World Hearing Day 2026 - Early action, doubled impact

Dear Disability Connect,

Today is World Hearing Day — every gift you make will be matched by a generous supporter, up to $20,000.

The World Health Organisation's 2026 theme puts the spotlight on young people, reminding us that protecting children's hearing isn't just important, it's urgent:

- 90 million children aged 5–19 live with hearing loss worldwide
- Over 60% of childhood hearing loss is preventable through simple, cost-effective public health measures
- Early identification and care are crucial to protect learning, development, and future opportunities
- School-based screening is one of the most effective ways to ensure children get the support they need.

Find out more

Here in Aotearoa, these global messages hit close to home.

Your support for our **Year 9 School Screening Programme** is helping young people receive early checks at a critical time.

Double your gift to help fund school screenings

This programme provides free hearing checks for Kiwi teens at a crucial age — a time when noise exposure increases and early signs of hearing damage often begin to show.

Thanks to supporters like you, it has grown from **just 5 schools in 2020 to 88 schools in 2025** — a remarkable leap toward early detection and better lifelong outcomes.

Bring screenings to more communities - your gift doubled

But with *so many* young people still at risk, we're pushing for a major milestone this year: **Reaching 100 schools in 2026.** To get there, we need your help.

Hearing loss in childhood can affect language, learning, social connection, confidence, and future opportunities. Early intervention can change that story. And your gift today — on World Hearing Day — can help make it happen.

$30.00 $70.00 $100.00

Thank you for marking World Hearing Day by taking action and doubling your impact.

Warmest regards,

Natasha Gallardo
Chief Executive

Deaf & Hard of Hearing FOUNDATION

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