

Australian Hearing's FM Program 2005 FM systems & Policy

In 2005, Australian Hearing announced the introduction of their new FM range. As the result of a tender process conducted early in 2005, they are now able to provide families with a range of new products. They have also updated their FM policy on supply of new and replacement FM systems. This document aims to provide a summary of the Australian Hearing FM Policy for the information of parents and teachers.

	FULLY SUBSIDISED SYSTEMS	TOP UP SYSTEMS
	<p>Children will be able to access a fully subsidised FM system that is either</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - a body level FM receiver and transmitter (no change from previous policy) or - a single ear level FM receiver and appropriate transmitter (hearing aid and implant users only) 	<p>Families who wish to obtain FM input to both hearing aids will have the option of using a fully subsidised body level FM or purchasing a second ear level receiver.</p>
BODY LEVEL FM Hearing aid users	<p>Phonic Ear Solaris 571 transmitter with</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Solaris 572 (Direct Audio Input model – connects via shoes to the hearing aid) or - Solaris 575R (neck loop model) <p>The Solaris has multi-frequency capability, and the DAI model offers FM+ (“SOX”) capability which provides the best improvement in signal to noise ration, while still enabling the child to hear their own voice and others when the teacher is not speaking.</p> <p>Phonak Microvox Transmitter and Receiver. This is the smallest body level FM system offered by Australian Hearing and is suited to children who do not need to change their frequency during the day.</p>	
BODY LEVEL FM Cochlear implant users	<p>Phonic Ear Solaris 571 transmitter with</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Solaris 572 (Direct Audio Input model – connects via shoes to the hearing aid) or - Solaris 575R (neck loop model) or - Solaris 571 R – new to range (binaural system, used with clients who use bilateral cochlear implants or a cochlear implant and hearing aid together). <p>The Solaris has multi-frequency capability, and the DAI model offers FM+ (“SOX”) capability which provides the best improvement in signal to noise ration, while still enabling the child to hear their own voice and others when the teacher is not speaking. Please note that the binaural Solaris does not offer “SOX” capability.</p> <p>Phonic Ear Easy Listener (PEEL) PE 300 model – single, fixed frequency PE 350 FSR model – selectable frequency</p>	
BODY LEVEL FM Children with a minimal, fluctuating or unilateral hearing loss	<p>Phonic Ear Easy Listener (PEEL) PE 300 model – single, fixed frequency PE 350 FSR model – selectable frequency</p>	

	FULLY SUBSIDISED SYSTEMS	TOP UP SYSTEMS
EAR LEVEL FM	<p>Phonak MicroLink MLx-S and either the Campus S transmitter or the MicroVox transmitter The Campus S transmitter has synthesizable frequency capacity, which can be used to enable the MLx-S to be a multi-frequency unit.</p> <p>The Microvox transmitter/MLx-S combination works as a single, fixed frequency unit. It would be recommended for children who do not require a switchable frequency.</p> <p>Phonic Ear Lexis – children aged 16 years and over. The Lexis unit has a fixed frequency receiver and a hand-held conference microphone style transmitter that can also be worn around the neck, if required. The transmitter has three different microphone settings (omni-directional, focus and super-focus). The transmitter frequency can be changed on the unit if required. The Lexis is best suited to children who are good FM users and who will be able to take full advantage of the additional transmitter features – for example, students at university or TAFE settings.</p>	<p>Phonak Edulink/Campus S system - children with a minimal, fluctuating or unilateral hearing loss. It cannot be used with discharging ears.</p> <p>Phonak i-Link S311 Forte hearing aid/FM and Easy Link or Campus S transmitter. The i-Link is a combined hearing aid and FM system housed in a small behind-the-ear aid. It has multi-frequency capacity.</p> <p>Phonak Smart Link transmitter has a number of features including blue tooth technology which make it attractive to clients who are excellent technology users of complex technology.</p> <p>Phonic Ear Lexis – for children under 16 years.</p> <p>Custom ear level FM receivers for certain hearing aids</p>

FM CHOICES

Each of the FM systems listed above has its own benefits and limitations. Some relate to the flexibility and benefit of different FM/hearing aid combinations, some to their applicability to certain educational settings and some to cosmetics or ease of use.

Please contact your audiologist for more information about specific FM systems.

REPLACEMENT OF LOST OR DAMAGED FM SYSTEMS

1. Body level FM
Body level FMs will be replaced if lost or damaged beyond repair.
2. Ear Level FM receivers
Ear Level FM receivers are much more likely to be lost or damaged than a body worn unit. As a result, Australian Hearing has limited the number of times they will replace an ear level receiver that is lost or damaged beyond repair.

Australian Hearing will replace at no cost ONE fully subsidised ear level receiver within a 3 year period. Further fully subsidised units will not be available within three years of fitting the replacement. If the replacement is lost or damaged beyond repair within this three year period, the family may choose to either purchase a replacement or have their child fitted with a body level FM at no cost.

Australian Hearing record the serial numbers of ear level receivers to distinguish the fully subsidised unit from the purchased unit.

HEAD WORN MICROPHONES

The fully subsidised FM systems are standardly supplied with a lapel microphone. Families may elect to replace this with a head worn microphone.

Australian Hearing provides teachers in specialist schools or facilities with a personal head worn microphone to facilitate use in the classroom. Please note that a head worn microphone will only be supplied when there are more than two hearing impaired children in the same class.

LOAN FM UNITS

Australian Hearing does not provide a loan unit when a child's own FM is being repaired. In exceptional circumstances (e.g. the child needs an FM for an exam), a loaner may be provided pending availability of the appropriate unit.

SALE OF MICROPHONES AND OTHER ACCESSORIES TO SCHOOLS

Australian Hearing is unable to sell products to clients who are not eligible for their program. If a school wishes to purchase additional FM systems or microphones then this will need to be arranged through the appropriate supplier.

Australian Hearing anticipates that some specialist schools or facilities may wish to obtain Phonak Wall Pilots to enable automatic frequency adjustment of MicroLinks in each classroom. A Phonak order form will be available to assist the school in the purchase. Australian Hearing audiologists and technicians will be able to advise the school about setting up the Wall Pilots.