parent education groups and parent support groups. Early intervention services may also include therapy and medical intervention eg. Occupational or speech therapy, cochlear implantation.

Early intervention is about supporting your child and your family to maximise the opportunities for your child. Setting them up early in life, an early intervention hearing loss provider will provide you with invaluable tools to support your child's communication development in speech, language and/or Auslan; social interaction; learning; confidence; and guiding their overall development.

You can also expect advice on technologies, complementary services, information to access funding (such as the NDIS) and other matters. Go to Services and Organisations to see who provides [EI services](#).

#### Questions to think about when looking for early intervention services

- Who provides early intervention services in my area?
- What type of service? Spoken language therapy? Sign language education? Both?
- What services can I access where I live?
- What information do I need to bring with me when I visit for the first time?
- What transport is available to intervention services if none in my area?
- Do I qualify for travel assistance?



## Communicating with your child

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There are lots of different ways in which babies with a hearing loss can learn to communicate. Some babies will learn to use speech and hearing, some will learn to use sign language and some will use a mixture of both. Early intervention programs offered in Western Australia use a variety of different teaching philosophies and learning methods for language development.

The choice of which method of communication you and your baby use is your decision. Your child's early intervention support team (educational Audiologist, Teacher of the Deaf, early intervention service providers, support workers, parent support groups) will help you gain information to make an informed choice. As your baby grows and situations change you may decide to change or add other forms of communication. Every baby is different with individual needs and it is important to remember that you will know your baby the best. It is helpful as a parent to learn of all the options available to you and your baby.

Normal language development depends on many factors e.g. how significant the hearing loss is, the degree of intervention received to assist listening and speech development, the use of sign language, how early in the infants life intervention is received, how often hearing aids are worn, parent involvement and the presence of other health or development concerns.

### How can I improve my communication with my child?

- Cuddling, holding and playing touching games or singing games are all important ways of communicating with your baby.
- Ensure there is good lighting in the room so that your face is not in a shadow. Face the light.
- Reduce background noise (turn down the radio, TV, etc) or come in close to talk to your baby in a noisy environment.
- Talking and using facial expression encourages your baby to look at your face. This will help your baby see the face as having meaning for communication, whether using speech or sign language.
- Good eye contact is important when communicating with your baby. Look at your baby's face from about 20cm away – the best distance for babies to focus.
- Gain your baby's attention before speaking and/or signing. Wave or tap on an object or the baby to signal "Look at me".
- Imitate the sounds and/or facial expressions and hand movements your baby makes, and wait for him or her to repeat them.
- Model actions and words e.g. wave 'goodbye', hold hands up to indicate 'lift me up'.
- Speak clearly, naturally and at a normal pace. Speaking too slowly or shouting will distort the quality of the sound your baby hears.
- When using sign language, help your baby see the communication and language you are using. Come in close and hold your hands, or object of interest, in the baby's line of sight and gradually move your hands towards your face as you sign, so your baby relates signing as communication with you.

## Playing with sound and language

- When you notice an interesting sound or movement, turn your head from side to side to help your baby locate it – say or sign Where is the sound coming from? or What was that we just saw? Use facial expressions to add meaning to your speech or sign.
- Play games such as “Peek-a-Boo” using lots of facial expression.
- Play with noisy and visually stimulating toys and games
- Use speech (lip movements) or gestures at every opportunity
- Try converting sound into hand movements/gestures e.g. for a quiet noise sign/gesture ‘small’ and for a loud noise sign/gesture ‘big’

If your baby has a hearing loss in one ear (unilateral loss), position your baby so that the good ear is directed to the sounds you want them to hear and talk in this direction. For example, if you are doing speech and language exercises, make sure you sit on the side with normal hearing. As this is your child’s only normal hearing ear, it is also important to protect the good ear from loud noises (power tools, music, headsets).

## Recognising the possibilities for your child

- People often wonder what their baby’s hearing loss will mean for them as they get older and whether they will have the same opportunities and experiences as other children. Will they play sport, will they go to a mainstream school, and will they hear music and everyday sounds?
- Given the opportunity, Deaf children can do anything except hear or hear clearly.
- Children with a hearing loss are able to experience most of the same things in life as those with hearing, with the right access. They might experience some things such as music differently, but this does not mean they cannot be music lovers or players. Your child will play sports, dance, paint, and cook and experience all the emotions as part of growing up. Hold on to your hopes and dreams for your child.
- Children with a hearing loss can have a great opportunity to grow into strong, creative, successful individuals and most if not all your dreams for your child are achievable. Each phase in your child’s life will bring different challenges to deal with. Most of these will be related to the everyday issues of growth experienced by all children. Perhaps some challenges will relate to their hearing loss but not all of them.

## Making friends

Some families wonder if their child’s hearing loss will affect their ability to make friends. This may be particularly relevant when children start childcare or school.

Here are some ideas you might find useful:

- Provide opportunities for your child to get out and about and experience life.
- Allow your child to mix with your friends and family just as you would with any child.
- Attend the playgroups at your early intervention service and/or community groups. Playgroups offer a good opportunity for children and parents to meet in small groups and socialise. WA Foundation for Deaf Children has a Family Network Group which provides frequent activities for children and families.

## Will my baby grow out of it?

Conductive hearing loss may improve with medical intervention however sensorineural hearing loss is permanent.

It is important to have your baby's hearing tested regularly to monitor any further changes to assist with ongoing management.

## Where will my child go to school?

Children with a hearing loss can go to their local government mainstream school and can be supported by either a Visiting Teacher of the Deaf and/or an Educational Interpreter provided by the School of Special Educational Needs: Sensory (SSEN: S).

Children up to year 6 can also choose to attend the government school, Mosman Park School for Deaf Children, where they can learn in a bilingual/bicultural environment. Here they are taught by Teachers of the Deaf, supported by Auslan Interpreters and Deaf Role Models.

Shenton College or Belmont City College are state high schools with specialised Deaf units. Please see SSEN: S website for more details at [www.ssens.wa.edu.au](http://www.ssens.wa.edu.au).

Children up to year 6 can also choose to attend selected private primary schools across the Perth metropolitan area which provide extra support for children who are deaf and hard of hearing to continue their studies within a mainstream school. Telethon Speech and Hearing (TSH) offers this School Support Program. This extra support allows the child to take a full and active part in school life with support from an on-site Teacher of the Deaf.

Telethon Speech and Hearing (TSH) also provide an opportunity for continued support at selected private senior high schools. There are a total of 11 private schools with TSH support. Please see their website for details at [www.tsh.org.au/outpost-partnered-schools/](http://www.tsh.org.au/outpost-partnered-schools/).

## Are there parents of children with a hearing loss that I can connect with?

There are several ways:

- Playgroups
- Reputable online forums
- Parent Mentoring programs
- Service providers may be able to put you in contact with other families
- West Australian Foundation for Deaf Children ([Family Network Group and Parent Support Network](#)) in Perth.

## Who can help?

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### Professionals

**Audiologist:** Professionals specialising in the assessment, diagnosis and management of hearing loss. This includes the fitting and management of different hearing technology, such as hearing aids, cochlear implants and other assistive listening devices. They may further specialise as paediatric diagnostic Audiologists, educational Audiologists and cochlear implant Audiologists.

**Auditory Verbal Therapist (AVT):** This professional is first qualified as an Audiologist, speech pathologist or teacher of the deaf, with further specialised qualification. They partner with parents to provide the necessary skills to facilitate the development of listening and spoken language of their child.

**Ear, Nose and Throat Specialist (ENT):** This is a specialist doctor who assesses, diagnoses and treats problems of the ear, nose and throat. They can treat middle and inner ear problems and investigate the possible cause of hearing loss. It is essential that all children who have a hearing loss are seen by an ENT specialist. It is possible to see an ENT specialist as a public patient or as a private patient. This can be discussed with your doctor (GP).

**Geneticist:** This is a specialist doctor trained in investigating and advising about the nature and inheritance of certain conditions which may suddenly appear or keep recurring in families. Some types of deafness have a genetic cause.

**Occupational Therapist:** This professional looks at your child's developmental level of play, fine motor skills and daily living skills, such as eating and dressing. They can show you how to help your child become independent in self-help skills.

**Paediatrician:** Medical specialist concerned with the development of infants, children and adolescents.

**Psychologist:** These professionals are trained to assess cognitive and behavioural functioning through a variety of assessment techniques with a view to developing a program to meet the needs of the individual and family. They can also offer counselling and support through the difficult times from diagnosis.

**Speech Pathologist:** Professional trained in assessing and supporting all forms of communication in babies, children and adults. They can advise on how speech and languages developing and formulate programs to support communication.

**Teacher of the Deaf (TOD):** A qualified teacher who has gained a postgraduate/masters qualification in educating children (birth to 18 yrs of age) with hearing loss. Early Intervention (EI) programs for children with a hearing loss include the employment of Teachers of the Deaf (TOD) to work with babies and pre-school age children and their families. In schools TOD work with classroom teachers to support the education and learning of the Deaf or Hard of Hearing child.

## National Disability Insurance Scheme Early Childhood Early Intervention

Your child's early years are very important as they set up how they will learn and develop later in life. Support provided early will help you and give your child the best chance of achieving their potential.

The NDIA has worked with a range of leading Australian early childhood intervention practitioners and researchers to design the NDIS Early Childhood Early Intervention (ECEI) approach to help our participants aged 0-6.

This approach has been designed to identify the type and level of early intervention support your child needs to achieve their best outcomes. Early intervention in the early years is critical to achieving the best outcomes for your child.

### Is my child eligible for the NDIS?

Your child will be eligible for ECEI with the NDIS if:

- they are aged 0-6 years of age;
- they are an Australian citizen or hold a permanent visa or a Protected Special Category visa;
- they have confirmed audiological results consistent with auditory neuropathy or hearing loss greater than or equal to 25 decibels in either ear at 2 or more adjacent frequencies, which is likely to be permanent or long term; and
- the hearing loss of the person requires the use of personal amplification.



## How do I access the NDIS?

Your audiologist will refer you to Hearing Australia when your child is diagnosed with a hearing loss. Hearing Australia can help you apply to access the NDIS at your first appointment. You can also do this at another time that suits you by calling 1800 800 110 or visiting a [local NDIS ECEI partner office](#). The choice is yours. Applying during your first appointment with Hearing Australia will ensure you receive NDIS funding faster and will help your child receive their early intervention supports sooner.

## What happens next?

With your permission, Hearing Australia will forward evidence of your child's hearing loss to the NDIA and you will then receive written confirmation of your child's NDIS access within a few days.

Once your child has access, they become an NDIS participant, and a specialist NDIS planner will contact you within two weeks to support you to develop your child's first NDIS plan. This plan will include a reasonable and necessary level of funding for early intervention supports you are assessed as needing. Once approved, you can use this funding straight away with the early intervention providers you choose.

At your first appointment, Hearing Australia will also tell you about the NDIS ECEI Partner in your local area. Your ECEI Partner will be your ongoing NDIS point of contact once you have an NDIS plan. If you have questions about your NDIS plan or other queries you can speak with them. Your ECEI Partner will contact you within four weeks of your plan being approved to see how things are going.

**In Western Australia you can access Early Intervention education services through the [School for Special Education Needs Sensory](#) without NDIS funding.**

## Services

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### Diagnostic Paediatric Audiology

If your child is referred for further testing from a newborn hearing screening program, a comprehensive assessment of your baby's hearing is scheduled. During this appointment, a Paediatric Audiologist determines if a hearing loss is present, how severe it is, and whether the cause may be medically treated. The assessment uses a range of tests which look at the different areas of the hearing pathway: from the outer portion of the ear, up to the brain. The testing is done while your baby is sleeping and doesn't require responses from your baby. Small sensors are used on your baby's forehead and behind his/ her ear, or small probes placed gently at the ear opening, to collect responses from sounds presented to their ears. The tests are completely non-invasive and do not cause discomfort or distress.

### Frequently asked questions:

#### Does the test cause any discomfort to my child?

No, electrodes are similar to small stickers and adhere to the skin in a safe way and sound should not be presented at levels uncomfortable for your child.

#### Will I know the extent of my child's hearing loss upon finishing the test?

Diagnostic testing should provide you with a description of how your child is hearing and the likely impact on his/her communication development.

#### How does the Audiologist know for sure my baby has a hearing loss as my baby is so little?

The tests carried out with your baby to diagnose hearing loss are highly reliable and objective. Your baby's ear, nerve and brain responses to sounds are recorded on a computer to produce an audiogram. The Audiologist is trained to interpret the readings and diagnose different hearing conditions.

#### What happens after the test?

Once the test is completed, several referrals take place if a hearing loss is confirmed. The first referral, in the presence of a hearing loss, is to Hearing Australia. At Hearing Australia, the Audiologists will talk to you about how to assist your child in developing communication using hearing devices (hearing aids and FM systems). Hearing Australia regularly monitor your child's progress with his or her hearing devices.

#### Will my child need further testing after this?

Hearing tests can occur throughout life and may take different forms. Often the assessments used to diagnose a hearing loss are repeated, and depending on the child's age, may require sedation. All results from these assessments are confirmed through behavioural testing in a hearing booth before your child's first birthday. It is important to prepare yourself for several hearing tests in the first few years.

### **What should I ask the Paediatric Audiologist?**

- What part of the ear is affected?
- Why does my child have a hearing loss?
- Can it be fixed? Is it permanent? How do you know for sure?
- What effect will this have now? Over the next year? Overtime?
- Will we be able to communicate by talking, sign language or both with our child?
- Will this affect my child's schooling?
- Will my child be able to have children without a hearing loss?
- Do I have to pay for equipment?
- Will my child's hearing change?
- How often will my child need hearing tests? What about cochlear implants? Who pays?
- What if I am not an Australian citizen?

### **Fitting of Hearing devices**

Your child will be referred to Hearing Australia by your Audiologist. This is an Australian Government Service which provides hearing devices including hearing aids, and information about the different types of hearing technology. If appropriate your child will be fitted with hearing aids by Hearing Australia at no cost.

### **Questions to ask Hearing Australia**

- What sounds and speech can my baby hear without hearing aids?
- What difference will hearing aids make?
- Will my child need to wear hearing aids for their whole life?
- What will I have to pay for and what benefits am I eligible for?
- Is there any equipment I have to pay for? What are FM receivers?
- Does my child have to wear the hearing aids every day?
- What if my baby won't tolerate the hearing aids?
- Are hearing aids uncomfortable?
- How often will the hearing aids need replacing?
- How often will the hearing aids need new parts?
- How often do we need new moulds made?
- How long does an average battery last?
- What happens if they get wet?
- My baby seems fine without hearing aids so why do I need to put them on?

## Family Support

Every organisation listed in this booklet may offer family support (refer to heading '[Organisations](#)' on page 26 for details of what this family support is).

The WA Foundation for Deaf Children has a Family Network Group and a Peer Parent Mentor Group which can provide support and connections with other families.

### Questions to ask Family Support:

- How can I meet other parents of Deaf and hard of hearing children?
- How can my child meet another child with a hearing loss?
- Are there any online support groups?
- How do I get in touch with a Parent Mentor?

## Education

### Early Intervention (EI)

These are services that run programs to support communication development for infants and children with hearing loss. EI Centres have different philosophies and teaching practices which may include one-to-one or group spoken language intervention therapy, bilingual/bicultural education (Auslan), playgroups, family support and/or therapy services. In WA, EI support services are offered by School of Special Educational Needs: Sensory (SSEN: S) and Telethon Speech & Hearing (TSH). It is important to choose an EI Centre that has qualified Teachers of the Deaf and experienced staff working with Deaf and hard of hearing children.

### Questions to ask EI organisations:

- How many years can my child participate in the Early Intervention program?  
Do you offer playgroups?
- What costs are involved?
- What different teaching approaches do you use to communicate with children?  
Sign Language? Speaking? Both?
- How much involvement do parents have?
- What professional support do you have? What is their experience in working with DHH children?
- How does the process work?
- What sort of education can I expect for my child?
- Will my child be able to sign?
- Will my child be able to speak?
- Will my child go to our local mainstream school?

### **School Age Services**

School-aged children can be supported by Teachers of the Deaf (TOD) from the School of Special Educational Needs: Sensory (SSEN: S) at any local public and most private schools statewide. These teachers travel to the school to provide individual support (Visiting Teacher Service).

Telethon Speech and Hearing (TSH) employ Teachers of the Deaf to create specialised deaf units in selected private schools in the Perth metropolitan area.

Mosman Park School for Deaf Children (MPSDC) is a public primary school that offers specialised education for Deaf and Hard of Hearing children from kindy to year 6.

Many children go on to Shenton College or Belmont College which are public high schools with Deaf units.

Access Plus WA Deaf provides Auslan For Families as a school-age program where additional or ongoing support is required to enable a Deaf student and their hearing family to learn to communicate effectively using Auslan as part of bilingual communication.

### **Hearing Implant (if applicable and if chosen)**

There are instances when hearing aids alone will be insufficient for your child to have the best chance of developing spoken language. This is when a hearing implant should be considered. Unlike a hearing aid, a hearing implant bypasses the damaged parts of the inner ear and directly stimulates the hearing nerve. This signal is then interpreted as speech by the brain. A hearing implant can be useful when the damage to the inner ear is too much for hearing aids alone to overcome. This is often the case with severe-profound sensorineural hearing loss.

If there are concerns regarding your child's speech and language development despite him or her being adequately fitted with conventional hearing aids, you may be referred to an implant centre to assess hearing implant suitability. Your implant centre Audiologist will work in conjunction with your Hearing Australia Audiologist and Early Intervention Team or School Support Unit to determine your child's candidature as a hearing implant recipient. This involves further hearing assessment, both aided and non-aided, speech & language assessment and other developmental assessments as appropriate. Your child's medical suitability to receive the device will also be considered. Should your child be a suitable hearing implant candidate, surgery will be arranged and a detailed re/habilitation program will be designed.

The final decision to proceed with implantation is yours as parents. This should not be taken lightly. Hearing implantation is a big decision and requires a commitment from both the child and the family. It is important that you have all the information necessary to make an informed decision. There are many appointments to attend during the candidature process and throughout your child's habilitation. The implant team will help you through this process.



## Frequently asked questions

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### How will I know if my child needs a hearing implant?

There are many factors involved in deciding on implantation. Generally, the Audiologist will address whether hearing aids are providing your child with enough input to critical sounds for speech development. Research has shown children with severe/profound hearing loss will most likely perform better with a hearing implant compared to conventional hearing aids. The eligibility criteria for implantation change with advances in technology, and it is important for parents to be aware of this. If you have any queries or concerns yourself, you should raise these with your Hearing Australia Audiologist, Early Intervention Team or School Support Unit.

### What is involved in the surgery?

The surgery usually takes between 3-5 hours and involves a small electrode array being expertly placed inside your child's cochlear and a magnet placed under the skin behind the ear. This is done under general anaesthetic.

### What is the cost of having a hearing implant?

Hearing Implants are offered free of charge through the public system to children meeting the criteria for implantation. In the private system, undergoing the procedure for hearing implantation can cost upwards of \$25,000. If you have private health insurance the bulk of the procedure and the device itself may be covered. This should be discussed with your health insurance provider.

For more detail on any of these points please contact your implant centre directly.

#### What to ask the hearing implant team:

- How does a hearing implant differ from a hearing aid?
- What can my expectations be from a hearing implant? What will my child hear with an implant?
- What is involved in the surgery? Are there any risks?
- How reliable are cochlear implants? What are the failure rates?
- How long does a cochlear implant last for?
- How can we update the technology? How often do we have to replace the device on the outside? And the inside?
- Are there any limitations with a cochlear implant? Can my child have an MRI? Can my child participate in sports?
- How many manufacturers provide cochlear implants? What are the differences between them?
- What costs are involved for the implant surgery and long term management?
- What will be expected of me as a parent with regards to appointments?
- Does the cochlear implant “fix” hearing loss?
- What is the best age to perform an implant?

## Organisations

There are a number of government and private organisations that are available to assist you and your child. Useful things to consider when making appointments:

- Enquire about your eligibility for financial assistance.
- Consider asking a family member or friend to accompany you to appointments for support and for remembering information.
- It is a good idea to write down a set of questions you need answered so that you don't forget as consultations are often short.
- A diary and notebook may be helpful.
- Develop your relationship with a team that nurtures you and where you feel the most comfortable.

### West Australian Foundation for Deaf Children ([WAFDC](#))

A not for profit charity that supports Deaf and hard of hearing children (0–24 years) and their families by promoting and supporting the education, life skills and learning opportunities of deaf children. The Foundation provides community support and non-biased information to families and carers of newly diagnosed children with a hearing loss.

The Family Network Group (FNG) provides opportunities for families to meet in a relaxed setting at different events and activities such as family picnics, camps, knowledge-sharing forums (D.E.A.F Express) and signing programs (Signing for Families). All events and activities are Auslan Interpreted.

The WAFDC's Peer Parent Mentor Program puts trained and experienced parents in contact with other parents who are experiencing a similar journey. The Parent Mentors have been on the journey of hearing loss with their own child/children and are available to support parents with Deaf and hard of hearing infants and children.

Our commitment is to support children and families in WA by providing independent, unbiased and accurate information and support services. We use an inclusive and holistic approach to improve life skills and empower deaf children and young people.

**This Foundation has also compiled this booklet.**

### Telethon Speech & Hearing Centre for Children ([TSH](#))

At Telethon Speech & Hearing (TSH) we have a range of programs for children with hearing loss and speech and/or language delay. Our programs are multi-disciplinary and provide access to audiologists, speech therapists, teachers, occupational therapists and psychologists and Family Liaison Officer. Our unique model brings together a range of specialists in the one location to ensure our children receive the highest level of support to help them hear, speak, learn and play. We do this as a registered NDIS provider.

Our programs include:

**Chatterbox** – An early intervention program for children aged 0-5 with a permanent hearing loss learn to listen, speak communicate and interact. We provide a mix of therapy playgroups and individual therapy sessions to guide and support families in their child's listening and spoken language with access to onsite speech pathologists, audiologists, OT and psychologists.

**Outpost** – A school support program for students with a hearing loss located in 11 mainstream settings at various schools from kindergarten to year 12. The program allows children to take a full and active part in mainstream school life whilst receiving direct support and individual assistance from teachers of the deaf, speech pathologists, psychologists, education assistants, audiologists and note-takers.

**Talkabout** – A specialised early intervention program for children with speech and language delays or difficulties aged 2-6 years. We offer intensive therapy in small groups in both playgroup and classroom settings. Using an integrated mix of education, speech, occupational therapy, audiology and psychology support all in one place.

**Clinics** – Audiology, Speech, Occupational Therapy - We accept referrals from a range of sources including self-referrals.

**Support** – Parent support and networking through formal and informal parent education workshops.

### **School of Special Educational Needs: Sensory (SSEN: S)**

The Department of Education School of Special Educational Needs: Sensory (SSEN: S) provides educational support for students with hearing loss and/or vision impairment from birth to completion of school. SSEN: S is based at the Statewide Services Centre in Padbury and supports students in both public and non-government schools throughout Western Australia.

All students with diagnosed hearing loss and/or vision impairment may be eligible for service from SSEN: S. Once eligibility is determined for specialist support; service provision will be allocated according to individual need.

Visiting Teachers of the Deaf are located in metropolitan and regional areas across the state. The visiting teacher supports the student, teacher and parents in meeting the student's educational needs through direct teaching, consultation and professional learning provision.

The Early Childhood Service supports families and children from birth to 4 years. Family-centred programs, including parent education, are run on-site at Padbury Statewide Services Centre and Southwell Primary School. Individual programs occur either on-site or in the home.

Joining our teachers, are other specialist staff such as educational audiologists, school psychologists, braille transcribers, captioning officer, deaf education officers and educational interpreters.

Further information is available from [www.ssens.wa.edu.au](http://www.ssens.wa.edu.au)

### **Mosman Park School for Deaf Children (MPSDC)**

MPSDC is a bilingual/bicultural school which enrolls students who are Deaf or Hard of Hearing. Our policy of *All Auslan, All English, All the Time* ensures every student can access communication in their preferred style. Each child is on an Individual Education Plan and given specific supports needed to succeed. Our students build strong friendships here and are part of a very supportive community.

We have a strong focus on language and maths development with dedicated learning blocks every day. We also provide specialist STEM and HASS lessons which are designed to suit the unique learning styles of Deaf or Hard of Hearing children. Even our youngest children are mastering robotics, flying drones and designing science experiments. We work closely with Mosman Park Primary School and students have the opportunity to participate in mainstream classes and activities. Our school provides speech lessons when suitable and we have a strong parent support team.

Most students from MPSDC transition to high school at Shenton College Deaf Education Centre or Belmont City College. We maintain a relationship with these schools and the students throughout the year which means students are less anxious when making the move to high school.

Parents are welcome to contact Mosman Park School for Deaf Children at any time to organise a tour to see if this school will assist your child.

### **Perth Children's Hospital (PCH)**

PCH Audiology provides a state of the art, comprehensive range of Paediatric Audiological services for children from birth to 16 years of age.

We offer infant electrophysiological diagnostic assessment for babies and children in natural sleep, with sedation and with General Anaesthetic if required.

We work alongside a multi-professional team that includes: Otolaryngologists, Speech Pathologists, Auditory-Verbal Therapists, Patient Liaisons, Psychologists, Occupational Therapists and Social Workers.

We are responsible for the largest Paediatric Cochlear Implant program in WA and work closely with the State-Wide Newborn Hearing Screening Program to ensure a timely and family-focused Audiological diagnostic pathway for families at the beginning of their hearing journey.

Our Department promotes healthy hearing, communication competency and quality of life through the prevention, identification, assessment and rehabilitation of hearing, auditory function, balance and other related systems.

## **Hearing Australia (HA)**

Hearing Australia is the nations largest provider of government funded services for children, young adults up to the age of 26, eligible Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people, pensioners and veterans.

Services include:

- assessing hearing
- selecting and fitting hearing devices
- regular hearing checks to monitor changes
- training to improve listening and communication
- providing counselling and rehabilitative programs
- ongoing care and device repair services
- home visits for those unable to travel to a clinic
- helping to manage hearing loss on a day-to-day basis

## **Earbus Foundation of Western Australia (EFWA)**

Earbus Foundation provides free newborn hearing screening services in private maternity hospitals in Perth and country WA under contract to the WA Health Department. At its CBD clinic, Earbus Foundation can provide families with a free diagnostic hearing test option for babies and infants. The Earbus Foundation team includes 6 paediatric audiologists, 4 Registered Nurses, Teacher of the Deaf, Speech Pathologist and a full-time Nurse Practitioner. Earbus also has a network of Ear, Nose and Throat Specialists who work closely with our Clinical Team.

The Foundation links children and families to both Hearing Australia and the Perth Children's Hospital as required and can provide referral links to the WA Foundation for Deaf Children and Early Intervention therapy providers. Earbus Foundation also supports families whose children have been diagnosed with single-sided (unilateral) deafness; the Foundation hosts regular parent information sessions and parent/caregiver networking opportunities.

Earbus Foundation is a not-for-profit children's charity based in the metropolitan area but also works in over 60 regional locations across Western Australia stretching from the Kimberley to Esperance. For families residing in regional WA we may be able to facilitate faster access to newborn screening, diagnostic testing, audiological assessments and other support upon request.

Earbus Foundation's work has been recognised with various awards including 2018 Telstra Business of the Year (WA Social Change Maker), the AIM West Business Pinnacles Award for Emerging Business Excellence and the Community Group of the Year (Regional Achievement and Community Awards). Our distinguished patron is Professor Harvey Coates AO, WA's foremost ENT Specialist.



## **Ear Science Clinic (formerly ESIA)**

The ESIA is a not for profit organisation that conducts research and provides education and clinical services related to hearing loss and balance disorders. The core purpose of the organisation is to improve the quality of life of people with ear, balance and associated disorders.

The Hearing Implant Centre implant a variety of hearing implants depending on your specific requirements and hearing loss: Cochlear Implants, Electroacoustic Stimulation Device (EAS), Bone Anchored Hearing Aid (BAHA) and Middle Ear Implant

## **Access Plus WA Deaf (formerly known as WA Deaf Society WADS)**

Access Plus WA Deaf has been supporting the Deaf and Hard of Hearing since 1921. Our purpose is to foster a community of communication and we do this through our 4 service arms; Access Interpreting for interpreting services, Access My Life for community services, Access My NDIS for NDIS support and assistance, and Access My Training for Auslan and training resources. Access Plus WA Deaf provides a free bilingual-bicultural Language Early Access Program (LEAP playgroup) that recognises the use of both sign language communication and hearing/oral communication for language development. Deaf children of hearing families socialise with hearing children of Deaf families, whilst hearing and Deaf parents benefit from the socialising and exchange of parenting and language learning skills with the Deaf parents acting as important cultural and linguistic role models.

Auslan for Families is a unique home-based program designed to support hearing families with a Deaf child. Access Plus staff work with the whole family to develop strategies that enhance the family's capacity to be the natural facilitator of one of the Deaf child's languages; Auslan. This evidence-based program consists of blocks of teaching sessions delivered in the home or other key environment by a qualified native Deaf Auslan teacher and speech pathologist/case management officer, with assistance from our NAATI-certified Auslan Interpreters where appropriate. The program teaches the family how to adapt their communication and home/other key environments to be visually accessible to their Deaf child, and gives information about Deaf culture and relevant sign language that is learned through everyday interactions and activities. It is also individualised and is adapted to suit the age/stage of the child and the needs of the family. Access Plus WA Deaf staff work with the family to access the program via the National Disability Insurance Scheme (NDIS) or other funding where appropriate.

## Advocacy & Support

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Advocating for your child means promoting his or her welfare and interests.

Parents want the best for their children and want to provide the best opportunities so that they can grow to be happy, independent adults. Parents are responsible for their child's welfare and have their child's best interest at heart; they are natural advocates for their children.

As your baby grows you will find there are situations where you may require advocacy skills. The tips below may help you along the advocacy pathway:

- Educate and inform yourself about hearing loss and its effects on your baby.
- You are the key member of your baby's support team so it is important that you see yourself as part of the professional team.
- Become familiar with terminology, jargon, rules and processes and if you are unsure ask.
- Be confident about your abilities and rights. Effective communication is one of the keys to success.
- Keep a record or copies of all reports, letters and notes of phone calls in a file.
- Ask for help from your team.

## Your family

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### Brothers and sisters

Having a new baby in the family is an adjustment for siblings. Diagnosis of hearing loss affects everyone in the family. There are things you can do to make the situation easier for your other children:

- It is often helpful to educate siblings about hearing and hearing loss. Knowing the facts reduces their uncertainty and puts their fears into perspective.
- Listen to siblings and allow them to express their feelings and questions.
- Where possible, make time for each child through the day. Any alone time with mum and dad can make a difference to their experience of the diagnosis and habilitation process.
- Continue your usual family activities and rituals.

### A message to extended family and close friends

Grandparents, other extended family and friends can provide positive emotional and practical support after an infant has been diagnosed with a hearing loss.

There are a number of practical ideas to assist the family. Some families may really appreciate practical help with cleaning, washing, ironing or shopping. Allow the parents to guide you. Avoid taking control.

Babysitting the new infant and/or other siblings can allow parents some time out to relax or time to attend appointments.

Discuss with the parents how you can be involved in supporting communication development (eg attend sign language classes, attend oral language therapy sessions).

Embrace user-friendly technology. Learn how to put in hearing aids and how to test them, change the battery and so on.

### **Suggestions to enhance the family coming to terms with the news**

Families respond well to statements that reflect positivity and encouragement. In the early days, when parents are still coming to terms with the diagnosis of their child's hearing loss, parents appreciate practical assistance and someone to listen to their experience, more than advice and opinions. With loving support, the family and child will have the best possible start.

Parents who receive support and good information from professionals are able to make the right choices for their family.

### **Bilingual/bicultural communication**

Some families may want their child to grow up being bilingual/bicultural, able to communicate using Auslan (Australian Sign Language) and written/spoken English.

Many organisations run Auslan-inclusive programs.

### **Cultural and linguistic diversity**

For many families English is not their first language and may come from another cultural background. A lot of the terminologies and concepts about hearing loss can be unclear.

There are specialist ethnic and culturally diverse support services who can help you understand these better.

The Ethnic Disability Advocacy Centre is the peak advocacy organisation in Western Australia. [www.edac.org.au](http://www.edac.org.au).

The WA Foundation for Deaf Children have many families with different backgrounds and experiences. If you would like to make contact with a family similar to yours, telephone 08 9385 3557.

## Financial Support

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### National Disability Insurance Scheme (NDIS)

The NDIS aims to provide people with a disability and their families with supports based on their individual needs and goals.

You or your child may be able to apply for and receive individual support through the NDIS if you have a permanent disability which significantly affects your communication, mobility, self-care or self-management. This includes being deaf or hard of hearing.

**For more information contact: 1800 800 110**

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To check your NDIS eligibility and find out if you can get funding, you can use the NDIS Access Checklist

[www.ndis.gov.au/applying-access-ndis](http://www.ndis.gov.au/applying-access-ndis)

To find your local office and contacts including:

- Early Childhood, Early Intervention (ECEI) for children aged 0-6 years
- Local Area Coordinator (LAC)
- Local NDIS offices.

<https://www.ndis.gov.au/contact/locations>

A special pathway into NDIS has been implemented for children, aged 0 - 6 years, with newly diagnosed hearing loss.

[www.ndis.gov.au/understanding/ndis-and-other-government-services/hearing-supports](http://www.ndis.gov.au/understanding/ndis-and-other-government-services/hearing-supports)

## Patient Assistance Travel Scheme for rural areas (PATs)

PATs is designed to provide assistance to people who live in isolated and remote communities to access specialist medical treatment. Families who live more than 100km (one way) from the nearest treating specialist are eligible to apply.

More information about PATs can be found at: [www.wacountry.health.wa.gov.au/pats](http://www.wacountry.health.wa.gov.au/pats) or contact your local PATs office on the numbers below:

<b>Albany</b>	1800 728 747	<b>Kalgoorlie</b>	(08) 9080 5681
<b>Broome</b>	(08) 9194 2236	<b>Mandurah</b>	(08) 9586 4413
<b>Derby</b>	(08) 9193 3349	<b>Northam</b>	1800 728 792
<b>Esperance</b>	(08) 9079 8101	<b>Rockingham</b>	(08) 9599 4485
<b>Fitzroy Crossing</b>	(08) 9193 3349	<b>South Hedland</b>	1800 138 653
<b>Gascoyne</b>	(08) 9941 0313	<b>South West</b>	1800 823 131
<b>Geraldton</b>	(08) 9956 2216	<b>Wheatbelt</b>	1800 728 792

As well as the PATs scheme there may be other services available.

Visit [wafdc.serviceseeker.com.au](http://wafdc.serviceseeker.com.au) and search the 'Service Directory'.

Try to arrange for appointments with the various specialists on the same day and arrange to stay overnight where possible. You may be able to apply for [financial assistance](#) for this. It might be better to stay overnight as you and your baby will feel rested and more relaxed.

Be organised, keep everything in one place and when at your appointment and don't allow specialists to rush you. You have travelled a long way to attend your appointment and you should return home feeling the visit was worthwhile.

## Carer's allowance

You may be eligible for a carers allowance to help with extra costs that you may incur having a child with a hearing loss. Contact Centrelink on 132 717 for more information or to make an appointment. Information from the following links may be useful before ringing Centrelink:

[www.humanservices.gov.au/customer/enablers/centrelink/carers-allowance/eligibility](http://www.humanservices.gov.au/customer/enablers/centrelink/carers-allowance/eligibility)  
[www.comlaw.gov.au/Details/F2011C00725](http://www.comlaw.gov.au/Details/F2011C00725)

## Contact Information

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For services in your local area please visit the service directory on the West Australian Foundation for Deaf Children's website at [wafdc.serviceseeker.com.au](http://wafdc.serviceseeker.com.au)

### Access Plus WA Deaf

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- Early Intervention and School Age Services (LEAP Playgroup & Auslan for Families)
- Interpreting Services
- Family support

34 Dodd St, Wembley WA 6014

P: (08) 9441 2677

E: [enquiry@accessplus.org.au](mailto:enquiry@accessplus.org.au)

W: [accessplus.org.au](http://accessplus.org.au)

### Communicare Inc

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- CaLD community events and services
- Playgroups, conversational English classes, parenting workshops, community safety & wellbeing programs

28 Cecil Avenue, Cannington WA 6107

P: (08) 9251 5777

E: [info@communicare.org.au](mailto:info@communicare.org.au)

W: [www.communicare.org.au](http://www.communicare.org.au)

### Ear Bus Foundation of Western Australia

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- Newborn hearing screening (NBHS)
- Diagnostic Audiology Services

122 Aberdeen Street, Northbridge WA 6003

**Appointments:** (08) 9328 4574

P: 0457 443 042

E: [admin@earbus.org](mailto:admin@earbus.org)

W: [www.earbus.org.au](http://www.earbus.org.au)

### Ear Science Clinic

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- Cochlear implant program and associated services

Suite 2, Level 2

1 Salvado Road, Subiaco 6008

P: 1300 84 70 80.

W: [www.earscience.org.au](http://www.earscience.org.au)

### Ethnic Disability Advocacy Centre

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- Peak advocacy organization
- Aims to safeguard the rights of ethnic people with disabilities and their families

320 Rokeby Road, Subiaco WA 6008

P: 08 9388 7455

W: [www.edac.org.au](http://www.edac.org.au)

### Hearing Australia

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- Australian Government agency dedicated to helping people manage their hearing loss so they have a better quality of life.

27/31 Wittenoom Street, Perth WA 6004

P: (08) 9226 7100

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

### Kalparrin

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- Not-for-profit organisation run by Parents of Children with Disabilities Inc. and is available for family members/carers of children of all degree of abilities

Family Resource Centre

Perth Children's Hospital

15 Hospital Ave, Nedlands WA 6009

P: (08) 6456 0035

E: [kalparrinwa@health.wa.gov.au](mailto:kalparrinwa@health.wa.gov.au)

W: [www.kalparrin.org.au](http://www.kalparrin.org.au)

## Mosman Park School for Deaf Children

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- Bilingual/Bicultural education which targets each child's needs.

91 Victoria St, Mosman Park WA 6012

**P:** 08 9384 2088

**E:** [MosmanPark.SFDC@education.wa.edu.au](mailto:MosmanPark.SFDC@education.wa.edu.au)

**W:** [mosmanpkdeafschool.com.au](http://mosmanpkdeafschool.com.au)

## Multicultural Futures

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- Diverse and inclusive multicultural support for migrants and refugees

241-243 High Street, Fremantle 6160

**P:** 08 9336 8282

**E:** [hello@multiculturalfutures.org.au](mailto:hello@multiculturalfutures.org.au)

**W:** [multiculturalfutures.org.au](http://multiculturalfutures.org.au)

## NDIS

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- Funding support

**P:** 1800 800 110

## Perth Children's Hospital (PCH)

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- Newborn hearing screening (NBHS)
- Diagnostic Audiology Services
- Cochlear implant program

15 Hospital Ave, Nedlands WA 6009

**P:** (08) 6456 2222

**W:** [pch.health.wa.gov.au/Our-services/Audiology](http://pch.health.wa.gov.au/Our-services/Audiology)

## Senses WA

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- Disability support services to people of all ages
- Service to people who are deafblind

11 Kitchener Avenue, Burswood WA 6100

**New Services:** 1300 111 881

**P:** (08) 9473 5400

**W:** [www.senses.org.au](http://www.senses.org.au)

## School of Special Educational Needs: Sensory (SSEN: S)

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- Early Childhood Services
- Playgroups
- School Age Services

Statewide Services Centre 33 Giles Avenue, Padbury 6025

**P:** (08) 9402 6409

**E:** [sensory@education.wa.edu.au](mailto:sensory@education.wa.edu.au)

**W:** [www.ssens.wa.edu.au](http://www.ssens.wa.edu.au)

## Telethon Speech & Hearing (TSH)

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- Early Childhood Services
- Playgroups
- School Age Services

36 Dodd Street, Wembley 6014

**P:** (08) 9387 9888

**E:** [speech@tsh.org.au](mailto:speech@tsh.org.au)

**W:** [www.tsh.org.au](http://www.tsh.org.au)

## West Australian Foundation for Deaf Children (WAFDC)

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- Promote and support education, life skills, learning
- Advocacy
- Family and Parent Support
- Reliable unbiased information and support

53 Curtin Avenue, Cottesloe 6011

**P:** (08) 9385 3557

**E:** [admin@wafdc.com.au](mailto:admin@wafdc.com.au)

**W:** [www.wafdc.org.au](http://www.wafdc.org.au)



## Support Team & Notes

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### Your support team

<b>West Australian Foundation for Deaf Children</b>	
Name:	Address: 53 Curtin Ave Cottesloe
Phone: (08) 9385 3557	Email: parents@wafdc.org.au
<b>My Questions to Ask:</b>	
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•	
•	
<b>My Notes:</b>	

<b>General Practitioner</b>	
Name:	Address:
Phone:	Email:
<b>My Questions to Ask:</b>	
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•	
•	
•	
<b>My Notes:</b>	

Ear Nose and Throat Specialist	
Name:	Address:
Phone:	Email:
My Questions to Ask:	
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•	
My Notes:	

NDIS	
Name:	Address:
Phone:	Email:
My Questions to Ask:	
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My Notes:	

Hearing Australia	
Name:	Address:
Phone:	Email:
My Questions to Ask:	
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My Notes:	

## Early Intervention Professionals

Name:	Address:
Phone:	Email:
My Questions to Ask:	
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My Notes:	

Name:	Address:
Phone:	Email:
<b>My Questions to Ask:</b>	
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<b>My Notes:</b>	

## Other Contacts

Name:	Address:
Phone:	Email:
<b>My Questions to Ask:</b>	
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<b>My Notes:</b>	







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