



ASSISTIVE TECHNOLOGY FOR VOICE AMPLIFICATION



IMAGINE

Do you, or someone you know:

Have a reduced volume of speech?

Have trouble being understood due to a voice volume disorder?

Find that you need to strain your voice to be heard in everyday conversations?

Want to increase the volume of your voice at social get togethers, when speaking to others or giving a talk?



SEEK

To find out more, you can...

Phone **LifeTec on 1300 545 383** to discuss your options with a health professional.

Schedule an assessment here:

<https://lifetec.org.au/our-services/referrals/>

Speak to your speech pathologist.

Use the National Equipment Database at www.ilcaustralia.org.au for further information on voice amplification.



CHOOSE

What can I choose from?

There are a variety of options when it comes to voice amplification. Different voice amplifiers vary in the features they offer. It is best to trial a range of options to determine which voice amplification option is the most suitable for you. Voice amplification may assist people with vocal cord injuries, people with low voice volume due to degenerative conditions, or anyone who needs to use a high-volume voice for long periods of time. They can compensate for lower volume and reduce the need for someone to strain their voice to be heard. This may help to reduce vocal fatigue (a tired voice) and promote better vocal hygiene (looking after your voice and keeping it healthy).

Voice amplifiers are electronic voice amplification systems that can be worn on the body to increase the volume of speech. The amplifier allows you to be heard clearly and increase the volume of your voice to others around you. These systems consist of a microphone, a speaker, and a harness or strap.



Reviewed on: 02/18



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Voice amplification is **unlikely to benefit** people without any audible voice, or people with very distorted speech sounds. Voice amplification is not designed for people who need amplification to speak to large numbers of people (e.g. in an auditorium – they do not replace Public Address [PA] systems). People without any audible voice may need to consider AAC (Augmentative and Alternative Communication) systems (*see our separate factsheets on this*).

Microphones



The microphones for voice amplification devices can be headset, lapel, or throat microphones. These different options will be suitable for different individuals.

Amplification



The microphones in voice amplification devices are connected (electronically or wirelessly) to speakers to provide an individual with amplification. These often have different options for portability such as shoulder straps or belt clips.

Power

Some voice amplification devices are powered through disposable batteries, meanwhile others will be rechargeable.



LIVE

There are a range of considerations that need to be made when using a voice amplifier to assist with communication. These include:

- Who will be using or operating the device?
- How will it be managed day-to-day (e.g. charging batteries)?
- How it will be worn (waist belt, around neck, in shirt pocket)?
- When and where will it be used?
- Do you need to trial more than one option?
- How much does it cost, and is there funding available?
- Do any customisations need to be made?

Once you have identified the optimal voice amplification device to meet your communication needs, LifeTec Speech Pathologists can provide support to enable maximum success which includes:

- Applications for funding of devices
- Assistance with set up and use
- Training for communication partners and people using the device
- Identification of barriers to success, and problem-solving to overcome these barriers

Contact details

- ➔ www.lifetec.org.au
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Acknowledgement of funding



Australian Government
Department of Social Services

