

Client Outcomes

Subject: Benefits of Hearing Rehabilitation

Dear Participant,

You were fitted with a hearing aid or hearing aids 3 or more months ago. At that time, you said you would be willing to take part in research to see how well hearing aids have helped you. The survey will take 5 to 10 minutes. You can either answer these on-line at LSD.NAL.gov.au or answer the questions on the attached sheet and post the answers to the researchers in the return-paid envelope.

The following points answer some questions that you may have.

- The National Acoustic Laboratories (NAL) is one of the world's leading research institutes on hearing loss. Their research helps people worldwide. NAL will publish the conclusions from this survey.
- NAL will not pass on your responses to your service provider.
- All results will be published anonymously.
- National Acoustic Laboratories Ethics Committee has approved this study. If you have any complaints or questions about the survey, please advise the Secretary to the committee:

Dr Tim Gainsford
Ph: (02) 9412 6862
Email: Tim.Gainsford@NAL.gov.au
NAL, 16 University Ave, Macquarie University. NSW 2109

The survey is voluntary and we value your responses. We want to find out how well your hearing aids have helped you.

Please be aware that there are no right or wrong answers to the survey. We want your ***frank, honest opinions***. The first answer that comes to your mind is probably the best.

Sincerely, and with thanks,

Study Team

Participant number: _____

(Provider please insert before mailing out)

QUESTIONNAIRE

Please select **ONE** answer that **BEST** reflects how you feel about each question. Please complete the questions on all three pages.

1. Think about how much you used your present hearing aid(s) over the past two weeks. ,
On an average day, how many hours did you use the hearing aid(s)?

None	Less than 1 hour per day	1-4 hours per day	4-8 hours per day	More than 8 hours per day
<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

2. Think about the situation where you most wanted to hear better, before you got your present hearing aid(s). Over the past two weeks, how much has the hearing aid helped in that situation?

Helped not at all	Helped slightly	Helped moderately	Helped quite a lot	Helped very much
<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

3. Think again about the situation where you most wanted to hear better. When you use your present hearing aid(s), how much difficulty do you **STILL** have in that situation?

Very much difficulty	Quite a lot of difficulty	Moderate Difficulty	Slight difficulty	No difficulty
<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

4. Considering everything, do you think your present hearing aid(s) is worth the trouble?

Not at all worth it	Slightly worth it	Moderately worth it	Quite a lot worth it	Very much worth it
<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

5. Over the past two weeks, with your present hearing aid(s), how much have your hearing difficulties affected the things you can do?

Affected very much	Affected quite a lot	Affected moderately	Affected slightly	Affected not at all
<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

6. Over the past two weeks, with your present hearing aid(s), how much do you think other people were bothered by your hearing difficulties?

**Bothered
very much**

**Bothered
quite a lot**

**Bothered
moderately**

**Bothered
slightly**

**Bothered
not at all**

7. Considering everything, how much has your present hearing aid(s) changed your enjoyment of life?

Worse

No change

Slightly better

**Quite a lot
better**

**Very much
better**

8. If you were fitted with two hearing aids, do you more often wear:

One hearing aid

Two hearing aids

**Not applicable, as I never wear
either hearing aid**

9. Think about the clinician who provided you with your hearing aids. How interested was he or she in helping you solve your individual problems related to your hearing?

**Not at all
interested**

**Slightly
interested**

**Moderately
interested**

**Quite
interested**

Very interested

10. When your hearing was assessed, who made the decisions about what should happen to you?

Me

**Mostly me, but
partly the
clinician**

**The clinician
and me
together**

**Mostly the
clinician but
partly me**

The clinician

11. When your hearing was assessed, who would you have **liked** to make the decisions about what should happen to you?

Me

**Mostly me, but
partly the
clinician**

**The clinician
and me
together**

**Mostly the
clinician but
partly me**

The clinician

12. Do you have any difficulty adjusting any control on your hearing aid(s)?

No difficulty **Some difficulty** **Lots of difficulty** **Not applicable (no controls)**

13. Do your hearing aids whistle when they are in your ear?

Never **Occasionally** **Frequently**

14. Do the hearing aids fit comfortably in your ear?

Very comfortable **Comfortable** **Uncomfortable** **Very uncomfortable**

15. Do the hearing aids make sounds uncomfortably loud?

Never **Occasionally** **Frequently**

16. How would you describe the sound quality when listening through your hearing aids?

Very good quality **Good quality** **Poor quality** **Very poor quality**

17. Does your own voice sound hollow or like it is echoing?

Never **Occasionally** **Frequently**

These next two questions may seem strange but are important as they will help us understand the impact of hearing loss and hearing aids on your life compared to other difficulties that people experience.

18. Imagine a hypothetical situation where you somehow knew that you have exactly 10 years left to live. Let's pretend that you were never fitted with hearing aids. How much of those 10 years of life would you be willing to give up in exchange for perfect hearing from today onwards?

..... years, or months, or days

19. Again imagine the same situation where you have exactly 10 years left to live. This time though, your clinician has helped you and provided you with the hearing aid(s) that you now have. How much of your 10 years of life would you now be willing to give up in exchange for perfect hearing (without any hearing aids) from today onwards?

..... years, or months, or days

If there is a person who you spend a lot of time with available to you now, please ask him or her to answer the following question:

20. How much difference have the hearing aid(s) made to having conversations, compared to not wearing hearing aids?

Hearing aids made it harder	No difference	Slightly easier with hearing aids	Moderately easier with hearing aids	Much easier with hearing aids
<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

21. If you live in Sydney, would you be willing to visit the National Acoustic Laboratory (at Macquarie University) for two and a half hours at a convenient time to have some additional tests measuring how much your hearing aids help you? You will be paid \$25 to help cover your travel costs. We would also ask you to fill in some more questionnaires at home.

Yes No

Thanks for your help. Please return the questionnaire in the envelope provided.