

Hearing Aid Funding from the Equipment and Modification Services Budget - Priority for Access June 2010

The form, *Priority for Access to Hearing Aid Funding*, should be completed and sent with all applications for all hearing aids – those where the full wholesale price may be funded through the Equipment and Modification Services budget. At present this form does not need to be used for applications for the hearing aid subsidy, however if the demand for the subsidy exceeds the available funding we may have to prioritise access to the subsidy as well.

The form is based on the existing prioritisation form for cochlear implants, and has been developed in conjunction with representatives of the New Zealand Audiological Society.

This form covers both types of applications for funding of the wholesale price of the hearing aid – those for people who have complex needs, and those for people with Community Services Cards who need hearing aids to support them in their work, education or care of dependents.

All relevant questions must be answered – note that for people with complex needs (such as childhood hearing loss) it is not a prerequisite that they should be employed, for example, but this information is sought to aid in prioritisation.

All applications for funding will continue to be prioritised, and cut-off points for immediate or waitlisted funding may change from time to time depending on the number of applications received and demand on the overall budget.

Accessible and Enable New Zealand are working to develop this form into an electronic format so that it can be sent along with the application form. We do not intend that use of the *Priority for Access to Hearing Aid Funding* form will replace the application form – it supports the application by providing information to Accessible and Enable New Zealand if applications need to be prioritised according to the specific needs and situation of individuals. Accessible and Enable New Zealand are currently refining their application forms and plan for the final versions of these to be introduced by 1 July 2010.

Any queries in the introductory phase can be sent to Anne Greville at:

greville@ihug.co.nz or 0800 87 11 00

- or contact a Professional Advisor at either Enable New Zealand or Accessible.

Many thanks for your support for this new tool.

Sue Primrose

ESS Development Manager
Disability Support Services