



## Assistive Technology

There may be certain situations where an assistive listening device or technology may help you. As technology is changing, an audiologist will be able to find the best fit and most current devices. You may be able to use NDIS funding to purchase these devices.

For example:

**Television:** there are different devices that can help you hear the television without having to turn up the volume. This may include a device that you plug into the TV and connects to your hearing aid or headphones to bring sound directly to the hearing aid.

### At school

There are devices that can help your child hear the teacher more clearly. These devices are usually a wired system or a frequency modulated (FM) device. The teacher wears a microphone and the sound transmits to a transmitter attached to the hearing aid. It is a good idea to be familiar with the system so you can explain it to the child's teacher.

**Mobile phone:** Some options to hear better on the mobile include: using the speaker option, using Bluetooth to connect to your hearing (directly or via a device). Iphone has accessibility settings, which includes Live Listen to help you listen to conversations more clearly. You can also change audio volumes for each ear.

Google has developed an app for Live translations as well as an app to amplify sounds. As technology changes it is a good idea to check what accessibility functions your phone have.

**Landline phone:** you can get phones that designed for deaf and hard of hearing people, you can use the speaker option; or you may be able to use a phone has captions.

**Train station/public places:** At train stations or in some public places, you can use the telecoil Loop system.

**Sykye:** Now has live captioning

**Music:** With the change in technology, there are more options to help you listen to music. This can include; specialised headphones or earphones to help you listen to music, a Bluetooth device or a 'shoe' that plugs onto the hearing aid to connect your phone to your hearing aids. The sound is easier to hear as it is transmitted directly to your ears. With wearing headphones a good tip is to ensure that they cover the top of your hearing aid where your microphone is. This way the sound will be louder. Trying on headphones is also a good idea as the cups need to be big enough to cover your microphone on the hearing aid and not cause it to whistle.

## Home

There are a number of devices available to help you hear in the home.

**Doorbell:** A device flashes instead of ringing to let you know someone has arrived.

**Alarm clock:** A device that vibrates and or flash to help wake you up

**Smoke detector:** You can purchase smoke detectors that flash light

Alternatively, you may not be able to use or manage hearing aids, but could benefit from a personal amplifier.

## Websites:

School years – Australia hearing Services website on devices to use in the classroom

<https://www.hearing.com.au/About-hearing/Hearing-in-babies-children/School-years>

TV/ Music – Australia hearing Services website on devices to use to help listen to the TV or music

<https://www.hearing.com.au/Hearing-products/Entertainment,-TV-music>

Technology at home and school - National Deaf Children's Society

UK website that covers extensively various technologies available for children at home

[http://www.ndcs.org.uk/family\\_support/technology\\_and\\_products/index.html](http://www.ndcs.org.uk/family_support/technology_and_products/index.html)

Iphone accessibility functions:

<https://www.apple.com/au/accessibility/iphone/>

Google apps for android devices:

<https://www.blog.google/outreach-initiatives/accessibility/making-audio-more-accessible-two-new-apps/>

Skype

<https://support.skype.com/en/faq/FA34877/how-do-i-turn-live-captions-subtitles-on-during-a-skype-call>

## For further information about Deaf Children Australia.

[www.deafchildrenaustralia.org.au](http://www.deafchildrenaustralia.org.au)

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[www.facebook.com/DeafChildrenAustralia](https://www.facebook.com/DeafChildrenAustralia)

Deaf Children Australia uses the term 'deaf' to refer to all degrees and types of hearing loss.

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