

Hi

I wish to make comment regarding deafness. My hearing is classed as moderate to severe. At it's best I can use a telephone with the volume on high.

I have difficulty with conversation and with lip reading may get about 30 percent. This is extremely frustrating. Mainly as people will always be annoyed if you continually ask them to repeat. The amount of information I have missed out on is huge. This is a generalisation but hearing people will always think lowly of deaf people even though we are exactly the same as hearing with ear plugs.

I was serviced by NAL (Australia Hearing) until 21 but have struggled with aids since then due to cost. My current aid (could only afford one due to cost) is very average, 8 years old and been repaired twice. 4 years ago I sampled some new top quality aids and couldn't believe how great they were. Wow. Unfortunately I may never afford them and so will have to settle for a lower quality of life.

I am now 38 with a family and my five children sometimes get annoyed with repeating themselves to me. It would be awesome to have funding for decent hearing aids. More confidence, more people working, more benefits for everyone.

Kind regards

Daniel Ashley