

Hearing Support for Children who are Temporary Residents

Support through Hearing Australia's Social Purpose Fund



What is the Social Purpose Fund?

Hearing Australia's Social Purpose Fund (SPF) helps children with a diagnosed permanent or long-term hearing loss who are not eligible for other government funded programs such as the Hearing Services Program (HSP) or the National Disability Insurance Scheme (NDIS). Through this fund, we aim to reduce communication barriers and support children who are temporary residents in Australia to access hearing services.

Who can get this support?

Your child may be eligible if:

- They are under 18 years old
- They are not an Australian citizen or permanent resident and hold a Temporary Resident Visa which is valid for more than 6 months
- They have a permanent or long-term hearing loss, already have hearing aids, need hearing aids, or have a cochlear implant and could benefit from hearing support.

Families must show a visa or appropriate documentation as proof. Please notify Hearing Australia if the child's visa or residency status changes.

Note: New Zealand citizens with a *Special Category Visa* who live permanently in Australia are eligible for the Community Service Obligations (CSO) component of the Australian Government Hearing Services Program and should not be referred under this SPF stream.

Children who turn 18 will transition to self-funded services.

Here's what's funded and what's not:

Service	What's funded	What's not funded
Hearing Aids	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Hearing aids, fitting and follow-up appointments, and maintenance services while in Australia. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Devices outside Hearing Australia's approved range. Ongoing monitoring of hearing loss if the child does not wear hearing aids. Remote Microphones e.g. Roger Systems
Remote Microphones (e.g. Roger systems)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Remote microphones, fitting, follow-up appointments and maintenance services while in Australia, if the remote microphone is the only device used. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Remote microphones are not provided for children fitted with hearing aids, cochlear implants or middle ear implants.
Cochlear Implants	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Fitting and follow-up appointments, and maintenance services for a Remote Microphone system while in Australia (note: the Remote Microphone system itself is not funded). 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Initial fitting of Speech Processor, as well as programming, maintenance, upgrades, repairs and batteries (families will need to consult their Implant Clinic). Remote Microphones e.g. Roger Systems
Middle ear or other implants	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Fitting and follow-up appointments, and maintenance services for a Remote Microphone system while in Australia (note: the Remote Microphone system itself is not funded). 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Initial fitting of implantable devices, as well as programming maintenance, upgrades, repairs and batteries. Remote Microphones e.g. Roger Systems

Who provides these services?

Hearing Australia's qualified audiologists who have undertaken extensive training and have experience in paediatric audiology.

How to Refer a Child to the Social Purpose Fund:

Families or professionals can contact Hearing Australia directly. During intake our team will:

- Confirm the child is under 18
- Verify the child holds a temporary visa with over 6 months' validity
- Confirm a diagnosed hearing loss or risk factors
- Assess whether the child would benefit from hearing devices.