

# Recycling Hearing Aids

Lions Hearing Aid Recycling enables Lions to provide affordable hearing aids for hard-of-hearing individuals who have limited financial resources.

Hearing impairment and deafness are serious disabilities that can impose heavy social and economic burdens on individuals, families, communities and countries.

If you have any used hearing aids you no longer need, you can donate them now, or your club can arrange to collect them from local Audiology centers.

Recycled hearing aids are distributed to the Pacific Islands.

Please send to MEND  
Attention: Rob Buchanan  
PO Box 94 Kerikeri 0230



## Hearing Aid Recycling

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# Hearing Dogs



Hearing Dogs NZ enhance the independence and wellbeing of deaf and severely hearing-impaired New Zealanders, through the provision of specially trained Hearing Dogs to internationally recognized standards.

Hearing Dogs provide valuable services to deaf and hearing-impaired people in much the same way as guide dogs for blind people.

In 1998, Hearing Dogs for Deaf People NZ was formally established and incorporated as a charitable trust. Previously, no organisation for training and placing these dogs existed in New Zealand.

Hearing Dogs have the same access rights as Guide Dogs for the blind – they are allowed into all public places, including food premises.

### DONATE TODAY AND MAKE A DIFFERENCE

Hearing Dogs NZ is an independent charitable trust that assesses, selects, trains and places specially trained Hearing Dogs to internationally recognized standards with deaf and severely hearing-impaired New Zealanders.

They receive no government funding and make no charge to the deaf person receiving the dog, but seek support from individuals, groups and organizations to help train and place these wonderful, portable 'hearing aids'!

For more information on how your Club can help go to [www.hearingdogs.org.nz](http://www.hearingdogs.org.nz)



# Safe Sound Indicator

The Safe Sound Indicator is a traffic light learning tool. Indicating noise levels, it alerts children to the dangers of noise induced hearing loss.



The Safe Sound Indicator gives visual feedback to children and teachers, enabling children to identify and manage high noise exposure. It also encourages them to think about their hearing and protect their ears for the future.

The SSI was designed to prevent noise induced hearing loss in children and teachers. You see the green light when classroom noise is at safe level, amber to warn that its too loud, and red for when the noise is at a harmful level.

These systems actually help all children hear the teacher! It will be no surprise to learn that the noise levels in pre schools and primary schools can actually damage your ears.

### What can lions do locally to help get Safe Sound Indicators into schools?

Help raise funds for Safe Sound Indicators (SSI) for Pre Schools, Kindergartens and primary schools.  
Approx. \$300 order from NFD  
E: [enquires@NFD.org.nz](mailto:enquires@NFD.org.nz)



# Communication Tips

A conversation with a Deaf person is just the same as having a conversation with a hearing person. The key is to discover what techniques work best.

Deaf people use different communication tools and there are several ways you can communicate with Deaf people to effectively get a message across.

Deaf people communicate visually so gesturing, facial expression and body language is very important.

Here are some tips that will help you communicate easily with Deaf people:

Face the Deaf person and get their attention before speaking. Remember to maintain eye contact. Don't turn away when watching them sign to you.

If you didn't understand what a person signed to you get them to sign it again. It's okay to check, clarify, tell them to slow down.

Keep lips and face clear of obstruction (e.g. hands, cups, large moustaches, etc.)

Deaf people ask for attention by waving, stamping, touching or tapping one another, or switching lights on and off.

In conversation, every contact is very important and people need sufficient personal space for arm movements.

Deaf people can't interrupt conversations the way hearing people can. They need to see what is being said, so they can only pay attention to one person at a time.

Deaf people wait for the person who is signing stops before the next person signs.

Dim light makes it hard to see facial expressions and sign language. Make sure the light is in front of you – try not to stand in front of a window.

Avoid background noise when communicating with someone with a hearing aid.

# Communication Tips

Speak clearly and a little more slowly and rephrase rather than repeat.

Use simple gestures, write information down and point or indicate subjects or objects.

Learn NZSL!

There are culturally polite ways to interrupt a signed conversation. For example:

Wait for a small pause before interrupting.

Wave or tap the shoulder lightly and then wait for the person to look.

If it is urgent, tap harder.

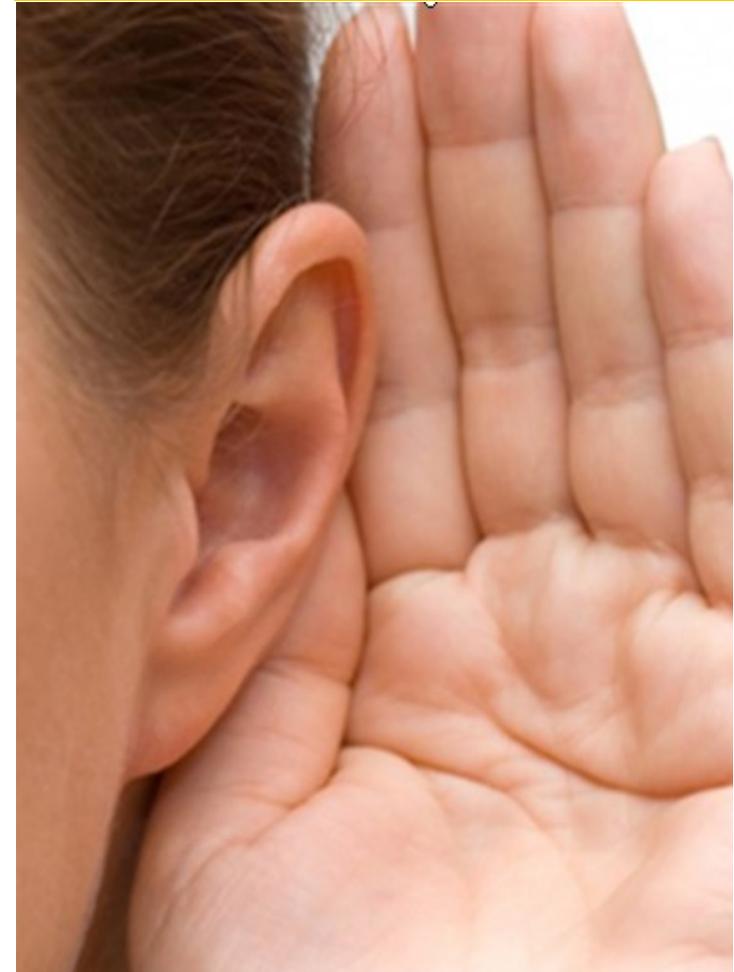
Before breaking off a conversation, tell the person you are talking with to 'hold', or point to the interruption so they can see why you will look away.

Deaf people get annoyed when they are signing and the other person looks away breaking eye gaze. That is not a polite way to handle an interruption.

When two people are signing, it is alright to walk quickly between them. It is not necessary to bend down.



# HEARING PRESERVATION



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