

Key messages of the HAPEE Program

- Serious ear and hearing troubles affect one in three Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander kids.
- Kids with infected ears often don't show any signs of trouble.
- Poor hearing can make it hard for kids and bubs to listen, learn and talk to others.
- Getting kids and bubs checked early and regularly is key to preventing hearing loss
- It's never too early to get your kids and bub's hearing checked.
- The HAPEE program offers free* hearing checks to kids and bubs aged 0-6 and ongoing support and advice for parents to help prevent the long-term effects of ear and hearing troubles in young Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander children.

The HAPEE program aims to:

- reduce the long-term effects of ear disease through early diagnostic, rehabilitative and specialist referral services; and
- increase primary health services' capacity to identify, manage and monitor ear health.

HAPEE engages with primary care clinics, early education providers, communities and families with children to:

- provide diagnostic hearing assessment and follow-up treatment;
- strengthen management of ear health in primary care; and
- increase community awareness about the importance of ear and hearing health.

HAPEE's Aboriginal Community Engagement Officers:

- work collaboratively with Aboriginal community-controlled health services, primary health clinics, early educators and other key stakeholders to deliver the HAPEE program;
- support local services to develop hearing assessment clinics in partnership with Hearing Australia; and
- undertake activities to raise community awareness of the importance of ear and hearing health.

