



**AUSTRALIAN LIONS
HEARING ASSISTANCE DOGS**

APPLICATION BOOKLET



What Australian Lions Hearing Dogs does

Who are Australian Lions Hearing Dogs and what do we do?

Australian Lions Hearing Dogs was founded in 1982 with the purchase of our Training Centre at Verdun in the Adelaide Hills. It stands as the only Accredited Centre for the training of Hearing Assistance Dogs in Australia and since inception, has delivered over 700 dogs, free-of-charge, to deaf and hard of hearing people nationwide.

Our Hearing Assistance Dogs

There is **no one breed** which makes a perfect Hearing Assistance Dog.

Traditionally, all dogs were sourced from pounds and shelters with this now changing recently to being sourced from our own breeding program. Breeds offered include Labradoodles, Border Terriers and Tenterfield Terriers, but can change from time to time.

[Dogs are taught to respond to over 9 common household sounds](#) which include door knocks and bells, alarm clocks, phones, baby cries and, most importantly, smoke alarms. The trainee dogs are taught to locate these sounds and physically alert their recipients by touching them with a paw. This is a prompt to follow the dog to the source of the sound.

Trainee dogs also go through rigorous obedience and socialisation programs as they have the same public access rights as guide dogs for the blind. As such, they accompany firstly their trainers, then their recipients into cafes, restaurants, shopping centres, supermarkets, public transport, planes and hospitals.

Delivery Process

When an Australian Lions Hearing Dogs has completed its training, it can be placed with its new recipient anywhere in Australia. Its trainer will travel with the dog and spend a week training its new recipient on how the dog will work at home and when out during their daily routines. This will be called the placement week. Additionally, the Lions Club sponsoring the delivery of the Hearing Dog will also be involved in the placement week, where members of the Lions Club will be trained to assist the recipient three times a week, for the first three months post-placement.

By the time this stage has been reached, it has cost the organisation **\$40,000** to train and provide a Hearing Assistance Dogs to a deaf or hard of hearing recipient.

These dogs go out free-of-charge to the recipient, with money being raised by Lions Clubs across Australia as well as generous members of the public.

The Application Process

Application Received



Once you finish with all your reports and filled out your application. Send or email your application in, and we will send you an application received confirmation.

Interview



Once we finished looking over your application, one of our team will reach out to you to arrange an interview.

Assessment Panel



After the interview, we will take some time to assess your background and situation. This could take a couple of weeks.

Approval given



Once we have assessed everything, we will get let you know that you have passed. If unsuccessful, reasons will be provided.

Waiting List



If your application is successful, you will be placed on our waiting list.

Offer of Dog



When we have a Hearing Dog ready for you, our team will email to notify you of the exciting news!

Placement



We will arrange a time when our trainer and the Hearing Dog will be able to come to you. Placement will take about a week!

Additionally

Australian Lions Hearing Dogs support does not stop here. Trainers are in contact with their recipients throughout the post-placement period to offer additional training and support. After three months, an assessment is conducted to ensure that the Hearing Assistance Dog is meeting the stringent standards required to become an Accredited Assistance Dog. These visits are continued every two years thereafter.



How to complete your application for an Australian Lions Hearing Dog:

You will need to supply

- A completed application booklet.
- A medical report from your GP. Medical report template is included in the application pack.
- Your most recent audiogram and audiologist report. If you have a Cochlear Implant or Hearing Aids, you can still qualify for an Australian Lions Hearing Dog.
- Signed application agreement and release forms included in the application pack.
- Full length colour photograph of the applicant. (other people may be in the photo)

Please note prior to applying for an Australian Lions Hearing Dog, that:

- They are only suitable for people over 18.
- If you are employed, an Australian Lions Hearing Dog will not be suitable unless you are willing to take the dog with you to work, which you are legally allowed to.
- Please don't make any changes to fencing prior to approval for an Australian Lions Hearing Dog.

Finally

Applicants who have previously had an Australian Lions Hearing Dog will be given priority on our waiting list if their application is successful.



When completed, please send the application and supporting material to:

Australian Lions Hearing Dogs

PO Box 164

Hahndorf SA5245



Any questions regarding the application process or about Australian Lions Hearing Dogs, please contact the Training Centre on:

Phone: 08 8388 7836

Email: info@lionshearingdogs.com.au

Applicant's Information

PERSONAL DETAILS

1. First Name

2. Surname

3. Gender

4. Date of Birth (DD/MM/YYYY)

5. Age

6. Country of Birth

7. Residential Address

8. Postal Address (if different)

9. Phone Number

10. Mobile Number

11. Email Address

12. Preferred Method of Contact

13. Are you an NDIS Participant

ALTERNATIVE CONTACTS

1. 1st Contact Name

2. 1st Contact Phone

3. Relationship with Applicant

4. 2nd Contact Name

5. 2nd Contact Phone

6. Relationship with Applicant

DOGS/OTHER PETS

1. Have you owned a dog before?

2. What breeds have you owned?

3. Were you responsible for caring for it?

4. How long ago was this?

5. Have you ever been banned/restricted from owning a dog?

6. Have you had to surrender or rehome a dog before? If yes, why?

7. What training experience have you had with previous dogs?

8. Do you still own a dog?

9. What other pets do you have?

10. Do they live indoors?

11. Are there other domesticated animals on your property? If yes, please list.

12. Would a Hearing Dog have access to them at any time?

13. Are there wild animals that have access to your property? If yes, please list.

14. Would a Hearing Dog have access to them at any time?

EMPLOYMENT

1. Are you employed?

2. Do you volunteer?

3. Are you currently studying?

4. Where do you work/study?

5. What is your occupation?

6. What hours do you work?

7. What is a summary of your average day at work/study?

8. Will the Hearing Dog be exposed to adults or children through your work/study?

9. Do you intend to take a Hearing Dog to work?

10. Does your employer know that you are applying for a Hearing Assistance Dog?

11. What transportation do you use to travel to/from work?

12. Do you travel interstate with your work?

13. If yes, how often and using what type of transportation?

14. How long do you normally travel for?

15. What do you intend to do with a Hearing Dog during these times?

16. Where will a Hearing Dog be at your workplace?

17. Where would you be able to toilet your dog at work?

18. Are you prepared for an employee of Australian Lions Hearing Dog to contact and work with your employer?



Please keep in mind

Though an Australian Lions Hearing Dog is given to its recipient free-of-charge, from the time of your Hearing Dog's arrival you will be responsible for the following, keeping in mind that annual costs to care for a dog can reach \$ 2,000 per year.

FINANCE

1. Can you afford all veterinary expenses?

2. Can you afford all food costs?

3. Can you afford boarding fees if you go on holidays?

4. Can you afford any other expenses, fines etc. incurred by your dog?

5. Do you manage your own finances?

6. Are you under a public trustee?

COMMUNICATION

1. Are you profoundly deaf?

2. Do you use oral speech?

3. Is English your second spoken language?

4. If yes, what is your preferred spoken language?

5. Do you use Auslan?

6. Do you communicate by writing?

7. Did you complete this form? If no, who completed it?

8. What is your preferred form of communication?



Please keep in mind

The Medical section of this application must also include an examination by your GP. The medical form (included as a separate document) will need to be filled out and signed by your GP.

MEDICAL

1. How long have you been deaf?

2. What caused your deafness?

3. Do you have any disability other than deafness? If yes, please list.

4. How do you manage your other disabilities?

5. Do you have mobility issues?

6. Do you have mobility aids?

7. Are you allergic to dog hair?

8. Do you have any other allergies?

9. Do you have issues opening/closing snap hooks, buckles with your hands?

10. Are you able to exercise a Hearing Dog for minimum 30 minutes per day?

I, _____, agree to allow medical information concerning me to be released to the Medical Advisor working for Australian Lions Hearing Dogs to assist in the selection of suitability for a Hearing Assistance Dog.

Applicant Signature:

Witness Name:

ACCOMODATION

1. What type of house do you live in? (house/apartment/townhouse/duplex/caravan?)

2. What type of area do you live in?
(suburban/high density/rural)

3. Is your accomodation more than one storey?

4. Do you rent or own your home?

5. If renting, has your landlord been notified about your application?

6. How big is your yard?

7. Is the yard fenced?

8. What height and material is used in the fencing?

9. Is the yard totally dog proof?

10. Is the yard accessible by people other than from your household?

11. If the fencing does not meet the standards required, will you commit to improving the fencing to standards prior to the arrival of your Hearing Dog?

12. Where do you intend your Hearing Dog to spend its free time?

13. Please list all people living with the applicant (If not enough room, please include at the bottom of next page):

i. Name

ii. Age

iii. Relationship to applicant

i. Name

ii. Age

iii. Relationship to applicant

i. Name

ii. Age

iii. Relationship to applicant

i. Name
ii. Age
iii. Relationship to applicant

i. Name
ii. Age
iii. Relationship to applicant

i. Name
ii. Age
iii. Relationship to applicant

14. Are the people living with the applicant prepared to support and work with the Hearing Assistance Dog to make the placement a success?

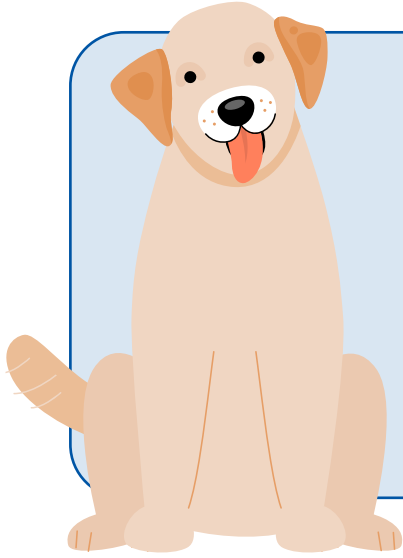
15. Are they happy to allow the dog to alert them to sounds?

16. Do any of the people living with the applicant have hearing loss?

17. Are any of the people living with the applicant allergic to dog hair?

Extra details:

Dog Selection



Did you know?

Australian Lions Hearing Dogs currently offer three different breeds in their Hearing Assistance Dog program. Each breed has different personalities, coat types and energy levels. The more specific an applicant is in the breed and size of dog wanted, the more impact it will have on the potential waiting time for a Hearing Assistance Dog to be offered. Please select below the dog breed(s)/size(s) that would suit the applicant's lifestyle and need.



Labradoodle

Labradoodles come in various sizes and colours, and have low allergen coat that sheds little to no fur. Labradoodles require daily brushing and clipping every 8-12 weeks, which can be an added expense.

Preference: Under 7kgs 7kgs - 14kgs Over 14kgs

Border Terrier

Border Terriers are small to medium dogs that range in size from 5-8 kgs. They have a wire coat that requires grooming twice a week and stripping twice yearly. Border Terrier coats are classed as hypoallergenic and may be suited to recipients with allergens.



Tenterfield Terrier

Tenterfield Terriers are small dogs with a smooth coat which does shed. They are about 30 cm in height at the shoulders and can be energetic.

Sounds



Sound training

Sound training consist of teaching each Hearing Assistance Dog-in-training to physically alert their recipients to a number of common household sounds, all of which can be customised throughout the delivery process.

When a Hearing Assistance Dog hear a sound go off in the house, they will look for the sound source before going to find their recipient, where they alert by physically touching their recipient, all before leading them back to the source of the sound. The alert of the smoke alarm will be different, however, where instead of alerting and leading the recipient to the sound, the dog will touch and drop to show the urgency of the situation.

Please indicate which sounds you require a Hearing Assistance Dog to alert you to.

- Phone
- Door Knock/Bell
- Baby Cry
- Oven Timer
- Smoke Alarm
- Alarm Clock
- Mobile Phone Ring
- Get another person
- Other (Please list):

Generals

GENERAL QUESTIONS

1. Can you take one (1) week's leave when your Hearing Assistance Dog arrives?

2. How much notice would you need?

3. Part of the ongoing training of a Hearing Assistance Dog is three months of post-placement visits, three short sessions a week, using local volunteers. Do you agree to these visits?

4. Should volunteers be unavailable, do you have friends/family who can assist?

5. Hearing Assistance Dog placements need consistency to succeed. Do you agree to not take any trips away from home for more than three nights throughout the post-placement three month support?

6. How did you find out about Australian Lions Hearing Dogs?

- Social Media
- Word of mouth
- Brochure
- Advertising
- Presentation
- Previous recipient of a dog
- Other, please list:

7. What modes of transport fo you commonly use?

- Car
- Bus
- Bicycle
- Taxi/Rideshare
- Train
- Tram
- Plane
- Other, please list:

How often are you away from home each day? (not inc. work?)

What will you do with your Hearing Dog during these times?

How long are you home along each day?

What clubs do you belong to?

What utility aids do you use in the home? E.g. flashing lights

Application Agreement Form

This form should be signed, witnessed, dated and returned to the training centre along with the application form. If this form is not returned, the application will be placed on hold until such time as the form is received.

Australian Lions Hearing Dogs will provide me with an Australian Lions Hearing Dog at no cost on the following terms:

From the date of delivery I will be responsible at my cost for:

1. The formal ongoing training of my Australian Lions Hearing Dog until the expiry of probation (three months or until Australian Lions Hearing Dogs are satisfied with the dog's standard of work).
2. Arrangement for all necessary veterinary care of my Australian Lions Hearing Dog, including but not limited to annual vaccination boosters, preventative heartworm treatment and emergency care. I will also be responsible for payment of all accounts incurred.
3. The general health and welfare, feeding and continued training of my Australian Lions Hearing Dog. This includes time spent with other persons in my absence.
4. Ensuring that the Australian Lions Hearing Dog is used as trained, that qualifying conditions are not altered after delivery and the dog is not neglected or abused in any way.
5. Should my health and fitness vary significantly between the application being approved and delivery, a further review will be required in all cases.
6. You accept that once delivered your Australian Lions Hearing Dog will be tested regularly to ensure it is meeting public access standards and is able to work in the manner to which it was trained.
7. You agree that once you receive an Australian Lions Hearing Dog you will not have another dog live on your premises during the Australian Lions Hearing Dog's working life.

If I fail to fulfil any or all of the above at any time, my Australian Lions Hearing Dog may be withdrawn. If my Australian Lions Hearing Dog is withdrawn, with veterinary or other expenses outstanding, I will be liable for payment of these debts.

Should your application for a Lions Hearing Dog be rejected, Australian Lions Hearing Dogs will advise of the reasons.

Signed: _____

Witness: _____

Date: _____

Application Checklist

- All questions in application answered.
- Included recent full length photograph.
- Included Medical completed by GP.
- Included Audiologist Report.
- Signed Medical Release.
- Signed Application Agreement Form.
- Failure to complete any of the above will delay processing your application.
- Send completed application to:
 - PO Box 164
 - Hahndorf SA5245
 - Or email to info@lionshearingdogs.com.au

You may wish to make a copy of this application for your records.