



**Alcoa
Foundation**

Alcoa Foundation Earbus Program

Alcoa Foundation is passionate about partnering with communities to help address local needs. For this reason, we are proud to partner with Earbus Foundation of Western Australia to reduce the incidence of middle ear disease and hearing loss in Aboriginal and at-risk children in the south-west of Western Australia.

Earbus deploys multi-disciplinary clinical teams into regional and remote areas to reduce the incidence of middle ear disease and hearing loss in Aboriginal and at-risk children so that every young person can reach their full potential through listening and learning.

Alcoa has supported this important work since 2018 through the Earbus Southwest Program. From 2021, this support was increased significantly through a new partnership and the development of the Alcoa Earbus Program in Kwinana, Peel and the Upper South West.

From 2023 Alcoa Foundation entered into a new partnership with Earbus Foundation of WA, boosting our commitment to a further three years of funding and the creation of the Alcoa Foundation Earbus Program.

About
\$780,000

has been committed to
Earbus Foundation.



Find out more about a few of our flagship partnerships by scanning this QR code.





The challenge

While Australia's overall population has one of the lowest rates of chronic ear disease in the world, the World Health Organisation includes a special listing for Australia's Indigenous people alongside its list of the five countries with the highest rates of middle-ear disease.

Middle ear disease can be an underestimated condition that affects early childhood development and creates lifelong barriers that prevent Aboriginal and at-risk children from taking their rightful part in Australian society.

The project

Through the Alcoa Foundation Earbus Program, a dedicated clinical team visits local schools to diagnose and treat symptoms of ear conditions and prevent recurrences of ear disease.

Comprising a Screener, GP/Nurse Practitioner and Audiologist, each Earbus team provides a mobile one stop shop at locations convenient for communities, with access to Ear Nose and Throat Specialist as required

Meticulous records and trackable case notes are kept, ensuring children receive the ongoing care and support they need, supported by a longstanding collaboration with South West Aboriginal Medical Services.

The goals

Between 2023 - 2026, the Alcoa Foundation - Earbus Partnership will provide regular visits to 40 schools across the local government areas of Kwinana, Murray and Waroona as well as parts of the shires of Harvey and Serpentine-Jarrahdale.

Additionally, Early Childhood Educators in the region will participate in Ears2Learn, a capacity building program training educators to screen ears as part of a comprehensive approach to community ear health.

Healthy ears are the key to children's learning. The Alcoa Foundation Earbus Program aims to eradicate the impacts of hearing loss and middle ear disease so that every young person in the communities where we operate can reach their full potential and thrive beyond the classroom.

By the end of 2026

5,000
ear screens

40
educators trained in
ear health

>1,600
children assessed

Incidence of
middle ear disease
reduced to less than

4%*

40
schools, day cares
and community
centres visited



* World Health Organisation benchmark