

# Did you know that serious ear and hearing troubles affect 1 in 3 Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander kids\*?

Poor hearing can make it hard for kids and bubs. They need good hearing to listen, yarn, play, and to do well at school and get jobs when they grow up. Good hearing helps kids feel connected to family, friends, community and culture.

These troubles can start at any time, even soon after bubs are born. Often, bubs with infected ears don't show any signs of trouble. But if they don't get help, ear infections can stop them from hearing properly.

## It's never too early to get your bub's hearing checked.



Help your bub's future today.

-  Call **134 432** for a free\* hearing check or
-  [HAPEE@hearing.com.au](mailto:HAPEE@hearing.com.au)
-  Visit [hearing.com.au/HAPEE](https://hearing.com.au/HAPEE)

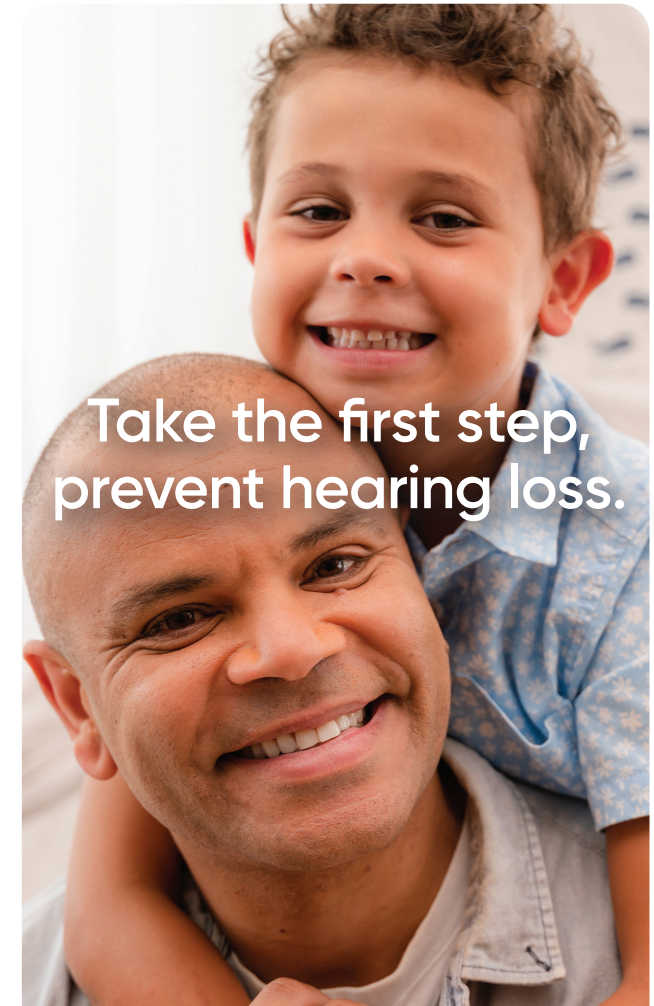
\* The Hearing Assessment Program is an initiative of the Commonwealth Department of Health. Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander children aged 0-6 or not yet attending full time school are eligible to be seen. All services provided under this program are free of charge. A hearing check includes a number of age appropriate tests of hearing and middle ear function.

+ Health, A.G.D. of (2019). Roadmap for Hearing Health - Hearing Health Sector Committee. [online] [www1.health.gov.au](http://www1.health.gov.au) [Accessed Sep. 2020].

 **Hearing Australia**

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Take the first step,  
prevent hearing loss.

**HAPEE Ears For Early Years**

Hearing Assessment Program - Early Ears

# How are your kids' ears and hearing checked?

- 1 **A health worker, nurse or GP will ask you some questions about bub's general health and their ears.**

For example, they might ask if bub has had any ear, nose or throat infections. It's important for you to be with bub for these tests because you know their health and hearing story from the time they were born.

- 2 **They will ask some questions to find out how your bub hears things at home and how well they can yarn.**

This helps them to know if you have noticed any problems you are worried about. They will also check bub's overall development and wellbeing.

- 3 **They will look at bub's ears to check for ear wax and any other problems. To do this, they shine a beam of light into bub's ear.**

This is a very simple test that will show how healthy bub's ears are. The health worker, GP or hearing specialist will also test to see how well different parts of bub's ears move and work.

- 4 **The hearing test.**

The type of test will depend on bub's age but may include playing games.

- 5 **What happens after the test?**

If bub has any ear disease or hearing trouble, they will be provided with further treatment and support and the health worker can arrange for bubs to be seen by HAPEE audiologist.

A Hearing Australia Audiologist will return to your area to regularly check on bub and their ear health.



Often bubs may not show any signs or symptoms of hearing trouble so it's important to get their ears checked early and regularly and to take good care of their ear health.

**What to do if you have concerns for bubs hearing health:**

- Organise a hearing check
- Talk to an Aboriginal health worker, GP or health clinic
- Talk to a teacher or staff member at your local childcare or preschool

**Ways you can look after bubs ear and hearing health at home:**

- Teach bub to blow their nose
- Teach bub to wash their hands regularly
- Ask smokers to stay away from children
- Make sure bub eats healthy food
- Speak to bub a lot
- Sing songs and rhymes with bub often

**What to do if your bub can't hear well:**

- Tell family, friends, community and teachers to speak clearly and loudly at home and school
- Make sure bub can see your lips and face when you talk
- Make sure other family members know about bub's ear issues

The HAPEE program can help you understand how your bub is doing and give you free advice and follow-up care to help you give your bub the best start in life.