

Regional Services

Ear and Hearing Health Education and Resources



Outreach Programs

Background

Rural Health West is the jurisdictional Fundholder for the Rural Health Outreach Services programmes. Administered on behalf of the Australian Government Department of Health (AGDoH), Rural Health West supports ear and hearing outreach services across Western Australia (WA) through the following Indigenous Australians' Health Programmes (IAHP):

- Healthy Ears – Better Hearing, Better Listening (HEBHBL)
- Medical Outreach Indigenous Chronic Disease Program (MOICDP)
- Eye and Ear Surgical Support (EESS)
- Follow up Ear and Hearing Health Services (FEHHS)

The aim of each of the Outreach service delivery programs is to increase access to effective high quality, comprehensive, culturally appropriate, primary health care services for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples across WA. The Outreach programs also support visiting health professionals to provide upskilling activities to local workforce.

Outreach – upskilling support

Upskilling supports building a sustainable health workforce in regional, rural and remote locations and improves health outcomes in those communities.

Where possible and appropriate, Outreach health professionals are encouraged to provide educational and upskilling activities, of either a theoretical or clinical nature, to local medical and health professionals and, where appropriate, other members of the public (such as carers and teachers). Arrangements for formal upskilling activities must be developed in consultation with local health professionals and aim to complement existing training arrangements within the area.

Funding may be provided for supported procedural and non-procedural upskilling. The cost of the venue/facility/room hire can also be covered. Outreach programs will not cover the cost of allocation of points for Continuing Professional Development.

In addition, non-salaried private health professionals may claim an hourly rate, which is consistent with the applicable fee-for-service rates for the time required to present the agreed upskilling activity.

Please contact the Regional Services team to discuss upskilling support further:

E outreach@ruralhealthwest.com.au

T 08 6389 4500

Rural Health West – Continuing Professional Development

Ear and Hearing Health Forums

- Facilitated in partnership with the Aboriginal Health Council of Western Australia (AHCWA) and WA Child Ear Health Strategy, Rural Health West has hosted one-day Forums with a focus on different ear health topics such as telehealth, clinical guidelines and general practice education.

Please contact the Regional Services team to register your interest in attending future ear and hearing health education events:

E outreach@ruralhealthwest.com.au

T 08 6389 4500

Rural Health West – Health Workforce Scholarship Program

The Health Workforce Scholarship Program (HWSP) is an initiative of the Australian Government Department of Health, administered in Western Australia by Rural Health West. The HWSP provides scholarships and bursaries to help health professionals in rural and remote Australia retain and enhance their skills, capacity and scope of practice. Eligible applicants include those providing primary health care services in Aboriginal Community Controlled Health Services (ACCHS), private or non-government health sector. The HWSP is available to health professionals located in, or providing services to, areas categorised as Modified Monash Model (MMM) 3-7 locations.

Please note: Health professionals providing primary health care services in an ACCHS can be located within an MMM 1-7 location.

For further information please [click here](#) to visit the Rural Health West HWSP webpage or contact the Rural Health West team at hwsp@ruralhealthwest.com.au.

External ear health education and resources

| Organisation | Upskilling opportunity/ resource | Delivery method | Audience | Information |
|---|--|---|---|---|
| AHCWA | Ear health training Capacity building | Face to face and/or online | Aboriginal health workers/Aboriginal health practitioners Other health professionals providing ear health care | The ear and hearing training encompasses the following units of competency set out by the Australian Government training.gov.au criteria: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • HLTAHW025: Provide information and strategies in hearing and ear health • HLTAUD002: Assess and respond to occupational noise risk • HLTAUD003: Conduct play audiometry Contact Lorraine Taiu – AHCWA Ear Health Coordinator: Lorraine.taiu@ahcwa.org |
| | <u>Simon Says – health promotion resource</u> | Digital resource Booklets also available | Health professionals Community members | In this educational and interactive resource, Simon explains how to look after the ears and keep healthy, while waiting for specialist appointments and surgical interventions. Contact Lorraine Taiu – AHCWA Ear Health Coordinator: Lorraine.taiu@ahcwa.org |
| AHCWA and South West Aboriginal Medical Service | <u>Your Journey in Ear Health</u> Health promotion videos and booklets | Online | Health professionals Community members | This series of new booklets and videos were produced to help communities better understand and prevent ear disease and related ear health issues. |

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| TAFE NSW | EarTrain | Face to Face Online Additional support provided through Hearing Australia | Free for health care professionals who care for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples. | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • EarTrain is a series of online training modules and face-to-face workshops on how to identify, manage and treat ear disease and hearing loss. • The program is delivered across Australia by TAFE NSW and is funded by the Australian Government. • TAFE NSW also offers the national accredited unit HLTAUD002 Conduct Play Audiometry to eligible participants at no additional cost. <p>Contact the EarTrain team via eartrain@tafensw.edu.au or call on 02 9715 8584</p> |
| Hearing Australia | Hearing Assessment Program Early Ears (HAPEE) | Face to face Online by arrangement | Health care professionals who care for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • HAPEE audiologists provide upskilling and ongoing support to primary health care professionals to enable them to undertake initial ear health checks to identify young Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander children who require a diagnostic hearing assessment or treatment. HAPEE collaborates with health services to provide at-elbow clinical support for in-house training. • HAPEE audiologists and community engagement officers can support and mentor local health professionals through the TAFE NSW EarTrain program. • HAPEE teams will also support staff in undertaking training in the following screening tools: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ PLUM (Parent-evaluated Listening and Understanding Measure) and HATS (Hearing and Talking Scale) and Sound Scouts. <p>Contact Kathleen Stoop – Clinical Manager Hearing Australia, kathleen.stoop@hearing.com.au</p> |

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| Hearing Australia – National Acoustic Laboratories | PLUM and HATS | Online checklist Fact sheets | Health care professionals and educators who care for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> The PLUM and HATS are simple screening tools. The screening tools assist health and early childhood workers communicating with families and careers to find out how their child's listening and yawning skills are growing. |
| Sound Scouts and National Acoustic Laboratories | Sound Scouts screening tool App | Online application | Health care professionals and educators who care for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Online hearing test app that delivers an immediate report, including next steps if a hearing loss is detected. Sound Scouts is free for Australian school children Call 1300 424 122 for assistance. |
| Centre of Research Excellence in Ear and Hearing Health of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Children (CRE_ICHEAR) | <u>2020 Otitis Media Guidelines and App</u> | Online Handbook OMApp | Health care professionals and educators who care for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> The 2020 Otitis Media Guidelines for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander children have been prepared by a group of experts in the field of ear and hearing health and bring up-to-date the Australian Government Department of Health and Ageing <i>2010 Recommendations for Clinical Care Guidelines on the Management of Otitis Media in Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Populations</i>. They have been created following the Grading of Recommendations, Assessment, Development and Evaluation (GRADE) approach. |
| The Benchmark Group | <u>Various modules for ear health assessment and management</u> | Online | Nurses and health professionals in ear health assessment and management | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <u>Hearing and Ear Health Foundations for Healthcare Professionals</u> - online |
| Australian Government Department of Health | <u>Care for Kids' Ears</u> | Brochures Books Promotional resources | Health care professionals and educators who care for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples Community members | <p>The Care for Kids' Ears health promotion resources can help to explain:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> how to keep ears healthy; how to recognise ear disease; what to do if children have sore ears; and the importance of having regular ear checks. |

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| Edith Cowan University | <u>Australian Indigenous Health/InfoNet</u> | Online | Health care professionals and educators who care for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Information about policies and strategies, resources, publications, programs, projects and organisations that address Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander ear health. This section of the Health/InfoNet includes information about hearing loss, ear infection (Otitis Media), and the ear health of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander children at school, home and in the community. |