

personal microphone system and soundfield system in the classroom in order to hear her teacher. My daughter has needed to attend a specialist school with Teachers of the Deaf for her whole schooling. She cannot understand tv or movies, or hear people on the telephone.

If you just looked at her average hearing level in her better ear, you would not get a true reflection of the amount of assistance needs in order to listen, hear and communicate.

Any child who has a hearing loss significant enough to require a hearing aid or cochlear implant in at least one ear, will need additional support throughout their whole life in order to fully access sound.

The adequacy of funding for hearing services under the NDIS

My daughter is going to be reliant upon her hearing aid and cochlear implant for the rest of her life. I expect the NDIS to support her in supplying the most suitable devices. Cochlear implants and hearing aids needs to be provided free of charge. They need to be upgraded every 3 years, to ensure that she can hear to the best of her ability. The base model very rarely provides adequate functions and accessibility to sound. Repairs, replacements and batteries also need to be provided. Additional supports, such as waterproof accessories, shake-awake alarm clocks, smoke detectors, etc, should also be provided, to enable her to be fully independent.

If NDIS does not provide these essential services, will likely end up in a similar situation to many deaf adults now – she will be forced to stop using hearing aids/cochlear implants because she simply will not be able to afford the upkeep of them. This will greatly restrict her inclusion in the workforce and ability to be a fully functioning and contributing community member.

I fully expect the NDIS to support throughout her life, so that she can continue to wear her hearing aid and cochlear implant. They are essential to her daily life and ability to communicate.

I am hopeful that NDIS will recognize that all children who require assistive hearing devices, whether hearing aids or cochlear implants, have a permanent disability requiring ongoing involvement with the NDIS.