

I am writing as I have just heard we can submit our comments and concerns for deaf & hearing impaired people. My son Adam is 15 and was born with severe hearing loss - he has worn hearing aids since he was diagnosed at 2. His hearing has deteriorated over time and he is going to have a cochlear implant in his right ear in the next couple of months. What is really worrying me is that when he turns 21 he will be facing all the costs of updating his hearing aid for left ear and costs of implant parts, repairs, etc for all his hearing needs. We have worked incredibly hard to ensure Adam keeps up at school and receives a decent level of education. The outcomes for deaf/hearing impaired children in Australia are very poor. This to me is heart breaking, but I know how hard it is for deaf/ hi children in our classrooms and schools. We are hoping Adam will get an apprenticeship and do well.

I find it shocking that not only does my son have to work twice as hard to pass at school because of his impaired hearing, but as soon as he turns 21 he will face major costs to simply have the most basic of all our senses. Without his hearing aid/cochlear he would be simply unable to function normally in society.

It is so completely expected that all Australians have access to visual aids when needed - imagine our world without the basic pair of glasses being available to all. Hearing is no different, and I cannot accept that our Medicare system does not provide for hearing in the same way as it does for vision. The only way Adam would have constant support for his hearing loss is if he stays on a pension. That is appalling - I want my son to be a successful young man working and loving his life and job, paying taxes and contributing to society.

Please do something to change this unjust burden on young people who have enough to overcome in their lives and deserve better.

Thank you,  
Jessica Kingston