

Itinerant Hearing Support in the NSW Public System

Which students receive itinerant hearing support?

- Bilateral- both ears
- Sensorineural loss
- Permanent conductive loss
- + 500hz, 1000hz, 2000hz – average 30dB+ for better ear

Principles of the hearing support service

- A collaborative and consultative approach with the parents and carers actively involved.
- A whole- school commitment is necessary.
- The prime responsibility for meeting the educational needs of the student is the schools; the IST (H) supports the school to meet the individual needs of the student.

Services provided by the IST (H)

- Participation in the Learning Support Team
- Collaborative planning and teaching
- Group work within the classroom
- Individual support when required
- Teacher Professional Learning
- Liaison with other departments and agencies

Elements of the IST (H)

In the school setting there are two key elements of the Itinerant Support Teacher Hearing IST (H)

- Supporting the student
- Supporting the school community

How the IST (H) supports the student and school community

- Informs and explains to staff, parents and carers of the educational implications for a student with a hearing impairment.
- Provides programs in talking, listening, reading and writing,



speech, auditory learning and, where necessary, sign communication and augmentative communication strategies.

- Encourages the use and independent management of all hearing devices used by the student.
- May help the student develop essay, study, organizational, assignment and homework skills, as well as revision for exams and tests.
- Addresses the student's social and emotional needs so they feel more confident and able in coping with integration in the school.
- Provides reports of assessed progress.
- Assists with submissions for and implementation of special provisions required for Basic Skills Tests, School Certificate and HSC.
- Participates in the review process.
- Assists in a team teaching role, or teaches a small group, or conducts individualised sessions depending on the needs of the student.
- Provides interpreting and /or notetaking for senior students.
- Assists in the transition process to school, within school, between school and beyond school. This

includes provision of information on vocational opportunities.

- Provides educational program support as part of a transdisciplinary team.
- Provides training and development for school staff about the needs of their students such as professional learning sessions for the whole school staff and collaborative consultation sessions with class teachers.
- Suggests and demonstrates classroom strategies to minimize the disadvantages of the hearing impairment. This may include such things as classroom seating, use of captioning with DVD's and strategies in noisy indoor and outdoor environments.
- Assists with devising modified or alternate tasks when necessary, such as for an oral presentation, a listening task or a tasks involving listening and writing whilst watching audio visual material
- Provides advice on cochlear implants, hearing aids, FM and soundfield -system management.
- Advises a need for further specialist intervention as required.