

EMS Accreditation Framework; Hearing Assistive Technology

November 2013

The Ministry of Health is pleased to advise that the Equipment and Modification Services (EMS) Hearing Assistive Technology Online Learning Module is now available via *EMS Assessor Online* at the following link:

<http://www.disabilityfunding.co.nz/ems-assessors/credentialed-categories-of-accreditation/hearing-assistive-technology>

The Hearing Assistive Technology Credential recognises the specialist knowledge and training required by EMS Assessors to provide appropriate advice and recommendations to people with hearing loss. The credential is a key component of the Ministry's EMS Accreditation Framework.

Eligible health professionals wishing to become a Credentialed Hearing Assistive Technology Assessor will need to successfully complete requirements as outlined below via EMS Assessor Online, before making an application to Enable New Zealand to be included on the Assessor Database.

The **EMS Hearing Assistive Technology Online Learning Module** replaces the two day face to face EMS Assessor Training course that last took place in Hamilton in February 2011.

The **EMS Hearing Assistive Technology Online Learning Module** will provide the opportunity for relevant health professionals to access the required learning to become a Credentialed Assessor (Hearing Assistive Technology) and submit requests for equipment for eligible people with hearing loss who meet the Ministry's criteria to access services.

Who can complete this credential

You must be one of the following to apply for this category:

- A Hearing Therapist – Membership of the Hearing Therapists Association of NZ (HTANZ)
- An audiologist who is a full member of the New Zealand Audiological Society (NZAS) and holds a certificate of clinical competence
- A Service Coordinator working for Deaf Aotearoa or Royal New Zealand Foundation of the Blind (RNZFB) - Deaf/Blind services.

Points to note:

- to apply for this credential you will need to log in and register on EMS Assessor Online, and, if you have not already done so, complete the EMS Core Module
- you will need to complete the Hearing Assistive Technology Online Learning Module, including the endorsement of two example funding applications

- it is expected that on average it will take 45 minutes to one hour to work through the course content. It is expected to take another 45 minutes to complete each example application. The course does not need to be completed at one sitting.
- your supervisor/employer is required to register and log into EMS Assessor Online (see below) to complete the employer declaration for this credentialed category
- Hearing Assistive Technology does not include the provision of hearing aids.

Ongoing Requirements

Credentialed Assessors (Hearing Assistive technology) must meet the following ongoing requirements in order to maintain this credential:

- Apply to be re-credentialed every three years
- Continue professional development activities to keep knowledge of Hearing Assistive Technology as current as possible
- Meet the ongoing requirement within the EMS Accreditation Framework to complete a minimum of three assessments per year as verified by your employer
- Participate in on-going clinical supervision.

Next Steps

If you are currently registered as an Approved Assessor (Hearing Assistive Technology) you will need to complete the Hearing Assistive Technology Online Learning Module to become registered as a Credentialed Assessor by 30 June 2014. If you have not completed this on-line module before this date, your name will be removed from the Assessor database which is managed for the Ministry by Enable New Zealand.

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