

Dear Community Affairs Senate,

I have been deaf for over 30 years. I am now 61 years old. My greatest frustration is lack of hearing access to public buildings, transport, entertainment and education. There is a serious lack of access in any area where oral communication is used.

The technology is available - CAPTIONS AND AUDIO LOOPS to allow access for deaf and hearing impaired people BUT IT IS RARELY PROVIDED AND NOT LEGALLY ENFORCED.

The cost of hearing aids and maintaining them with batteries and repairs is also a great concern to most deaf and hearing impaired people.

The Government should either continue to provide hearing aids for children over 21 years of age or have a means test similar to assistance with dental and eye glasses.

Yours sincerely,  
Judith Raxworthy