

Deadly Ears in Deadly Hands: Aboriginal Health Professional-led ear and hearing assessment and discharge planning for Aboriginal children at risk of severe ear infection

ACTRN12622000478718

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| Status | RECRUITING |
| Sponsor | Menzies School of Health Research |
| Enrollment | 600 participants |

Plain Language Summary

This study is about ear health in Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander children who are patients at Royal Darwin Hospital. Ear infections are very common in this community, and without proper care they can cause lasting hearing loss that affects a child's ability to learn and communicate. The study tests whether having an Aboriginal Ear Health Professional — someone from the same cultural background — provide personalised care planning and family support during a hospital stay leads to better ear health outcomes over the following months.

An Aboriginal Health Practitioner, Worker, or Registered Nurse will spend time with the child and their family while in hospital, conducting ear checks, providing education about ear health, and creating a tailored plan for follow-up care after discharge. The goal is not just to treat the immediate infection but to set up a lasting path to better hearing health.

Your child may be eligible if they are Aboriginal and/or Torres Strait Islander, currently admitted to Royal Darwin Hospital, aged from 29 days to 17 years, and have been found to have a significant ear condition on examination. Children must plan to remain in the Northern Territory for at least four months after discharge.

Key Eligibility Criteria

Inclusion (13)

-) Age: greater than 28 days post-term (corrected for premature infants) to 17 years old
-)Aboriginal and/or Torres Strait Islander
-)Inpatient at Royal Darwin Hospital
-)At risk of severe otitis media defined as either:
 - a) Worst ear diagnosis upon ear examination of either:
 - ... and 8 more (see full listing online)

Exclusion (7)

-)Previously participation on the trial
-)Sibling living in the same household randomised within 6 weeks
-)Lack of access to primary health care provider in the NT
-)Not planning to remain resident in the NT for 4 months
-) Attending Royal Darwin Hospital for “day surgery”
 - ... and 2 more (see full listing online)

Locations (1 total)

Royal Darwin Hospital - Tiwi, NT, Australia

<https://www.anzctr.org.au/Trial/Registration/TrialReview.aspx?ACTRN=ACTRN12622000478718>

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