

# PAEDIATRIC COMPETENCY STANDARDS FOR AUDIOLOGISTS

## One page summary

The development of the Paediatric Competency Standards for Audiologists was funded by the Australian Government Department of Health. Audiology Australia led the project for the Hearing Health Sector Alliance (HHSA).

The Hearing Health Sector Alliance (HHSA) comprises consumer groups, health professional bodies, industry associations and research organisations.

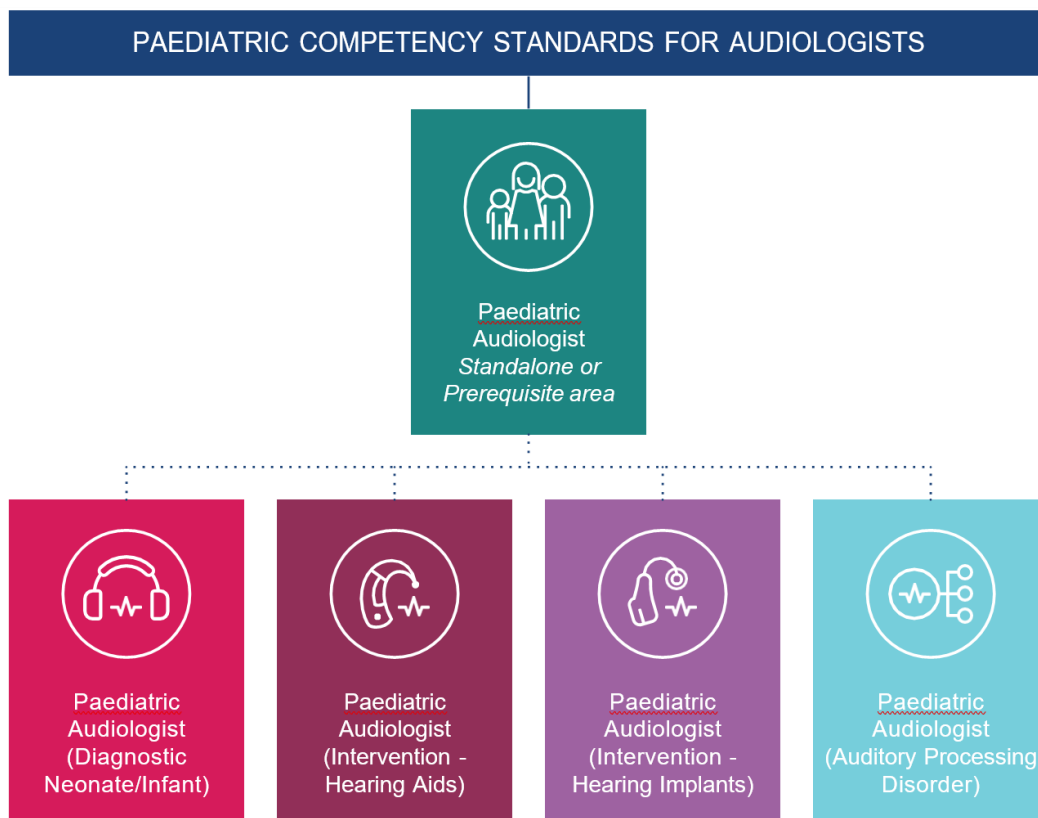
### THE PURPOSE OF DEVELOPING COMPETENCY STANDARDS

The *Paediatric Competency Standards for Audiologists* describe the minimum knowledge, skills and attributes required for an Audiologist to deliver paediatric audiology services at an advanced level. A paediatric client is defined as under 18 years of age, and includes neonate, infant, child or young person.

The competency standards provide a framework for consistency of care and thereby act as a form of quality assurance for families and carers seeking paediatric audiology services.

These standards exist in addition to sets of competency standards that describe the skills of all Audiologists working in any area and with any client group.

The competencies can be used by an individual Audiologist to guide their professional development, by clinical team leaders to assess the competency of staff members performing paediatric work, and for the purpose of certification of the professional body of which the Audiologist is a member.



The competency standards are divided into 5 areas of practice. The first area, Paediatric Audiologist, is the prerequisite for the other four areas, and can operate as a standalone area, or in conjunction with other areas. It describes competencies that all Audiologists experienced in delivering services at an advanced level to paediatric clients, in whatever paediatric audiology area of practice they work in, would be expected to have.

An Audiologist who has experience in paediatric audiology may also have experience in one or more of the other four areas of practice, depending on their work environment and case load. The Paediatric Audiologist area of practice includes general paediatric audiology competencies as well as those relating to the clinical area of paediatric hearing assessment.