

## Hear to Learn – School Hearing Screening Program: FAQs

### Before your screening day

#### **How do the consent forms work?**

Once your screening day is confirmed, your school will receive a letter to distribute to families by email or hard copy. This explains the screening process and includes a link and QR code for an online consent form. All students must have a completed consent form from a parent/guardian for their screening to take place. The form is very user-friendly and only takes a few minutes to fill out. Schools can request an updated list of families yet to complete the form at any time in the lead-up to your screening day.

#### **Which year levels can be screened?**

While the program is targeted at Prep and Primary school students, any older students you may have concerns about can also be screened. It is the school's decision as to which year levels and how many students are screened.

#### **Does the school need to provide copies of consent forms?**

Our screening team will have a copy of all consent forms received from parents and the school. However, if you have any late forms handed in, please give these to the screening team when they arrive onsite.

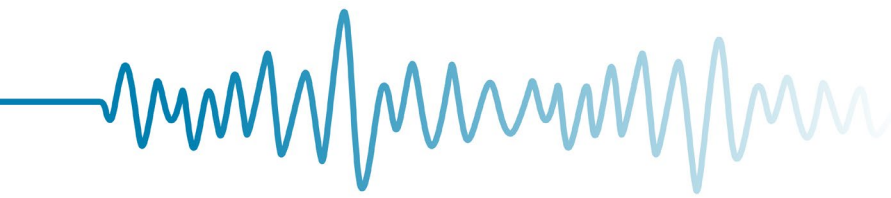
#### **What is your COVID-19 process?**

The health and wellbeing of our team and your students remains our number one priority. All members of our screening team are fully vaccinated against COVID-19 in line with the Queensland Government mandate for all people working or delivering a service at a school. They are able to show proof of vaccination through the Check In QLD app at each school.

In addition, all screening teams are committed to enhanced cleaning and hygiene practices with:

- hospital grade disinfectant wipes to clean all equipment between each student,
- hand sanitiser for use between each student,
- face mask and/or face shield for their use.

To protect the wellbeing of our team and the children at your school (and at all schools we conduct screening), our screening team will not conduct screening with any students who are unwell on your screening day.



## On your screening day

### **Who will be conducting the screening?**

Our Hear to Learn team members are specially trained, experienced paediatric hearing screeners who screen over 16,000 children each year. All Hear to Learn screeners hold a valid Working with Children check (blue card) and Disability Worker Screening (yellow card).

### **How long does screening take?**

On average, it takes around three to five minutes to screen each student. However, this can be longer or shorter depending on the child and their individual needs. As a guide, a team of two screeners can screen about 15 students in a 30-minute block, or 90 students during a normal school day.

### **Is there an order that children and/or classes are screened in?**

Our screening team is happy to fit around school timetables and any specialist classes as required.

### **Do we need to bring the whole class at once or one child at a time?**

Our experience is that groups of six to eight students brought to the screening room works well. Ideally, as the final two students are being screened, the teacher's aide can take the screened children back to class and bring the next group over. The screening process is much more efficient with a continuous flow of students.

### **What happens if there are children absent?**

If a student is absent on the day of screening, our screeners will keep the consent form as a record and a report will be generated stating that the student was away. If parents are concerned about their child's hearing, they can contact our Hear and Say office to book in for a comprehensive hearing test (we have private and bulk-billing appointments available). If there are no concerns, the student can be screened on the school's next screening day (this may be the following year).

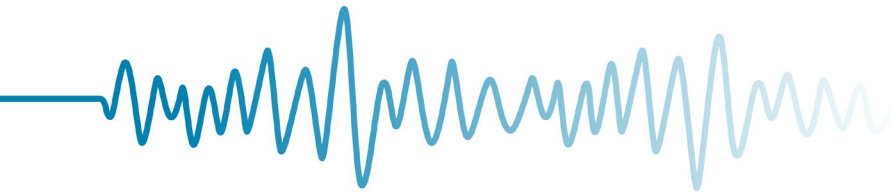
### **What do the Hear to Learn screeners need while onsite?**

Our screening team requires a large, quiet room (preferably with air-conditioning) with:

- a desk and two chairs for each screener (adult size desk and chair for screeners please),
- access to a power point outlet per screener,
- an area where students can wait nearby (silent reading or colouring are good activities to help keep students quiet while waiting for their screen), and
- a school staff member (e.g. teacher's aide) to be present at all times for supervision and co-ordination of students to and from classrooms.

A room similar to the one in the picture to the right works well.





## After your screening day

### **When will the school and parents receive the reports?**

Following the screening, an overall deidentified report for your school is prepared with an overview of all students screened, including the number of students who did not receive a 'pass' result and the reasons why. Where consent has been given by the parent/guardian, the school also receives a copy of each student's individual report. These reports are emailed to the school within seven business days of the screening day. Parents are emailed a copy of their child's individual report within seven business days of the screening day (if no email address is provided, the report will be emailed to the school for distribution or mailed to parents).

### **Is there any follow-up?**

If a student has received a 'refer' or 'high priority refer' result, it is very important to act on the recommendation to obtain further medical assessment as a child's hearing is very important to their social and academic development. Sometimes a screening result may cause a false alarm or miss an issue. Occasionally, a new issue may occur after your child has been screened.

Our screening team will contact parents by phone on the day of screening if their child receives a 'high priority refer' result to discuss next steps. If parents have questions about the report recommendations or need further information, they can contact us to speak to one of our screeners or audiology team.

Hear and Say offers the following services:

- Bulk billing clinic – basic diagnostic hearing assessment with a GP referral is offered at our Ashgrove, Sunshine Coast and Gold Coast centres (a small booking fee of \$20 will apply).
- Private full diagnostic hearing test with a paediatric audiologist. There will be a fee charged - a Medicare rebate is available with a GP referral.
- Private speech pathology for children experiencing speech and language development delays.
- Private occupational therapy

### **When is payment due?**

Within two weeks following your screening day, the school will be sent an invoice for payment. Please refer to your service agreement for the costs involved. It is the school's decision if they fund the screening or if they pass the full or partial cost onto families.