

NEW ISSUE

**HEARING AND THE USE
OF HEARING AIDS
(persons aged 15 years or more)
SEPTEMBER 1978**

Catalogue No 4336.0

AUSTRALIAN BUREAU OF STATISTICS Canberra

INQUIRIES

If you want to know more about these statistics ring Mr David Wilson on Canberra 526410 or our State office, or write to Information Services, ABS, P.O. Box 10, Belconnen, A.C.T. 2616. For copies of this publication contact Information Services, Canberra 526627 or State offices.

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NOON 31 AUGUST 1979

HEARING AND THE USE OF HEARING AIDS (PERSONS AGED 15 YEARS OR MORE) SEPTEMBER 1978

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EXPLANATORY NOTES

Introduction

In September 1978, a sample household survey was conducted throughout Australia in order to obtain information about the prevalence of hearing problems and the use of hearing aids in the Australian population aged 15 years or more. A similar survey relating to persons under the age of 15 years will be conducted in 1979. This publication contains the results from the September 1978 survey.

Survey methodology

2. The survey was conducted as a part of the monthly population survey which is based on a multi-stage area sample of private dwellings (about 30,000 houses, flats, etc.) and non-private dwellings (hotels, motels, etc.) and covered about two-thirds of one percent of the population of Australia. The information was obtained from the occupants of the selected dwellings by carefully chosen and specially trained interviewers.

Scope

3. The estimates relate to all persons 15 years or more *except*:

- (a) boarding school students, patients in hospitals, nursing homes and other health institutions or inmates of gaols, reformatories, etc.,
- (b) members of the permanent defence forces,
- (c) certain diplomatic personnel of overseas governments customarily excluded from census and estimated populations,
- (d) overseas visitors on tour or holidaying in Australia,
- (e) members of non-Australian defence forces (and their dependents) stationed in Australia.

The exclusion of persons currently in hospitals, nursing homes and other health institutions should be borne in mind in assessing the significance of the results.

Definitions

4. *Hearing problem* — A person was considered to have a hearing problem if he/she reported having trouble hearing what people say or currently possessed a hearing aid. Excluded from this group were persons whose hearing problem was *only* caused by a periodic build up of wax in an ear.

5. *Possession and usage of hearing aid* — questions were asked about both these aspects of hearing aids since some persons who possess an aid may not use it.

6. *Price of hearing aid* — information was collected on the price a person paid for an aid at the time it was bought. The figure sought was the total price before trade-in, if any, being deducted. It should be noted that certain persons can obtain hearing aids free of charge or

for a small hiring fee from some government bodies. These persons appear in the relevant tables in the category "\$0-\$30".

7. *Cause of hearing problem* —

Congenital/hereditary includes any hearing problem resulting from birth or from mother's illness during pregnancy;

Accident refers to hearing problems resulting from a sudden noise or event such as an explosion;

Constant noise refers to hearing problems caused by exposure to high levels of noise for considerable amounts of time.

8. *Operations to help hearing* — refer only to operations done on the ears to help hearing. Such operations as removal of a brain tumor which may result in improved hearing are not included.

Reliability of the estimates

9. Since the estimates are based on a sample they are subject to sampling variability (see Technical Note, page 27, for further details). Some figures in this publication are replaced or preceded by the symbol *. Estimates preceded by this symbol have a standard error of between 25 and 50 per cent. Estimates which are replaced with this symbol have a standard error greater than 50 per cent, which is considered too high for most practical purposes.

10. In addition to sampling errors, the survey results are subject to non-sampling errors, i.e. those inaccuracies that may occur because of imperfections in reporting by interviewers or respondents, processing errors and non-response. Such errors may occur in any statistical collection whether it is a full census count or a sample survey. Every effort is made to reduce non-sampling errors in the survey to a minimum by careful design and testing of questionnaires, by intensive training and supervision of interviewers, and by efficient operating procedures.

11. The following factors should be considered in interpreting the estimates in this publication:

- (a) The information provided by respondents was not medically verified and reported hearing problems were not necessarily based on diagnoses by medical practitioners,
- (b) In many cases the answers to the questions on hearing were based on the knowledge of one person in a household (generally the housewife).

Related publications

12. Other ABS publications which may be of interest include:

Australian Health Survey Bulletin No. 1, September 1977 (Preliminary) (4309.0)

Australian Health Survey Bulletin No. 2, December 1977 (Preliminary) (4310.0)

Australian Health Survey, 1977-78 (4311.0)

13. All publications produced by the ABS are listed in *Catalogue of Publications* (1101.0) which is available free of charge from any ABS office.

Symbols and other usages

- .. Not applicable.
- * Subject to high sampling variability.
See explanatory note 9 on page 3.

Where figures have been rounded, discrepancies may occur between sums of the component items and totals.

R. J. CAMERON
Australian Statistician

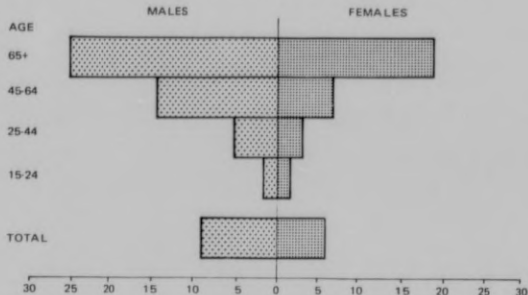
SUMMARY OF FINDINGS

PERSONS WITH HEARING PROBLEMS

Approximately 7 per cent of the total Australian population aged 15 years or more reported suffering some form of hearing problem. This section summarises characteristics of these persons.

The chart below shows that the percentage of the population affected by hearing problems increases with age. In the older age groups hearing problems are more prevalent for males than for females.

PERCENT OF POPULATION IN EACH AGE GROUP WITH A HEARING PROBLEM



Cause of hearing problem

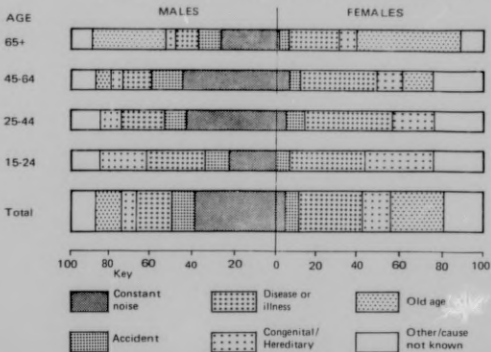
The two main causes of hearing problems for the total population aged 15 years or more are constant noise and disease or illness. Approximately 38 per cent of males and 4 per cent of females identified constant noise as the primary cause of their hearing problem. Approximately 33 per cent of females and 15 per cent of males identified disease or illness as the primary cause.

For persons in the 25 to 44 and the 45 to 64 year age groups constant noise and disease or illness are the major causes of hearing trouble. Constant noise is the major cause of hearing trouble for males while for females in these age groups disease or illness is the major cause.

In the 15 to 24 year age group, the major cause of hearing problems for both males and females is disease or illness.

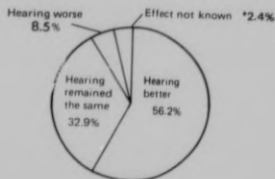
The main cause for the 65 years and over age group for both males and females is reported to be the effects of old age. However, as in younger age groups, constant noise and disease or illness are also important factors.

CAUSE OF HEARING PROBLEM IN EACH AGE GROUP (PERCENT)



EFFECTS OF OPERATION

Of the persons reporting a hearing problem, 8.5% stated that they had undergone an operation to help their hearing. The effects of these operations is summarised in the diagram opposite.

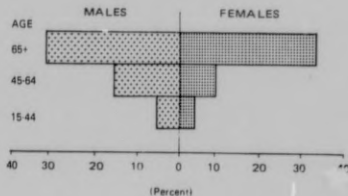


PERSONS WITH A HEARING AID

Of the persons reporting a hearing problem, 20 per cent possess a hearing aid. This section summarises

the characteristics of persons who reported they possess a hearing aid.

PERCENT OF TOTAL HEARING AIDS POSSESSED, BY AGE GROUP



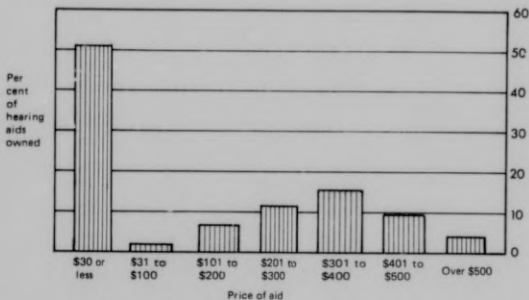
Price of Hearing Aid

The chart below indicates the price of the hearing aid most recently obtained.

The high percentage of persons possessing hearing

aids which cost them \$30 or less represents those persons who are eligible for and have received free aids from certain government bodies. Such persons include pensioners and their dependents, ex-servicemen and persons aged 15 to 20 years of age.

HEARING AID PRICE RANGES AS A PROPORTION (PERCENT) OF TOTAL AIDS POSSESSED



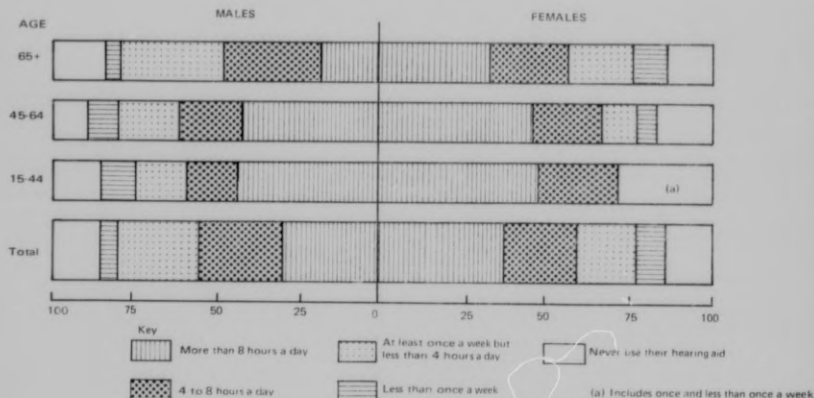
Hearing aid use

Of persons who currently possess a hearing aid approximately 78 per cent reported using it at least once a week.

The majority of persons possessing a hearing aid

(56.7 per cent) use their aid 4 or more hours a day. Almost a quarter of all persons possessing a hearing aid (22.1 per cent) never use it or use it less than once a week.

EXTENT OF HEARING AID USE (PERCENT)



Extent of hearing problem

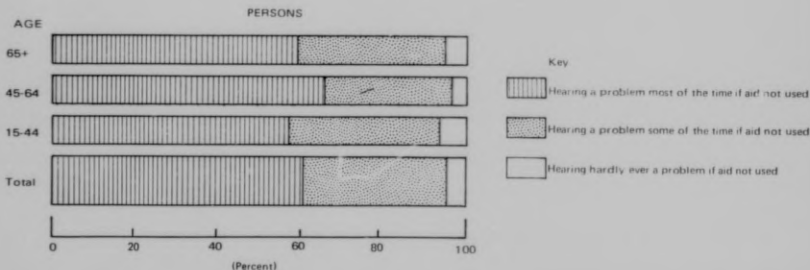
The chart below shows the extent to which persons who possess a hearing aid would have a problem hearing without their aid.

A high proportion of persons possessing a hearing aid (60.6 per cent) would have a problem hearing for

most of the time without the use of their aid. A significant proportion (34.8 per cent) would be affected only some of the time.

Of the 4.6 per cent who would hardly ever have a problem hearing without their aid approximately two out of three use their aid less than once a week or never.

PERSONS WITH HEARING AIDS: EXTENT OF HEARING PROBLEMS IF AID NOT USED (PERCENT)



Type of aid

The type of aid most often used is one which fits

behind the ear. The table below shows the distribution of types of hearing aids worn in different age groups.

TYPE OF AID USED (per cent)

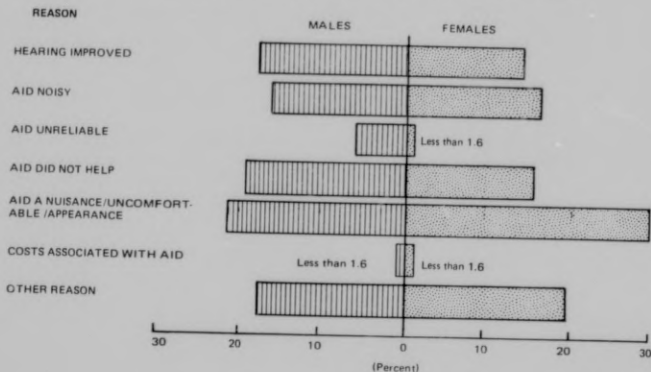
Type of hearing aid	Age group			Total
	15-44 years	45-64 years	65 years and over	
Body aid	* 14.3	* 8.0	9.6	9.6
All in the ear aid	* 11.9	19.8	24.4	21.9
Behind the ear aid	68.3	60.9	57.6	59.5
Aid attached to spectacles	*	11.2	8.5	9.0
Total	100	100	100	100

Persons who no longer use an aid

There were 47,800 persons (52.5% were females and 47.5% males) who possessed an aid in the past but not now, or who now possess an aid and use it less than once a week. The main group of reasons for not using

the aid was that it was a nuisance, uncomfortable or its appearance disliked. This was more evident for females than males. 'Other' includes persons who only used their aid on special occasions, who are in the process of obtaining a new aid or have lost their hearing aid.

REASON AID USED LESS THAN ONCE A WEEK OR NO LONGER POSSESSED (PERCENT)



PERSONS WITH A HEARING PROBLEM WHO HAVE NEVER POSSESSED A HEARING AID

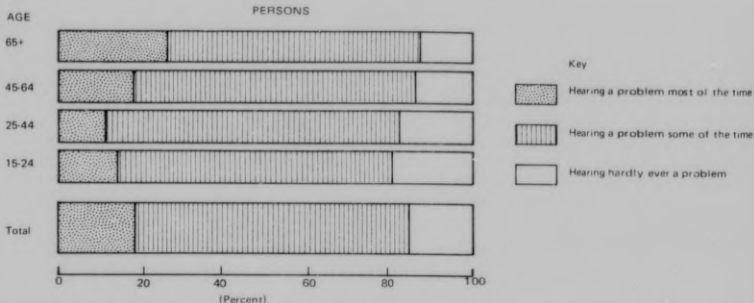
Approximately 78 per cent of all persons reporting a hearing problem had never possessed a hearing aid. This section looks at factors related to this.

Extent of hearing problem

Approximately 86 per cent of persons with a hearing problem who have never possessed a hearing aid, are affected by their hearing problem some or most of the time.

17.7 per cent have their hearing problem most of the time. This compares with 60.6% of persons who have a hearing aid and had a hearing problem most of the time.

PERSONS WITH A HEARING PROBLEM WHO HAVE NEVER POSSESSED A HEARING AID : EXTENT OF HEARING PROBLEM (PERCENT)

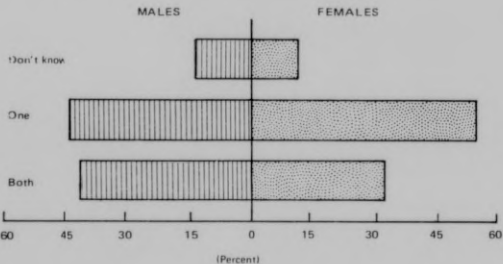


Whether one or both ears affected by hearing problem

Approximately 48 per cent of persons with a

hearing problem who have never possessed a hearing aid, have that problem in only one ear.

PERSONS WITH A HEARING PROBLEM WHO HAVE NEVER POSSESSED A HEARING AID : WHETHER ONE OR BOTH EARS AFFECTED (PERCENT)

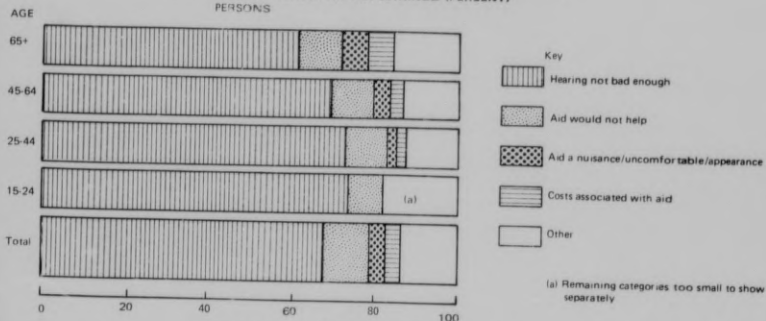


Reason hearing aid not obtained

Approximately 68 per cent of persons who have a hearing problem but have never possessed an aid

considered that their hearing was not bad enough to need one.

PERSONS WITH A HEARING PROBLEM WHO HAVE NEVER POSSESSED AN AID : REASON AID NOT OBTAINED (PERCENT)



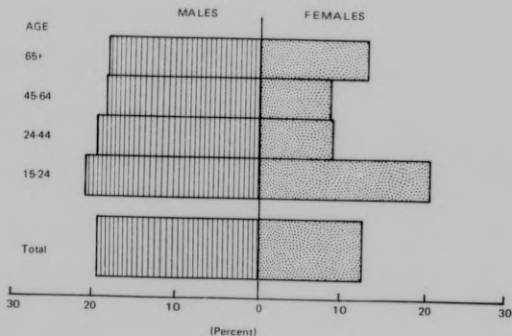
PERSONS WHO HAVE HAD THEIR HEARING TESTED

Approximately 16 per cent of the population aged 15 years or more reported that they had their hearing tested within the last 5 years.

More males reported having their hearing tested in

the last 5 years than females. The proportion of males having had their hearing tested is fairly constant between age groups. However the proportion of females having had their hearing tested is considerably higher in the 15 to 24 year age group than for older age groups.

PERCENT OF POPULATION IN EACH AGE GROUP WHO HAD THEIR HEARING TESTED IN THE LAST 5 YEARS



TABLES

TABLE 1. PERSONS : WHETHER THEY HAVE A HEARING PROBLEM, BY AGE, BY SEX ('000)

	Age group				Total persons	
	15-24 years	25-44 years	45-64 years	65 years and over	(number)	(per cent)
MALES						
Trouble hearing	21.3	106.7	201.6	131.3	460.9	9.0
No trouble hearing	1,207.1	1,862.0	1,191.2	389.1	4,649.4	91.0
Total males	1,228.4	1,968.7	1,392.8	520.4	5,110.3	100.0
FEMALES						
Trouble hearing	21.1	62.1	96.4	127.6	307.1	5.9
No trouble hearing	1,193.9	1,865.6	1,291.8	556.7	4,908.0	94.1
Total females	1,215.0	1,927.8	1,388.2	684.2	5,215.2	100.0
PERSONS						
Trouble hearing	42.4	168.9	297.9	258.9	768.0	7.4
No trouble hearing	2,401.0	3,727.6	2,483.1	945.7	9,557.4	92.6
Total persons	2,443.3	3,896.5	2,781.0	1,204.6	10,325.4	100.0

TABLE 2. PERSONS : WHETHER THEY HAVE A HEARING PROBLEM, BY STATES, BY SEX ('000)

	N.S.W.	Vic.	Qld	S.A.	W.A.	Tas.	N.T.	A.C.T.	Aust.
MALES									
Trouble hearing	160.5	110.9	79.5	46.2	42.8	13.0	3.1	4.9	460.9
No trouble hearing	1,635.0	1,253.0	699.5	425.5	397.5	134.6	38.5	65.8	4,649.4
Total males	1,795.5	1,363.8	779.1	471.7	440.4	147.6	41.5	70.7	5,110.3
FEMALES									
Trouble hearing	109.4	79.6	51.1	26.5	26.5	8.8	*1.7	3.6	307.1
No trouble hearing	1,746.9	1,321.3	737.2	454.0	409.0	140.0	30.5	69.2	4,908.0
Total females	1,856.3	1,400.8	788.3	480.4	435.4	148.8	32.1	72.8	5,215.2
PERSONS									
Trouble hearing	269.9	190.4	130.7	72.7	69.3	21.9	4.8	8.4	768.0
No trouble hearing	3,382.0	2,574.3	1,436.7	879.5	806.5	274.6	68.9	135.0	9,557.4
Total persons	3,651.8	2,764.7	1,567.4	952.1	875.8	296.4	73.7	143.4	10,325.4

TABLE 3. PERSONS WHO HAVE OR HAVE HAD A HEARING PROBLEM (a) :
CAUSE OF HEARING PROBLEM, BY AGE, BY SEX
(⁰⁰⁰)

Cause of hearing problem	Age group				Total persons	
	15-24 years	25-44 years	45-64 years	65 years and over	(number)	(per cent)
MALES						
Congenital/hereditary	5.2	12.2	12.3	6.0	35.7	7.6
Old age	..	*	18.1	48.8	67.1	14.4
Disease or illness	6.2	21.5	27.7	15.9	71.3	15.3
Accident	*2.5	10.9	28.3	13.6	55.2	11.8
Constant noise	4.9	47.0	91.6	34.9	178.4	38.2
Other/cause not known	*3.3	16.6	25.3	13.9	59.1	12.7
Total males	22.1	108.5	203.2	133.0	466.8	100.0
FEMALES						
Congenital/hereditary	6.9	12.1	11.5	11.0	41.5	13.2
Old age	..	*	12.6	62.7	75.7	24.2
Disease or illness	8.1	26.8	36.6	32.3	103.7	33.1
Accident	*1.5	5.5	5.2	6.4	18.6	5.9
Constant noise	*	3.7	7.1	*2.5	13.6	4.3
Other/cause not known	4.9	14.9	24.9	15.5	60.2	19.2
Total females	21.8	63.3	97.9	130.4	313.4	100.0
PERSONS						
Congenital/hereditary	12.2	24.3	23.8	17.0	77.2	9.9
Old age	..	*	30.7	111.5	142.8	18.3
Disease or illness	14.3	48.3	64.3	48.2	175.0	22.4
Accident	4.0	16.4	33.5	20.0	73.8	9.5
Constant noise	5.3	50.7	98.6	37.4	192.0	24.6
Other/cause not known	8.3	31.5	50.2	29.4	119.4	15.3
Total persons	43.9	171.8	301.1	263.4	780.2	100.0

(a) Excludes those persons who previously had a hearing problem but have never possessed a hearing aid.

TABLE 4. PERSONS WHO HAVE OR HAVE HAD A HEARING PROBLEM (a) :
WHEN FIRST HAD A HEARING PROBLEM, BY CAUSE OF HEARING PROBLEM
(⁰⁰⁰)

When first had a hearing problem	Cause of hearing problem						Total persons	
	Congenital/hereditary	Old age	Disease or illness	Accident	Constant noise	Other/cause not known	(number)	(per cent)
Less than 5 years ago	8.4	78.7	44.8	12.6	68.9	44.8	258.2	33.1
5 years to less than 10 years ago	11.4	40.9	29.8	9.7	62.8	25.0	179.6	23.0
10 years to less than 20 years ago	18.9	15.8	34.3	15.7	34.8	19.4	138.9	17.8
20 years to less than 30 years ago	12.3	*2.7	23.0	11.1	12.0	10.2	71.2	9.1
30 years or more ago	25.1	*0.9	41.8	23.9	10.8	16.9	119.3	15.3
Don't know	*1.1	3.8	*1.4	*0.8	*2.7	*3.1	12.9	1.7
Total persons	77.2	142.8	175.0	73.8	192.0	119.4	780.2	100.0

(a) Excludes those persons who previously had a hearing problem but have never possessed a hearing aid.

TABLE 5. PERSONS WHO HAVE OR HAVE HAD A HEARING PROBLEM (a) :
WHETHER HAD AN OPERATION TO HELP HEARING, BY CAUSE OF HEARING PROBLEM, BY SEX
(⁰⁰⁰)

	Cause of hearing problem						Total persons	
	Congenital/ hereditary	Old age	Disease or illness	Accident	Constant noise	Other/cause not known	(number)	(per cent)
MALES								
Had an operation	5.7	*	9.8	5.3	4.2	4.6	30.0	6.4
Not had an operation	30.0	66.6	61.5	49.9	174.2	54.6	436.8	93.6
Total males	35.7	67.1	71.3	55.2	178.4	59.1	466.8	100.0
FEMALES								
Had an operation	9.8	*	18.3	*1.3	*1.2	5.4	36.0	11.5
Not had an operation	31.8	75.6	85.5	17.3	12.4	54.9	277.4	88.5
Total females	41.5	75.7	103.7	18.6	13.6	60.2	313.4	100.0
PERSONS								
Had an operation	15.4	*	28.1	6.6	5.4	9.9	66.0	8.5
Not had an operation	61.8	142.2	146.9	67.2	186.6	109.4	714.2	91.5
Total persons	77.2	142.8	175.0	73.8	192.0	119.4	780.2	100.0

(a) Excludes those persons who previously had a hearing problem but have never possessed a hearing aid.

TABLE 6. PERSONS WHO HAVE HAD AN OPERATION TO HELP HEARING :
CAUSE OF HEARING PROBLEM, BY AGE
(⁰⁰⁰)

Cause of hearing problem	Age group				Total persons	
	15-24 years	25-44 years	45-64 years	65 years and over	(number)	(per cent)
Congenital/hereditary	*2.6	*2.9	6.7	*3.3	15.4	23.3
Old age	*	*	*	*	*	*
Disease or illness	*3.2	10.0	8.7	6.1	28.1	42.6
Accident	*	*1.3	*3.3	*1.2	6.6	10.0
Constant noise	*	*	*3.2	*1.5	5.4	8.2
Other/cause not known	*	*3.2	4.2	*2.1	9.9	15.0
Total persons	7.1	17.9	26.3	14.7	66.0	100.0

TABLE 7. PERSONS WHO HAVE HAD AN OPERATION TO HELP HEARING :
EFFECT OF OPERATION, BY AGE, BY SEX
(⁰⁰⁰)

Effect of operation	Age group				Total persons	
	15-24 years	25-44 years	45-64 years	65 years and over	(number)	(per cent)
MALES						
Hearing better	*1.4	3.9	6.8	*2.4	14.5	47.3
Hearing worse	*	*	*1.8	*1.0	3.4	11.3
Hearing the same	*1.0	4.0	4.2	*2.7	11.8	39.3
Don't know	*	*	*	*	*	*
Total males	*2.4	8.6	12.0	6.0	30.0	100.0
FEMALES						
Hearing better	*2.5	5.3	8.8	6.0	22.7	63.0
Hearing worse	*	*0.9	*1.0	*	*2.2	*6.1
Hearing the same	*1.5	*2.9	*3.2	*2.3	9.9	27.5
Don't know	*	*	*	*	*1.2	*3.4
Total females	4.7	9.3	13.3	8.7	36.0	100.0
PERSONS						
Hearing better	3.9	9.3	15.6	8.3	37.1	56.2
Hearing worse	*	*1.5	*2.8	*1.2	5.6	8.5
Hearing the same	*2.5	6.9	7.3	4.9	21.7	32.9
Don't know	*	*	*	*	*1.6	*2.4
Total persons	7.1	17.9	26.3	14.7	66.0	100.0

TABLE 8. PERSONS WHO HAVE HAD AN OPERATION TO HELP HEARING :
EAR OPERATED ON, BY AGE, BY SEX
(⁰⁰⁰)

Ear operated on	Age group				Total persons	
	15-24 years	25-44 years	45-64 years	65 years and over	(number)	(per cent)
MALES						
Left only	*1.1	4.7	4.5	3.6	13.9	46.3
Right only	*	*2.1	5.3	*1.6	9.8	32.7
Both ears	*	*1.8	*3.2	*0.8	6.3	21.0
Total males	*2.4	8.6	13.0	6.0	30.0	100.0
FEMALES						
Left only	*1.9	4.7	5.9	*2.7	15.2	42.2
Right only	*1.4	*2.7	4.9	*2.9	12.0	33.3
Both ears	*1.4	*1.8	*2.6	*3.1	8.8	24.4
Total females	4.7	9.3	13.3	8.7	36.0	100.0
PERSONS						
Left only	*3.0	9.5	10.3	6.3	29.1	44.1
Right only	*2.2	4.8	10.2	4.5	21.7	32.9
Both ears	*1.9	3.6	5.8	3.9	15.2	23.0
Total persons	7.1	17.9	26.3	14.7	66.0	100.0

TABLE 9. PERSONS WHO HAVE A HEARING PROBLEM :
WHETHER THEY HAVE EVER POSSESSED A HEARING AID, BY AGE, BY SEX
(^{'000})

<i>Possession of a hearing aid</i>	<i>Age group</i>				<i>Total persons</i>	
	<i>15-24 years</i>	<i>25-44 years</i>	<i>45-64 years</i>	<i>65 years and over</i>	<i>(number)</i>	<i>(per cent)</i>
MALES						
Never possessed a hearing aid	18.7	100.1	175.3	81.8	375.9	81.6
Possessed an aid, but not now	*	*1.0	*2.0	*2.4	5.5	1.2
Possess a hearing aid	*2.4	5.7	24.3	47.1	79.5	17.2
<i>Total males</i>	<i>21.3</i>	<i>106.7</i>	<i>201.6</i>	<i>131.3</i>	<i>460.9</i>	<i>100.0</i>
FEMALES						
Never possessed a hearing aid	18.7	55.7	77.5	72.8	224.7	73.2
Possessed an aid, but not now	*	*1.4	*3.2	*3.0	8.2	2.7
Possess a hearing aid	*1.7	5.0	15.6	51.8	74.2	24.1
<i>Total females</i>	<i>21.1</i>	<i>62.1</i>	<i>96.4</i>	<i>127.6</i>	<i>307.1</i>	<i>100.0</i>
PERSONS						
Never possessed a hearing aid	37.4	155.8	252.9	154.6	600.6	78.2
Possessed an aid, but not now	*0.8	*2.3	5.2	5.4	13.8	1.8
Possess a hearing aid	4.1	10.7	39.9	98.9	153.6	20.0
<i>Total persons</i>	<i>42.4</i>	<i>168.9</i>	<i>297.9</i>	<i>258.9</i>	<i>768.0</i>	<i>100.0</i>

TABLE 10. PERSONS WHO HAVE A HEARING PROBLEM : WHETHER THEY HAVE EVER POSSESSED
A HEARING AID, BY STATES, BY SEX
(^{'000})

<i>Possession of a hearing aid</i>	<i>N.S.W.</i>	<i>Vic.</i>	<i>Qld</i>	<i>S.A.</i>	<i>W.A.</i>	<i>Tas.</i>	<i>N.T.</i>	<i>A.C.T.</i>	<i>Aust.</i>
MALES									
Never possessed a hearing aid	132.9	91.2	66.1	35.2	33.7	9.7	2.6	4.5	375.9
Possessed an aid, but not now	*1.3	*	*1.1	*0.7	*1.1	*0.4	*	*	5.5
Possess a hearing aid	26.3	19.1	12.3	10.2	8.0	2.9	*	*	79.5
<i>Total males</i>	<i>160.5</i>	<i>110.9</i>	<i>79.5</i>	<i>46.2</i>	<i>42.8</i>	<i>13.0</i>	<i>3.1</i>	<i>4.9</i>	<i>460.9</i>
FEMALES									
Never possessed a hearing aid	81.4	55.8	37.8	19.0	20.0	6.3	*1.5	2.9	224.7
Possessed an aid, but not now	*3.2	*2.6	*	*0.9	*0.5	*	*	*	8.2
Possess a hearing aid	24.8	21.2	12.7	6.5	6.1	2.4	*	*0.6	74.2
<i>Total females</i>	<i>109.4</i>	<i>79.6</i>	<i>51.1</i>	<i>26.5</i>	<i>26.5</i>	<i>8.8</i>	<i>*1.7</i>	<i>3.6</i>	<i>307.1</i>
PERSONS									
Never possessed a hearing aid	214.3	147.0	103.9	54.2	53.6	16.0	4.2	7.4	600.6
Possessed an aid, but not now	4.5	*3.2	*1.8	*1.7	*1.6	*0.6	*	*	13.8
Possess a hearing aid	51.1	40.3	25.0	16.7	14.1	5.3	*	0.7	153.6
<i>Total persons</i>	<i>269.9</i>	<i>190.4</i>	<i>130.7</i>	<i>72.7</i>	<i>69.3</i>	<i>21.9</i>	<i>4.8</i>	<i>8.4</i>	<i>768.0</i>

TABLE 11. PERSONS WHO HAVE A HEARING PROBLEM BUT HAVE NEVER POSSESSED A HEARING AID :
REASON FOR NOT OBTAINING AN AID, BY AGE AND SEX
(000)

Reason for not obtaining an aid	Age group				Males	Females	Total persons	
	15-24 years	25-44 years	45-64 years	65 years and over			(number)	(per cent)
Hearing not bad enough	27.2	112.5	174.0	93.2	257.9	148.8	406.8	67.7
Aid would not help	*3.5	16.5	27.4	15.9	40.6	22.7	63.3	10.5
Aid a nuisance/uncomfortable/appearance	*	3.6	11.8	11.6	18.0	9.6	27.6	4.6
Costs associated with aid	*	4.3	10.7	11.3	16.0	10.7	26.7	4.4
Other (a)	5.8	19.0	29.0	22.5	43.4	32.9	76.3	12.7
Total persons	37.4	155.8	252.9	154.6	375.9	224.7	600.6	100.0

(a) "Other" includes persons who are in the process of obtaining an aid, waiting to receive medical treatment, or have never bothered to get an aid.

TABLE 12. PERSONS WHO HAVE A HEARING PROBLEM BUT HAVE NEVER POSSESSED A HEARING AID :
EAR AFFECTED, BY AGE, BY SEX
(000)

	Age group				Total persons	
	15-24 years	25-44 years	45-64 years	65 years and over	(number)	(per cent)
MALES						
Both ears affected						
left worse	*	6.2	15.4	8.0	30.3	8.1
right worse	*	4.3	11.5	3.6	19.9	5.3
equal in both	5.1	24.7	48.8	26.4	105.1	28.0
Left ear only	6.2	31.3	38.7	16.9	93.0	24.7
Right ear only	4.1	22.9	33.3	13.6	73.9	19.6
Don't know	*2.2	10.6	27.7	13.3	53.8	14.3
Total males	18.7	100.1	175.3	81.8	375.9	100.0
FEMALES						
Both ears affected -						
left worse	*	4.1	5.1	6.0	15.9	7.1
right worse	*	*2.9	4.6	4.4	12.1	5.4
equal in both	*3.3	8.1	13.7	19.5	44.6	19.8
Left ear only	8.1	21.5	24.7	17.7	72.0	32.0
Right ear only	3.8	14.5	21.7	12.0	51.9	23.1
Don't know	*2.5	4.7	7.7	13.2	28.1	12.5
Total females	18.7	55.7	77.5	72.8	224.7	100.0
PERSONS						
Both ears affected -						
left worse	*1.3	10.3	20.5	14.1	46.2	7.7
right worse	*0.8	7.1	16.1	8.0	32.0	5.3
equal in both	8.4	32.9	62.5	45.9	149.7	24.9
Left ear only	14.3	52.8	63.4	34.6	165.1	27.5
Right ear only	7.9	37.4	55.0	25.6	125.8	20.9
Don't know	4.7	15.3	35.4	26.5	81.9	13.6
Total persons	37.4	155.8	252.9	154.6	600.6	100.0

TABLE 13. PERSONS WHO HAVE A HEARING PROBLEM BUT HAVE NEVER POSSESSED A HEARING AID :
REASON FOR NOT OBTAINING AN AID, BY EAR AFFECTED
(^{'000})

Reason for not obtaining an aid	Both ears affected			left only	right only	don't know	Total persons	
	left worse	right worse	equal in both				(number)	(per cent)
Hearing not bad enough	22.1	17.3	102.6	112.1	86.5	66.2	406.8	67.7
Aid would not help	6.6	4.5	15.2	17.6	17.0	*2.3	63.3	10.5
Aid a nuisance/uncomfortable/appearance	*3.2	*1.8	8.0	7.9	3.7	*3.0	27.6	4.6
Costs associated with aid	3.9	*2.8	7.0	6.5	4.9	*1.6	26.7	4.4
Other (a)	10.2	5.6	17.0	20.9	13.6	8.9	76.3	12.7
Total persons	46.2	32.0	149.7	165.0	125.8	81.9	600.6	100.0

(a) 'Other' includes persons who are in the process of obtaining an aid, waiting to receive medical treatment or have never bothered to get an aid.

TABLE 14. PERSONS WHO HAVE A HEARING PROBLEM BUT HAVE NEVER POSSESSED A HEARING AID :
EXTENT OF HEARING PROBLEM, BY AGE, BY SEX
(^{'000})

Extent of hearing problem	Age group				Total persons	
	15-24 years	25-44 years	45-64 years	65 years and over	(number)	(per cent)
MALES						
Hearing a problem - most of the time	*2.9	12.0	31.8	22.9	69.6	18.5
some of the time	11.5	72.1	122.2	51.6	257.3	68.5
hardly ever	4.4	16.0	21.3	7.3	49.0	13.0
Total males	18.7	100.1	175.3	81.8	375.9	100.0
FEMALES						
Hearing a problem - most of the time	*2.1	5.4	12.0	17.1	36.5	16.3
some of the time	13.8	39.7	53.8	44.8	152.2	67.7
hardly ever	*2.7	10.6	11.8	10.9	36.0	16.0
Total females	18.7	55.7	77.5	72.8	224.7	100.0
PERSONS						
Hearing a problem - most of the time	5.0	17.3	43.8	40.0	106.2	17.7
some of the time	25.3	111.8	176.0	96.4	409.5	68.2
hardly ever	7.1	26.6	33.1	18.2	85.0	14.2
Total persons	37.4	155.8	252.9	154.6	600.6	100.0

TABLE 15. PERSONS WHO HAVE A HEARING PROBLEM BUT HAVE NEVER POSSESSED A HEARING AID :
WHEN FIRST HAD A HEARING PROBLEM, BY AGE, BY SEX
(000)

When first had a hearing problem	Age group				Total persons	
	15-24 years	25-44 years	45-64 years	65 years and over	(number)	(per cent)
MALES						
Less than 5 years ago	8.2	36.8	60.5	30.0	135.5	36.0
5 years to less than 10 years ago	4.9	25.5	45.6	21.7	97.7	26.0
10 years to less than 20 years ago	4.8	19.2	25.4	11.4	60.9	16.2
20 years to less than 30 years ago	*	10.5	12.2	5.8	29.0	7.7
30 years or more ago	..	6.7	28.3	10.7	45.7	12.2
Don't know	*	*1.4	*3.3	*2.1	7.0	1.9
Total males	18.7	100.1	175.3	81.8	375.9	100.0
FEMALES						
Less than 5 years ago	6.4	19.3	30.1	34.5	90.2	40.1
5 years to less than 10 years ago	3.7	10.2	16.4	16.7	47.0	20.9
10 years to less than 20 years ago	7.1	11.8	10.5	8.1	37.5	16.7
20 years to less than 30 years ago	*1.4	8.6	6.2	*2.9	19.2	8.5
30 years or more ago	..	5.8	13.5	8.4	27.7	12.3
Don't know	*	*	*0.9	*2.1	*3.2	*1.4
Total females	18.7	55.7	77.5	72.8	224.7	100.0
PERSONS						
Less than 5 years ago	14.6	56.1	90.6	64.5	225.7	37.6
5 years to less than 10 years ago	8.6	35.7	62.0	38.4	144.7	24.1
10 years to less than 20 years ago	11.9	31.0	35.9	19.6	98.4	16.4
20 years to less than 30 years ago	*2.0	19.1	18.4	8.7	48.2	8.0
30 years or more ago	..	12.4	41.9	19.2	73.5	12.2
Don't know	*	*1.5	4.2	4.3	10.2	1.7
Total persons	37.4	155.8	252.9	154.6	600.6	100.0

TABLE 16. PERSONS WHO HAVE A HEARING PROBLEM AND PREVIOUSLY POSSESSED A HEARING AID :
EXTENT OF HEARING PROBLEM, BY SEX
(000)

Extent of hearing problem	Males	Females	Persons
Hearing a problem - most of the time	*2.3	3.4	5.7
some of the time	*2.4	4.1	6.5
hardly ever	*0.8	*	*1.5
Total persons	5.5	8.2	13.7

TABLE 17. PERSONS WHO POSSESS A HEARING AID : WHEN MOST RECENT AID OBTAINED,
BY AGE, BY SEX
(^{'000})

When most recent aid obtained	Age group			Total persons	
	15-44 years	45-64 years	65 years and over	(number)	(per cent)
MALES					
Less than 6 months ago	*1.2	*3.2	7.7	12.1	15.3
6 months to less than 2 years ago	*2.7	6.9	13.0	22.6	28.4
2 years to less than 5 years ago	*2.8	9.4	15.4	27.6	34.7
5 years or more ago	*1.4	4.8	11.0	17.2	21.6
Total males	8.1	24.3	47.1	79.5	100.0
FEMALES					
Less than 6 months ago	*0.8	*1.4	5.6	7.8	10.5
6 months to less than 2 years ago	*2.2	3.9	15.2	21.3	28.7
2 years to less than 5 years ago	*1.9	5.8	17.9	25.6	34.5
5 years or more ago	*1.9	4.6	13.1	19.5	26.3
Total females	6.8	15.6	51.8	74.2	100.0
PERSONS					
Less than 6 months ago	*2.0	4.6	13.3	19.9	13.0
6 months to less than 2 years ago	4.8	10.9	28.2	43.9	28.6
2 years to less than 5 years ago	4.7	15.1	33.3	53.1	34.6
5 years or more ago	*3.3	9.3	24.1	36.7	23.9
Total persons	14.9	39.9	98.9	153.6	100.0

TABLE 18. PERSONS WHO POSSESS A HEARING AID : HOW OFTEN HEARING AID IS USED,
BY AGE, BY SEX
(^{'000})

Hearing aid use	Age group			Total persons	
	15-44 years	45-64 years	65 years and over	(number)	(per cent)
MALES					
More than 8 hours a day	3.6	10.5	9.3	23.4	29.4
4 to 8 hours a day	*1.2	4.3	13.5	19.1	24.0
At least once a week but less than 4 hours a day	*1.2	4.6	14.0	19.8	24.9
Less than once a week	*0.9	*2.3	*3.1	6.3	7.9
Never use their aid	*1.2	*2.5	7.3	10.9	13.7
Total males	8.1	24.3	47.1	79.5	100.0
FEMALES					
More than 8 hours a day	*3.3	7.2	17.0	27.4	36.9
4 to 8 hours a day	*1.5	*3.2	12.6	17.3	23.3
At least once a week but less than 4 hours a day	*	*1.7	10.4	12.6	17.0
Less than once a week	*	*0.9	4.7	5.9	8.0
Never use their aid	*1.1	*2.6	7.2	10.9	14.7
Total females	6.8	15.6	51.8	74.2	100.0
PERSONS					
More than 8 hours a day	6.9	17.7	26.2	50.8	33.1
4 to 8 hours a day	*2.7	7.5	26.1	36.3	23.6
At least once a week but less than 4 hours a day	*1.7	6.4	24.4	32.5	21.2
Less than once a week	*1.2	*3.2	7.8	12.2	7.9
Never use their aid	*2.3	5.1	14.4	21.8	14.2
Total persons	14.9	39.9	98.9	153.6	100.0

TABLE 19. PERSONS WHO POSSESS A HEARING AID : EXTENT OF HEARING PROBLEM
WITHOUT USE OF AID, BY AGE, BY SEX
(^{'000})

Extent of hearing problem without use of aid	Age group			Total persons	
	15-44 years	45-64 years	65 years and over	(number)	(per cent)
MALES					
Hearing a problem – most of the time if aid not used	3.9	15.2	27.2	46.3	58.2
some of the time if aid not used	3.5	8.3	17.4	29.2	36.7
hardly ever if aid not used	*	*0.6	*2.5	4.0	5.0
Total males	8.1	24.3	47.1	79.5	100.0
FEMALES					
Hearing a problem – most of the time if aid not used	4.7	11.0	31.2	46.8	63.1
some of the time if aid not used	*1.9	4.1	18.3	24.2	32.6
hardly ever if aid not used	*	*	*2.3	*3.2	*4.3
Total females	6.8	15.6	51.8	74.2	100.0
PERSONS					
Hearing a problem – most of the time if aid not used	8.6	26.1	58.4	93.1	60.6
some of the time if aid not used	5.4	12.3	35.7	53.4	34.8
hardly ever if aid not used	*0.9	*1.4	4.8	7.1	4.6
Total persons	14.9	39.9	98.9	153.6	100.0

TABLE 20. PERSONS WHO POSSESS A HEARING AID : EXTENT OF HEARING PROBLEM
WITHOUT USE OF AID, BY HOW OFTEN AID IS USED
(^{'000})

Extent of hearing problem without use of aid	Hearing aid use					Total persons	
	More than 8 hours a day	4 to 8 hours a day	At least once a week (a)	Less than once a week	Never use their aid	(number)	(per cent)
Hearing a problem – most of the time if aid not used	44.2	21.1	12.5	4.3	11.0	93.1	60.6
some of the time if aid not used	6.1	14.5	18.5	6.2	8.1	53.4	34.8
hardly ever if aid not used	*	*	*1.5	*1.7	*2.7	7.1	4.6
Total persons	50.8	36.3	32.5	12.2	21.8	153.6	100.0

(a) but less than 4 hours a day.

TABLE 21. PERSONS WHO POSSESS A HEARING AID : WHEN FIRST HAD A HEARING PROBLEM,
BY AGE
(^{'000})

When first had a hearing problem	Age group			Total persons	
	15-44 years	45-64 years	65 years and over	(number)	(per cent)
Less than 5 years ago	*1.8	4.6	22.0	28.4	18.5
5 years to less than 10 years ago	*	6.4	23.8	30.9	20.1
10 years to less than 20 years ago	5.4	7.5	21.9	34.8	22.7
20 years to less than 30 years ago	3.4	6.2	9.4	19.0	12.4
30 years or more ago	*3.0	14.9	21.0	39.0	25.4
Total persons (a)	14.9	39.9	98.9	153.6	100.0

(a) Includes 1,640 persons who currently possess a hearing aid but did not know when they first had trouble hearing.

TABLE 22. PERSONS WHO POSSESS A HEARING AID : PRICE OF MOST RECENT AID, BY AGE ('000)

Price of most recent aid (\$)	Age group			Total persons	
	15-44 years	45-64 years	65 years and over	(number)	(per cent)
0 - 30	6.6	13.5	57.6	77.8	50.6
31 - 100	*	*1.1	*1.9	*3.0	*2.0
101 - 200	*0.9	4.0	5.6	10.6	6.9
201 - 300	*2.1	5.3	10.7	18.0	11.7
301 - 400	4.3	7.7	11.3	23.3	15.2
401 - 500	*	6.6	7.6	14.8	9.6
500 or more	*	*1.8	4.1	6.1	4.0
Total persons	14.9	39.9	98.9	153.6	100.0

TABLE 23. PERSONS WHO POSSESS A HEARING AID : WHEN MOST RECENT AID OBTAINED, BY PRICE ('000)

When most recent aid obtained	Price of aid (\$)							Total persons	
	0-30	31-100	101-200	201-300	301-400	401-500	500 or more	(number)	(per cent)
Less than 6 months ago	12.8	*	*	*0.9	*2.9	*1.9	*1.0	19.9	13.0
6 months to less than 2 years ago	20.6	*	*1.7	4.4	6.6	8.0	*2.3	43.9	28.6
2 years to less than 5 years ago	25.8	*1.4	3.9	6.9	9.3	*3.4	*2.5	53.1	34.6
5 years or more	18.5	*1.2	4.7	5.9	4.4	*1.6	*	36.7	23.9
Total persons	77.8	*3.0	10.6	18.0	23.3	14.8	6.1	153.6	100.0

TABLE 24. PERSONS WHO POSSESS A HEARING AID : NUMBER OF AIDS EVER POSSESSED, BY AGE, BY SEX ('000)

Number of aids	Age group			Total persons	
	15-44 years	45-64 years	65 years and over	(number)	(per cent)
MALES					
Only one aid possessed now -					
only ever possessed present aid	*2.5	13.7	28.4	44.6	56.1
at least one other aid possessed previously	*3.1	6.5	10.9	20.5	25.8
Possess more than one aid now	*2.4	4.1	7.8	14.4	18.1
Total males	8.1	24.3	47.1	79.5	100.0
FEMALES					
Only one aid possessed now -					
only ever possessed present aid	3.9	8.3	28.4	40.6	54.7
at least one other aid possessed previously	*1.2	5.0	13.6	19.8	26.7
Possess more than one aid now	*1.7	*2.3	9.8	13.8	18.6
Total females	6.8	15.6	51.8	74.2	100.0
PERSONS					
Only one aid possessed now -					
only ever possessed present aid	6.4	22.0	56.8	85.1	55.4
at least one other aid possessed previously	4.4	11.5	24.5	40.3	26.2
Possess more than one aid now	4.1	6.5	17.5	28.1	18.3
Total persons	14.9	39.9	98.9	153.6	100.0

TABLE 25. PERSONS WHO USE A HEARING AID (a) : TYPE OF AID (b), BY AGE, BY SEX ('000)

Type of aid (b)	Age group			Total persons	
	15-44 years	45-64 years	65 years and over	(number)	(per cent)
MALES					
Body aid	*	*2.0	4.3	7.0	10.2
All in the ear aid	*	4.0	9.4	14.2	20.7
Behind the ear aid	5.1	13.1	23.8	42.1	61.4
Aid attached to spectacles	*	*2.6	*2.4	5.3	7.7
Total males	6.9	21.8	39.9	68.6	100.0
FEMALES					
Body aid	*1.0	*0.8	3.8	5.7	9.0
All in the ear aid	*	*2.9	11.2	14.8	23.4
Behind the ear aid	3.5	8.1	24.8	36.4	57.5
Aid attached to spectacles	*	*1.2	4.8	6.5	10.3
Total females	5.6	13.1	44.6	63.3	100.0
PERSONS					
Body aid	*1.8	*2.8	8.1	12.7	9.6
All in the ear aid	*1.5	6.9	20.6	28.9	21.9
Behind the ear aid	8.6	21.2	48.6	78.4	59.5
Aid attached to spectacles	*	3.9	7.2	11.8	9.0
Total persons	12.6	34.8	84.4	131.8	100.0

(a) Excludes 21,800 persons who possess a hearing aid but reported never using it. (b) If a person uses more than one type of aid, the type of aid used most often was recorded.

TABLE 26. PERSONS WHO USE A HEARING AID (a) : EAR ON WHICH AID WORN, BY TYPE OF AID (b), BY SEX ('000)

Ear on which aid worn	Type of aid (b)				Total persons	
	Body aid	All in the ear aid	Behind the ear aid	Aid attached to spectacles	(number)	(per cent)
MALES						
Left only	3.4	5.4	19.0	*2.0	29.9	43.6
Right only	*3.3	8.2	19.2	*1.3	32.2	46.9
Both ears at once	*	*	3.8	*2.0	6.5	9.5
Total males	7.0	14.2	42.1	5.3	68.6	100.0
FEMALES						
Left only	*2.7	7.0	17.1	*2.4	29.2	46.2
Right only	*2.7	6.4	16.9	*2.1	28.0	44.3
Both ears at once	*	*1.4	*2.3	*1.9	6.0	9.5
Total females	5.7	14.8	36.4	6.5	63.3	100.0
PERSONS						
Left only	6.2	12.4	36.1	4.5	59.1	44.8
Right only	6.0	14.6	36.2	3.4	60.2	45.7
Both ears at once	*	*1.9	6.1	3.9	12.5	9.5
Total persons	12.7	28.9	78.4	11.8	131.8	100.0

(a) Excludes 21,800 persons who possess a hearing aid but reported never using it. (b) If a person uses more than one type of aid, the type of aid used most often was recorded.

TABLE 27. PERSONS WHO NO LONGER USE A HEARING AID (a) : REASON AID NOT USED, BY SEX ('000)

Reason aid not used	Males	Females	Total persons	
			(number)	(per cent)
Hearing improved	4.0	3.6	7.6	15.9
Aid noisy	3.6	4.1	7.7	16.1
Aid unreliable	*1.5	*	*1.8	*3.8
Aid did not help	4.4	3.9	8.3	17.4
Aid a nuisance/uncomfortable/appearance	4.9	7.5	12.4	26.1
Costs associated with aid	*	*	*0.8	*1.7
Other (b)	4.0	5.0	9.1	19.0
Total persons	22.7	25.1	47.8	100.0

(a) Comprises persons who have trouble hearing and have possessed an aid but don't possess one now as well as persons who possess an aid but use it less than once a week or never. (b) Includes persons who only use their aid on special occasions, who are in the process of obtaining a new aid or have lost their hearing aid.

TABLE 28. PERSONS WHO NO LONGER USE A HEARING AID (a) : REASON AID NOT USED, BY EAR AFFECTED ('000)

Reason aid not used	Both ears affected	One ear only affected	Total persons (c)	
			(number)	(per cent)
Hearing improved	*2.4	4.6	7.6	15.9
Aid noisy	4.7	*2.9	7.7	16.1
Aid unreliable	*1.1	*	*1.8	*3.8
Aid did not help	5.4	*2.9	8.3	17.4
Aid a nuisance/uncomfortable/appearance	6.7	5.4	12.4	26.1
Costs associated with aid	*	*	*0.8	*1.7
Other (b)	5.3	3.5	9.1	19.0
Total persons	26.1	20.5	47.8	100.0

(a) Comprises persons who have trouble hearing and have possessed an aid but don't possess one now as well as persons who possess an aid but use it less than once a week or never. (b) Includes persons who only use their aid on special occasions, who are in the process of obtaining a new aid, or have lost their hearing aid. (c) 'Total' includes 1,200 persons who did not know which ear was affected.

TABLE 29. PERSONS : WHETHER HEARING TESTED IN THE LAST FIVE YEARS, BY AGE, BY SEX ('000)

	Age group				Total persons	
	15-24 years	25-44 years	45-64 years	65 years and over	(number)	(per cent)
MALES						
Hearing tested in last five years	259.5	382.9	251.6	93.2	987.2	19.3
Hearing not tested in last five years	918.4	1,535.4	1,112.5	420.0	3,986.4	78.0
Don't know	50.4	50.4	28.7	7.1	136.7	2.7
Total males	1,228.4	1,968.7	1,392.8	520.4	5,110.3	100.0
FEMALES						
Hearing tested in last five years	246.0	173.1	123.0	91.7	633.8	12.2
Hearing not tested in last five years	928.4	1,735.4	1,250.8	585.0	4,499.6	86.3
Don't know	40.6	19.3	14.4	7.5	81.7	1.6
Total females	1,215.0	1,927.8	1,388.2	684.2	5,215.2	100.0
PERSONS						
Hearing tested in last five years	505.5	556.0	374.6	185.0	1,621.1	15.7
Hearing not tested in last five years	1,846.8	3,270.8	2,363.3	1,005.0	8,486.0	82.2
Don't know	91.0	69.7	43.1	14.6	218.4	2.1
Total persons	2,443.3	3,896.5	2,781.0	1,204.6	10,325.5	100.0

TABLE 30. PERSONS : WHETHER HEARING TESTED IN THE LAST FIVE YEARS, BY STATES, BY SEX ('000)

	N.S.W.	Vic.	Qld	S.A.	W.A.	Tas.	N.T.	A.C.T.	Aust.
MALES									
Hearing tested in last five years	339.8	271.4	119.6	102.6	92.2	33.9	11.5	16.2	987.2
Hearing not tested in last five years	1,412.6	1,051.0	643.3	360.5	330.7	107.9	27.0	53.3	3,986.4
Don't know	43.2	41.4	16.1	8.6	17.4	5.8	3.0	*1.2	136.7
Total males	1,795.5	1,363.8	779.1	471.7	440.4	147.6	41.5	70.7	5,110.3
FEMALES									
Hearing tested in last five years	239.5	169.6	72.0	61.8	53.8	19.4	6.0	11.8	633.8
Hearing not tested in last five years	1,590.1	1,207.8	708.0	409.9	373.0	126.5	24.1	60.2	4,499.6
Don't know	26.8	23.5	8.4	8.7	8.7	3.0	2.0	*0.7	81.7
Total females	1,856.3	1,400.8	788.3	480.4	435.5	148.8	32.1	72.8	5,215.2
PERSONS									
Hearing tested in last five years	579.3	441.0	191.6	164.5	146.0	53.2	17.5	28.0	1,621.1
Hearing not tested in last five years	3,002.6	2,258.8	1,351.3	770.4	703.8	234.4	51.1	113.6	8,486.0
Don't know	69.9	64.9	24.5	17.3	26.1	8.8	5.0	1.9	218.4
Total persons	3,651.8	2,764.7	1,567.4	952.1	875.8	296.4	73.7	143.5	10,325.5

TABLE 31. PERSONS WHO HAVE HAD HEARING TESTED IN LAST FIVE YEARS :
TYPE OF TEST, BY AGE, BY SEX
(^{'000})

	Age group				Total persons	
	15-24 years	25-44 years	45-64 years	65 years and over	(number)	(per cent)
MALES						
Hearing tested with machine using headphones	130.7	206.3	144.1	53.7	534.8	54.2
Headphones not used when hearing tested	90.3	114.0	65.8	23.7	293.8	29.8
Don't know	38.5	62.6	41.7	15.9	158.7	16.1
Total males	259.5	382.9	251.6	93.2	987.2	100.0
FEMALES						
Hearing tested with machine using headphones	117.0	100.8	82.9	55.5	356.2	56.2
Headphones not used when hearing tested	102.3	64.1	31.0	24.9	222.3	35.1
Don't know	26.7	8.2	9.1	11.3	55.3	8.7
Total females	246.0	173.1	123.0	91.7	633.8	100.0
PERSONS						
Hearing tested with machine using headphones	247.8	307.1	227.0	109.1	891.0	55.0
Headphones not used when hearing tested	192.6	178.1	96.8	48.6	516.1	31.8
Don't know	65.2	70.8	50.8	27.2	214.0	13.2
Total persons	505.5	556.0	374.6	185.0	1,621.1	100.0

TABLE 32. PERSONS WHO HAVE HAD HEARING TESTED IN LAST FIVE YEARS :
TYPE OF TEST, BY STATES, BY SEX
(^{'000})

	N.S.W.	Vic.	Qld	S.A.	W.A.	Tas.	N.T.	A.C.T.	Aust.
MALES									
Hearing tested with machine using headphones	162.4	146.5	67.6	66.5	58.9	17.2	6.8	8.8	534.8
Headphones not used when hearing tested	119.1	79.2	33.9	22.5	21.3	9.9	3.2	4.7	293.8
Don't know	58.2	45.7	18.2	13.6	12.0	6.7	*1.5	2.7	158.7
Total males	339.8	271.4	119.6	102.6	92.2	33.9	11.5	16.2	987.2
FEMALES									
Hearing tested with machine using headphones	111.4	99.4	46.8	43.2	35.7	9.6	3.4	6.6	356.2
Headphones not used when hearing tested	105.7	54.8	19.9	13.7	14.5	6.9	2.5	4.4	222.3
Don't know	22.5	15.3	5.3	4.9	3.5	2.8	*	*0.8	55.3
Total females	239.5	169.6	72.0	61.8	53.8	19.4	6.0	11.8	633.8
PERSONS									
Hearing tested with machine using headphones	273.8	245.9	114.4	109.8	94.6	26.9	10.2	15.4	891.0
Headphones not used when hearing tested	224.6	134.0	53.7	36.2	35.8	16.8	5.7	9.1	516.1
Don't know	80.7	61.0	23.5	18.5	15.5	9.6	*1.6	3.5	214.0
Total persons	579.3	441.0	191.6	164.5	146.0	53.2	17.5	28.0	1,621.1

