

# Navigating Hearing Aid options: WHAT YOU NEED TO KNOW

## Overview

Choosing the right hearing aid involves more than just picking a device — it's about finding the best fit for your lifestyle, hearing needs, and budget. As a national charity supporting Deaf and Hard of Hearing communities, NFDHH offers practical advice and access to funding that can help make hearing aids more affordable.

## 1. Where to start

Before purchasing a hearing aid, the first step is to have a hearing assessment with a qualified audiologist. This will determine the level and type of hearing loss you may be experiencing. Let us know what you would like to learn and we can create a workshop specifically for your team.

### COMMON CATEGORIES INCLUDE:

- **Mild** – Trouble hearing in noisy environments or soft speech
- **Moderate** – Difficulty with everyday conversation
- **Severe** – Struggles to hear speech without support
- **Profound** – Minimal ability to hear, even in quiet settings

The type and severity of hearing loss will inform the style and technology recommended.



## 2. Hearing Aid types

Hearing aids come in a range of designs and technologies. Some sit discreetly in the ear canal; others rest behind the ear and offer more powerful amplification.

Considerations include:

- Ease of use and comfort
- Rechargeable vs. battery-operated
- Connectivity with phones and other devices
- Background noise filtering

An audiologist will help match your hearing needs to the most appropriate solution.

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## 3. Funding support

### MINISTRY OF HEALTH HEARING AID SUBSIDY

The New Zealand Government provides a hearing aid subsidy for citizens and permanent residents aged 16 and over. This can assist with the cost of hearing aids but does not usually cover assessments, fittings, or maintenance.

### NFDHH HEARING AID GRANT

NFDHH offers a limited grant scheme for individuals who may need additional financial assistance. This grant is available to eligible applicants and can help reduce the out-of-pocket cost of hearing aids.

Visit our Hearing Aid Grant page at [www.nfdhh.org.nz/hearing-aid-fund](http://www.nfdhh.org.nz/hearing-aid-fund) for more information and to apply.

## 4. Things to keep in mind

- The most expensive hearing aid isn't always the best choice — it's about what works for you.
- Hearing loss can affect confidence, communication, and participation in everyday life. Don't delay seeking support.
- Our team is here to guide you through both the practical and financial steps of accessing hearing care.

