

INFORMATION ABOUT AUDIOLOGY AND HEARING AID SERVICES FOR STUDENTS LEAVING SECONDARY SCHOOL

Hearing Assessment Services

Students who live outside Christchurch and who have been seen in the past at their local hospital audiology clinic can continue to do so after leaving school, during tertiary study, or after tertiary study – regardless if you are working or receiving a benefit.

Students leaving van Asch DEC can contact their local hospital audiology clinic to make an appointment when needed. Ask to see an audiologist at the hospital clinic. Your audiology file with hearing testing done at van Asch DEC will be held here and copies of test results can be sent to your new clinic when requested.

There is no hearing aid clinic funded by Christchurch Hospital/District Health Board at the moment, so school leavers living in Christchurch will need to contact a private hearing aid clinic. There is a list of clinics in the Christchurch yellow pages telephone book. Most of these clinics will be able to check and fine-tune the models of hearing aids that you are wearing. There will be a charge for hearing tests, new hearing aids and hearing aid related services, so it may be wise to ask around each clinic until you find one which is nearest to your home and which does not charge too much. Private clinic charges vary for hearing assessment and hearing aid fitting.

Hearing Excellence Ltd has provided a service for deaf and hearing impaired young people who have left school, as well as deaf and hearing impaired adults of all ages, for a number of years.

The clinic is at 89 Ferry Road, Tel 379 3366, Fax 379 3368,

Email hearingexcellence@xtra.co.nz www.hearingexcellence.co.nz

The Speech and Hearing Clinic in the Department of Communication Disorders at Canterbury University provides a full adult audiology service for relatively low fees. They are an audiology student training programme and clinic appointments are given greater time than in a private clinic. Students in audiology as well as an experienced audiologist provide the services. Tel 3640248, Fax 364 2760

Further contact details are at: <http://www.cmds.canterbury.ac.nz/contacts.shtml>

Private hearing aid clinics can do ear examinations, hearing tests, fit new hearing aids, adjust your present aids, take ear impressions for new earmoulds, and arrange trials with and funding for assistive devices such as FM radio aids. Ask to see an audiologist at the private clinic.

Audiologists in hospitals and in private centres can assist you so that you have all the information you need to manage your hearing needs independently.

Costs and Funding

For young people under the age of 21 years who are enrolled in a programme of full time study, VADEC will continue to provide batteries, certain accessories and spare parts, and repairs at no cost. Once people reach the age of 21 years, or leave full time study, they will then be required to pay for these things themselves. Contact the Technical Service at VADEC if you are unsure.

The Ministry of Health have a new funding scheme for hearing impaired and deaf adults. The eligibility criteria and information about funding is detailed on the following websites:

<http://www.accessable.co.nz/hearing/Eligibility%20MoH%20Funding%20Hearing%20Aids%2007-2011.pdf>

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

Hearing aids vary a lot in price – they can cost from \$1500 or more from a private clinic. Hospital clinics (and private clinics contracted to a hospital) will charge a wholesale price for hearing aids, plus a small charge for handling. If you need to replace your hearing aids, ask the audiologist to carry out a needs assessment with you so you can have a trial with the most cost effective hearing aid model that you would like to wear and which will meet your needs. Funding

support for deaf and hearing impaired people who are working and who need new aids or other assistive devices can be organised by your audiologist.

Earmoulds vary in price from about \$30 to \$75 each, depending on whether they are provided by a hospital or private clinic.

Batteries for young people who are working, or not in tertiary study, can be purchased at hospital clinics, hearing aid clinics or branches of the Hearing Association, Deaf Association or at a pharmacy. Find out which supplier has the best price for you. When you purchase batteries, check that the use-by date is at least 6 months in the future, beyond the time when you are likely to use them up.

Repairs – check to see if your hearing aid is still covered by a warranty. This normally lasts a year from the date of fitting a new aid, and some models have a 2 year warranty. If your hearing aid is not working, take it to the clinic at the hospital or where it was fitted, and ask them to check it and test it for you. A private clinic will do this too, but may charge a fee. If your aid needs to be sent away for repair, ask if you can have a loan aid from your audiologist. Check about repair costs and your eligibility for support for these costs under the Ministry of Health HAFS scheme.

Arrange **insurance** to cover the replacement cost of your hearing aids, in case they get lost or accidentally damaged. If you are living at home, the aids will be covered by the insurance that your parents have, but check that this is correct. If you are living in your own accommodation, arrange for the aids to be included in your own household contents insurance cover. The replacement cost of the aids you are wearing will be available from your audiology clinic, as well as information about what to do when making a claim.

Tertiary support

Students in full time tertiary study, under the age of 21 years and who are NZ residents/citizens are eligible to have replacement hearing aids funded by the Ministry of Health via the Hearing Aid Funding Services administered by Accessable. If you are a student, your audiologist will be able to discuss this with you and make any fund applications on your behalf. You may be asked to confirm that you are enrolled in a study programme, such as providing a copy of a fees receipt or an enrolment confirmation. Ask your local audiologist about other funding support for earmoulds and assistive devices. The Deaf Association can also assist with funding for certain assistive devices and services.

Contact the office of Disability Support Services at tertiary institutions for special support for lectures such as the use of FM systems or other assistive devices. Contact details can be found in the main handbook, main enrolment guides, and in department/subject guides of each tertiary institution.

Workplace support

Talk to your personnel/human resources officer, manager or supervisor regarding any provisions that your employer can make to support you in your place of work. Your audiologist will also be able to be an advocate for you in these matters.

Website Support

- Transition information on the van Asch DEC website:

www.vanasch.school.nz/info-for-students.php

(scroll down the page until the Transition heading appears)

A Reminder

If you find yourself stuck and you are unable to get the help you need, you can always contact the audiology service at van Asch DEC and we will be able to direct you to the appropriate local person.