

# Funding Options

Funding for at least part of the cost of hearing aids is available from a number of sources. This funding usually does not cover audiologist fitting fees.

## AT A GLANCE

- Public funding options are available ranging from hearing aid subsidies to full funding if covered by ACC.



## FOR CHILDREN

Young people under 18 - or under 21 if in fulltime education - receive free hearing aids and fittings through the health system's Special Aid Fund.

## FOR ADULTS

### Government subsidy

Government subsidies of between \$198 and \$500 per aid are available towards the cost of new or replacement hearing aids. The subsidies are usually only available once every five years, but can be more frequent in some circumstances.

## Under 65

- \$198 for one hearing aid
- \$396 for two hearing aids

## 65 or over – with a SuperGold card

- \$500 for one hearing aid
- \$1,000 for two hearing aids

## ENABLE NZ or ACCESSABLE funding

This government funding is additional to the basic subsidies but you must meet certain criteria. Only a New Zealand Audiological Society audiologist can apply for this funding. To be eligible for funding you must be in one or more of the following:

- Full time education
  - Job training (12 hours a week or more)
  - Full or part-time work (30 hours a week or more) or actively seeking fulltime work
  - Voluntary work (20 hours a week or more) – only if working for a registered charitable institution
  - Primary caregiver
  - Allowing a person to retain their independence by remaining in or returning to their home
- Funding **does not** cover audiologist fees.

**Enable NZ:** 0800 17 19 81 [www.enable.co.nz](http://www.enable.co.nz)

**Accessible:** 0508 001 002 [www.accessable.co.nz](http://www.accessable.co.nz)



## War Pension

Hearing aids and other hearing assistive devices are available to veterans with hearing impairment resulting from military service. Funding claims must be made on the War Disablement Pension Application Form available from the Veterans Affairs New Zealand.

It covers:

- Audiologist fees
- Cost of the aids (up to a certain limit)
- Cost of repairs
- A battery allowance
- Replacement aids (usually every five years).

**Phone:** 0800 553 003      **Fax:** 0508 402 402.

## Accident Compensation Corporation (ACC) funding

If hearing impairment is caused by a physical accident, noise accident, or occupational noise, ACC may provide funding towards the cost of hearing aids and may also cover the cost of audiologist fees.

If you think you have a hearing loss due to noise exposure you should get your hearing checked promptly, even if you do not want hearing aids now. In later years it may be difficult to prove that the cause of your hearing loss was due to the noise event several years previously.

### Eligibility criteria includes:

- Exposure to a noisy work environment
- Sudden, extremely loud noise
- Accident (eg car crash, fall, etc).

ACC doesn't cover congenital, age or illness related hearing loss.

Your doctor can initiate a claim.

**Phone:** 0800 101 996    **www.acc.co.nz**

## WINZ (Work & Income NZ)

Advance payment of superannuation or any other benefits may be available to help pay for hearing aids. Contact the local WINZ office and case manager. A quote for the cost from an audiologist will be needed.

**Phone:** 0800 559 009.

## Hearing aid bank

The New Zealand Audiological Society, Wellington Hearing Association, and some hospital audiology clinics administer a hearing aid bank for those unable to afford hearing aids and who are ineligible for other funding. The hearing aids are donated by hearing aid manufacturers or by individuals. An audiologist will be able to help access this bank.

## HOW MUCH ARE HEARING AIDS?

The cost of hearing aids depends on hearing needs, preferences and budget. They can range from anything from \$1,500 for a pair of hearing aids through to more than \$12,500 for a pair.



**Proudly supported by The Oticon Foundation in New Zealand**

Want to know more detail? **Go to [www.hearing.org.nz](http://www.hearing.org.nz)**

Based on information provided in March 2009 by Capital and Coast District Health Board