

# Assistive Devices

The following devices have proved to be very helpful and popular among people with a hearing loss. You might find them helpful too.

## **T400 Volume Control Telephone**

This is a modern touchfone with a volume control and ringing control. **People with hearing impairment can have their old phone replaced by one of these for no extra charge.** You need to get an application from Telstra and have it signed by your doctor.

## **Portable Telephone Amplifier**

The amplifier fits over the earpiece of a telephone handset and is held in place by a rubber strap. **It amplifies the incoming voice and can be used with or without a hearing aid.** (Contact Telpet or AT&T AMP)

## **Telstra Visual Alarm**

The alarm is connected to the telephone and uses a power point and a lamp. **When the phone rings, the light flashes.** (Available from Telstra)

## **Loop Receiver**

The “Viennatone” brand receiver comprises earpieces, which fit into each ear of **listeners without hearing aids. They can then pick up sound coming from an induction loop,** as people with hearing aids can do by using their “T” switches.

## **Induction Aids: Neck Loop, Antimacassar and Shoulder Pad & Cushion**

**Each of these devices plugs into a TV set that has a suitable socket.** Some TV sets have a socket which, when used, cuts out the sound from the speakers. In other cases, the TV speakers can still be heard.

**Some TVs have no such socket, but an experienced technician may be able to fit one to the set. The sound is picked up by using the “T” switch on a hearing aid.**

Aids come in a variety of forms – a loop which is worn around the neck, an antimacassar which fits over the back of a chair, a pad that rests on the shoulder, or a cushion behind the head.

Please note – **you can find more information on induction aids** in the Better Hearing Australia, Sydney brochure **Audio Loops**, which is part of the Hearing Loss Management Information Series. Ask about the other titles in the series.

### **Minicon TV Listener**

With this aid, **a microphone is taped to the TV speaker. An amplifier is plugged into a power point and sits on top of the TV set. An induction loop is placed around the room, and viewers use the “T” switches on their hearing aids to get a clear sound.**