

Hearing Rehabilitation Audiologist

What is a Hearing Rehabilitation Audiologist?

A **Hearing Rehabilitation Audiologist, or HR Audiologist**, is an ACAud-certified practitioner who:

- holds a verified overseas qualification in audiology;
- has demonstrated competency in hearing rehabilitation;
- holds a current ACAud Clinical Certificate of Practice as a Hearing Rehabilitation Audiologist; and
- is authorised to practise within a defined rehabilitation-focused scope of practice.

Within ACAud, Hearing Rehabilitation Audiologist is a clinical certification designation attached to an eligible ACAud membership. It is not a separate constitutional membership class. For Hearing Services Program purposes, the practitioner is classified as a Restricted Scope Audiologist.

What is the HR Audiologist's scope of practice?

An HR Audiologist has the same rehabilitation-focused scope of practice as an ACAud HRS-certified Audiometrist.

This means the practitioner may provide hearing assessment, hearing device and rehabilitation services within their demonstrated competency, including:

- case history, otoscopy and routine hearing assessment;
- pure-tone and speech audiometry;
- masking, tympanometry and acoustic reflex testing;
- identification of red flags and appropriate referral;
- hearing aid selection, fitting, programming, verification and validation;
- hearing assistive technology;
- rehabilitation planning, communication strategies and counselling;
- tinnitus rehabilitation where the practitioner is competent;
- hearing conservation, ongoing rehabilitation and aftercare.

HR Audiologists must practise within their demonstrated competency, ACAud-certified scope and any applicable Hearing Services Program requirements.

What does HR Audiologist recognition entitle the practitioner to?

Under the Hearing Services Program, an ACAud HR Audiologist:

- is recognised as a **Restricted Scope Audiologist**;
- is eligible to hold a **Qualified Practitioner number**;
- may provide and claim eligible Hearing Services Program services within the Audiometrist-equivalent scope; and
- may be listed in the Hearing Services Online Portal under the applicable Restricted Scope Audiologist classification.

The HR Audiologist designation does not provide additional clinical services or claiming permissions beyond those available within the equivalent Audiometrist scope.

What can an HR Audiologist not do?

An HR Audiologist does **not** hold ACAud's broader Diagnostic Rehabilitation Specialist certification and is not recognised by ACAud as having the full diagnostic and rehabilitation scope of an ACAud-certified Audiologist.

Under the Hearing Services Program:

- the independent management of **Non-Routine Clients** remains outside the HR Audiologist's scope;
- an HR Audiologist cannot claim Audiological Case Management items **610 or 810**;
- where advice is required for a Non-Routine Client, the HR Audiologist must seek clinical advice from a QP Audiologist; and
- only the QP Audiologist who provides that advice may claim item 610 or 810, in connection with the related assessment or reassessment item 600 or 800.

Items 610 and 810 cannot be claimed as standalone services.

How is the practitioner's portal classification updated?

Before the Hearing Services Program can update the practitioner's classification, the practitioner must have received a current ACAud certificate confirming their Hearing Rehabilitation Audiologist status. The certificate formally recognises competency in Hearing Rehabilitation Audiology.

The practitioner or their service provider should then email hearing@health.gov.au and provide:

1. the practitioner's Qualified Practitioner number; and
2. a copy of the current ACAud certificate.

The Hearing Services Program will then update the practitioner's classification in the Hearing Services Online Portal where appropriate.

Is HR Audiologist a temporary pathway?

No. HR Audiologist is a renewable clinical certification for practitioners who wish to continue practising within the defined hearing rehabilitation scope.

Progression to Diagnostic Rehabilitation Specialist certification is available but optional. A practitioner only needs to progress to DRS where they wish to obtain ACAud's broader Audiologist certification and diagnostic rehabilitation scope.

How is certification maintained?

To maintain HR Audiologist certification, the practitioner must continue to:

- hold eligible ACAud membership;
- complete annual continuing professional development requirements;
- maintain recency of practice;
- comply with the ACAud Code of Conduct and professional standards;
- remain fit to practise; and
- practise only within their demonstrated competency and authorised scope.

Certification may be subject to conditions, supervision, suspension or withdrawal where these requirements are not maintained.

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