

Dear Colleagues

We would like to provide an update on Paediatric Audiology and Audiometry services in the Illawarra and Shoalhaven regions. We continue to experience high demand. All hearing appointments now require a referral. **Please ensure families call to book an appointment.** Please include all relevant information on the referral.

To refer children living in these local government areas (LGAs):

### Wollongong and Shellharbour

- Contact Kids Cottage Warilla, Ph: 4297 1022 to make an appointment for the Warilla or Kiama service
- Forward your referral via email or fax:
  - [ISLHD-KidsCottage@health.nsw.gov.au](mailto:ISLHD-KidsCottage@health.nsw.gov.au)
  - Fax: 4297 8490
- Please ensure families call to book an appointment
- *Note:* this service is for children 0-8 years.
- *Children aged 9-18 years* are serviced by Port Kembla Hospital Audiology – the position is vacant and being recruited to. Urgent referrals can be triaged by Kids Cottage Audiology.

### Nowra

- Contact Nowra Family Care Centre, Ph: 4424 6460 for an appointment.
- Please note: Appointments are seen at Nowra Community Health Centre
- Forward your referral via email or fax:
  - [ISLHD-NOW-FamilyCareCentreAdmin@health.nsw.gov.au](mailto:ISLHD-NOW-FamilyCareCentreAdmin@health.nsw.gov.au)
  - F: 4424 6470
- Please ensure families call to book an appointment

### When should I refer a child?

**Only refer children when there are hearing and/or ear health concerns.**

- Children do not need a hearing assessment before referral to Speech Pathology or before they start school.
- Free hearing check of children over 4 years 6 months with [Sound Scouts App](https://www.soundscouts.com/) (<https://www.soundscouts.com/>) to identify if further assessment is required.

If there is a permanent hearing loss, rehabilitative services are free of charge under Office of Hearing Services (contact Hearing Australia).

### Who can refer a child to our service?

Appointments now require a referral from: GP / Medical Specialist; Allied Health Clinician; Early Childhood Nurse; or a parent with a failed Sound Scout result.

## Priority referrals

To manage the high demand for these services, referrals are being triaged. Please include all relevant history on the referral. The following groups are given priority for appointment slots:

- Children with Aboriginal / Torres Strait Islander background
- Children identified at risk on SWISH Newborn Hearing Screening
- Children with developmental concerns/medical issues which increase the risk of hearing loss
- Children in Out of Home Care with ear health or hearing concerns
- Children with a family history of permanent hearing loss

For further information, please contact Kids Cottage Warilla, Ph: 4297 1022.

Yours sincerely



Kathryn Owens  
**Paediatric Audiologist**



Ruth Evans  
**Allied Health Team Leader**

Date: 24/6/21