

I am a mature aged man with deteriorating hearing and consequent increasing frustrations. It seems to be almost impossible to get normal-hearing people to:

- Face me when they speak to me
- Speak slowly
- Speak clearly

These relate to education of the speaker and probably can only be achieved through enunciation training as children, especially at schools.

I am also pension dependant and it is really galling to have to pay thousands of dollars to upgrade the free hearing aids to maximise my hearing options, only to find that within a year or two, the upgrades are being provided free to pensioners.

I am a member of Better Hearing Australia, a self-help, not-for-profit, volunteer organisation which provides considerable help and training to the hearing impaired but we receive not one cent of funding from Governments. With a little more money, we could do much greater work for the hearing impaired.

I also ask that people born deaf are no longer abandoned by the Government after they turn 21. Many, If not all, such people find the transition from assisted to not assisted to be devastating. I suggest that they be offered the same concessions as pensioners.

Thank you for providing this forum.

Bruce Nelson