

- **Assistive Listening Devices (ALD)**
Individual.

In the home loud or excessive television sound may be source of friction, not from the hearing impaired but from their families.

Home Solutions:

- The simplest choice would be use headphones; the problem being that plugging in the headphones will cut the speaker. With modern televisions you should find a menu control, often on the remote control. One of the menu items will be sound. While not all televisions are the same, you may find a headphone control that switches the speaker on/off. In some cases a neck loop may be connected allowing a hearing aid telecoil to be used.
- Loop amplifier. Connect an inductive loop amplifier to the television, install a wire loop around the room, or place a loop cushion in the comfy chair, provided the hearing aids have a T Coil you will have sound. The loop amplifier will require the same audio connections as a wireless headset.
- Wireless/IR headset. Wireless (radio) most popular, has a longer range, IR (Infra Red) is line-of-site, even turning away from the transmitter will cause loss of the signal. Sunlight may cause noise interference.
- To have a successful wireless installation you need a direct audio connection from the TV to the transmitter. On the rear of a TV you will find a wide range of connectors, typically used to connect Sky TV or video players. The sockets and plugs are called RCA connectors and are colour coded red, black, and yellow. To need to find a black and red audio out pair. If there is not an audio out pair then you need to find the optical audio out. Connect the black box to the fibre optic output and then connect RCA connectors.
- Bluetooth. This is a short-range digital transmitter /receiver More and more hearing aids are Bluetooth enabled, this allows the aid to communicate with a digital streamer or transmitter.
- Bluetooth transmitters are easily connected to the fibre optic audio on the television. If your hearing does not have Bluetooth, then you can still stream to Bluetooth headphones or even Bluetooth loudspeakers.
- Portable amplifiers. Small battery powered personal amplifiers like Bellman Maxi have a direct connection cord to headphone sockets.

Assistive Listening Devices (ALD)

Groups, entertainment.

With larger areas such as theatres, cinemas and churches there may be a requirement to comply with the NZ Building Act 2004 clause G interior environment. This requires that new and renovated buildings have an assistive listening system installed:

- Public buildings with space for at least 250 people.
- All theatres cinemas, and public halls.
- Assembly spaces in aged homes occupied by 20+ people.

The standard response in these buildings is for an inductive loop to be installed. This is often the case with Church's, meeting halls, etc.,

Possible actions:

- Install a loop in a section of the area.
- Loan inductive receivers and headphones.
- Consider improving the interior sound with speakers.

Other.

- If you do opt for inductive loops then you will need to connect the inductive loop amplifier to the audio system.
- An inductive loop assumes that those who need hearing assistance will use a hearing aid, and that the hearing aid has a T coil. A problem is that not all hearing impaired people have hearing aids.
- Inductive loop receivers and headsets are available.

Alarm systems.

Specialised alarm systems are available for the hearing impaired and for the Deaf. They are expensive, need to be correctly installed and instruction needs to be given in their operation and use. For more information you need to contact LIFE HTS services.

There are simpler systems available,

- Telephone ringers
- Doorbells with wireless remote ringers
- Alarm clocks

Telecoil

T or telecoil. A telecoil is an electrical coil that is switched to temporarily replace the microphone in a hearing aid. The coil detects the electrical sound field created by an inductive sound source; this sound source is then amplified and processed by the hearing aid.

- By switching out the microphone only sound from the inductive source is heard. So background noise is totally reduced.
- An inductive loop system is often found in cinemas, theatres, and meeting places.
- A telecoil fitted telephone is in effect an inductive sound source.

Telephone program. Hearing aids are programmed with a specific program for use with a telephone. This may not be a telecoil but the amplification of the telephone sound may be tailored to a specific hearing loss. The program may not work with an inductive loop.

If you are a Hearing Aid user then you need to discuss telecoil/telephone program with an audiologist.