Hearing Services Pathway
for Children and Young People under 21 years

Referral & Screening

The first suggestion that an infant, child or adolescent may be experiencing hearing difficulty may occur following routine hearing screening, or when a recommendation for referral for hearing assessment is made.

Routine screening may be provided at maternity hospitals for newborns, at Early Childhood Health Centres, through Aboriginal Community Controlled Health Organisations, or by school or pre-school screening programs.

Referrals can be made when concerns are raised by a child's family, teachers, carers or health care provider

CLICK HERE for information about screening and referral.

Diagnosis & Assessment

When hearing screening or referral recommends the need for a full hearing assessment, children and their families are referred for diagnostic audiology.

Such an assessment involves a medical and family history, as well as information on the child's development and description of concerns about the child's hearing. Appropriate hearing tests would then be administered.

The screening or referral agency will assist in recommending the most appropriate assessment service for your child.

CLICK HERE for information about diagnosis and assessment.

After Diagnosis

When a hearing problem is confirmed by diagnostic audiology there are many options for intervention and support available. The most suitable choice for each child and family will be determined by many factors including the child's age, the type and extent of hearing loss, communication options, education needs and family circumstances.

Options could include some combination of:

- Early intervention and education assistance
- Habilitation or therapy
- Hearing aids or assistive listening devices
- Medical or surgical intervention (possibly Cochlear implant)

CLICK HERE for information about assistance after diagnosis.