

A School Ear and Hearing Report

A School Ear and Hearing Health Report gives you an opportunity to talk to the principal and teaching staff about up-to-date ear health and hearing status of the kids in their school. This information can be very powerful for several reasons:

- It provides the Learning Support teacher a ‘snapshot’ of the number of children who have ear and/or hearing problems:
 - the number of children with middle ear disease and/or a conductive hearing loss
 - the number of children with a sensorineural (permanent) or mixed hearing loss
- It provides the opportunity to liaise with individual classroom teachers about:
 - incorporating effective classroom listening and communication strategies
 - the number of children who are aided in the class. The Learning Support teacher can discuss issues about listening devices such as management and maintenance.
- It provides an opportunity to make the powerful link between children with a hearing loss and the importance of having good listening environments for effective learning.
- It can provide a way of highlighting ear and hearing issues for individual children so that access to additional specialist services can be accessed in a more timely way (eg: medical, speech pathology or occupational therapy).

A School and Hearing Health Report can provide ear and hearing data from three different sources:

Primary Health – Ear and Hearing Check Data. An ear and hearing check is not a diagnostic assessment but rather it gives a rough guide as to the ear health and hearing status of that child. Ear and hearing data gives us an idea of the number of children from the school that have not passed an initial, review or opportunistic ear and hearing check. The level of information will be dependent on the individual community as the local workforce may vary. ***The best way to source this information*** is to talk to the Primary Health worker (Health Worker, Child Health Nurse) who conducts the checks.

ENT Clinic/Surgery and Audiology Data. An ENT team may visit your communities once or twice a year to run a clinic, audiology and sometimes surgical service. The data is derived from these visits provides information about clinic attendance, the presence of middle ear pathology, the hearing status and if any children had surgery. ***The best way to source this information is*** to talk to the audiologist who regularly visits the community.

Australian Hearing – Amplification and Rehabilitation Data. Australian Hearing is the agency responsible for providing hearing amplification and rehabilitation services to children, young adults and eligible older adults with permanent or persistent hearing loss. Information such as the number of kids who are aided at the school can be provided. ***The best way to source this information*** is to talk to the Australian Hearing audiologist who regularly visits the community. More information can be found here: <https://www.hearing.com.au/>.

An example of a *School and Hearing Health Report* is provided on the following page.

**When presenting to the school, it is important to highlight that this information is not prevalence data, but rather data on those children who attended ear and hearing checks, ENT and/or Australian Hearing clinics.*

An Example of an Ear and Hearing Health Report

School: School X
 Community: Community X
 Year: 201X

School
 Logo

1. Primary Health – Ear and Hearing Check Data	Check 01	Check 02	Total
# of children checked			
# of children not checked (eg: away at time of testing)			
# of children who did not pass the check	xx%	xx%	xx%

An ear and hearing check is not a diagnostic assessment but rather it gives a rough guide as to the ear health and hearing status of that child. This data gives us an idea of the number of children from the school who have not passed an initial (or review) ear and hearing check.

2. ENT Clinic and Audiology Data	Visit 01	Visit 02	Total
# of children assessed			
# children with diagnosed middle ear disease			
# children with a CHL (in one or both ears)			
# children who had (or referred for) surgery			

** The audiologist can provide the Learning Support teacher a copy of the consented individual hearing assessments*

An ear health diagnosis (and sometimes a diagnostic hearing assessment) is done during these appointments. The data provides information about clinic attendance, the presence of middle ear pathology, the hearing status and if any children had surgery.

3. Australian Hearing – Hearing and Amplification Data	Visit 01	Visit 02	Total
# of children assessed			
# of children aided in the school (AC or BC Hearing Aid)			
# of children with a sensorineural (permanent) hearing loss			
# of children with a sensorineural (permanent) hearing loss			

** The Australian Hearing audiologist should provide the Learning Support teacher a copy of the individual hearing assessments*

A diagnostic hearing assessment and possible a hearing aid fitting is done during these appointments. The data provides information on the ear health and hearing status as well as the number of children who are aided in your school. This information is very important for teachers