Paediatric Hearing Aid Fitting

Changes to Policy for Otological Clearance

From 12th August 2013 there will be a change to Australian Hearing’s protocols regarding otological clearance for initial hearing aid fitting.

This policy is the result of collaboration between Australian Hearing and representatives from ASOHNS (Australian Society of Otolaryngology Head and Neck Surgery), to ensure early access to sound for the newly diagnosed children and appropriate diagnosis, counselling, further investigations and medical management where indicated.

Outcome:

Medical clearance **is not required** prior to fitting

IF the audiology test battery results indicate an intact ear drum.

BUT the child must have an appointment with an ENT specialist within 3 months of fitting - to seek medical diagnosis of the hearing loss, counselling about the hearing loss, ongoing supervision of any changes in hearing and to exclude medical contraindications to use of amplification.

Where access to an ENT is not possible, a consultation with a Paediatrician can be considered.

Medical clearance **MUST be obtained prior to** fitting for children

IF there is a perforated ear drum or active ear infection, AND they are being considered for AIR CONDUCTION aids that will use an occluding ear mould.

Conclusion: ENT clearance should be obtained within 3 months of hearing aid fitting, allowing early access to sound for the child but also ensuring diagnosis, counselling, further investigations and medical management where indicated.