



Huh?...

Getting our jarjum's hearing checked.



By Kimberlii Austen

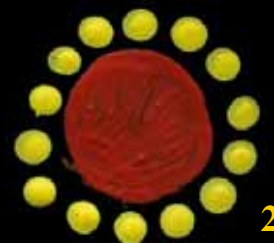
Artwork by
Vanessa Kapeen



This is Child and Family Health in Oliver Avenue in Goonellabah. It is near the Coles Shopping Centre.



You can take your jarjums here to get their hearing checked.

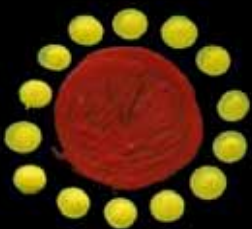


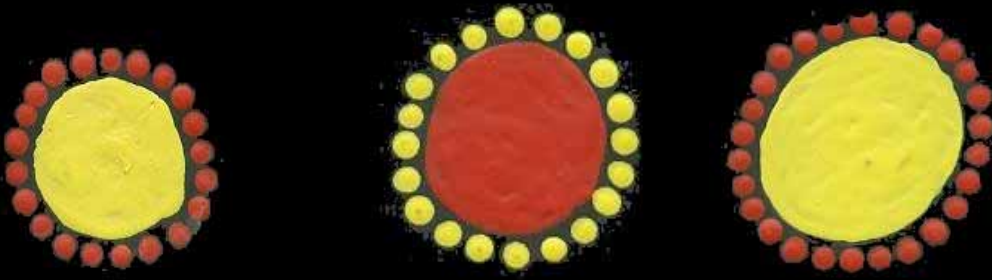
Lots of kids and families go here.
It is a busy place. You will need
to book a time to go here with your
jarjums.

You can ring 'em up on 66 250 111.



Tell 'em you want to get your jarjum's hearing checked.
They will help you work out a day and a time that you
can go and get it done.



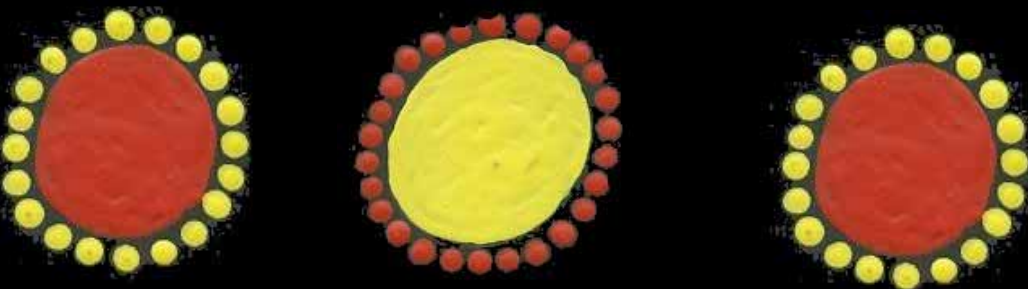


When you go to Child and Family Health you will see Cathy, Sue or Madeleine at the front desk.

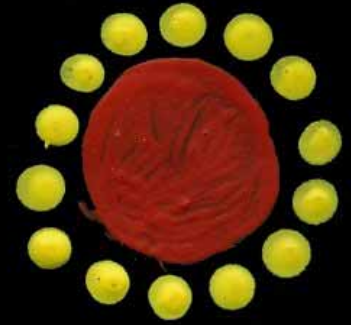
They will ask you who you want to see...



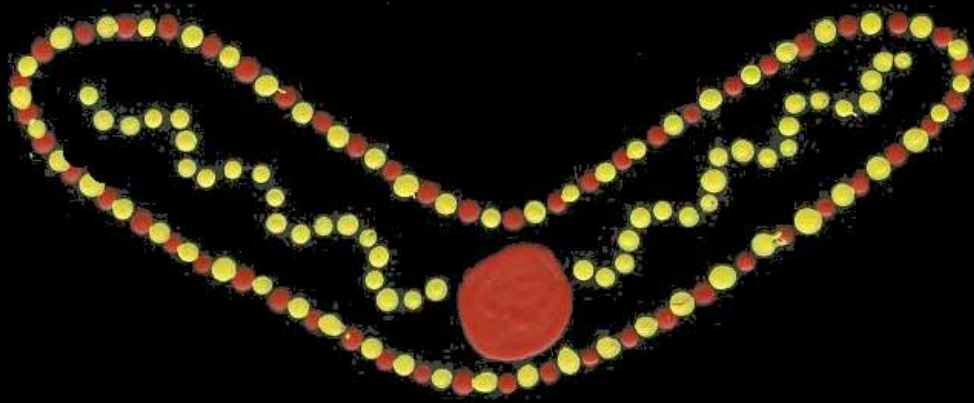
Tell 'em you are there to get your jarjum's hearing checked.



They will show you where you can sit and wait for the nurse audiometrist.



The jarjums can play with the toys.



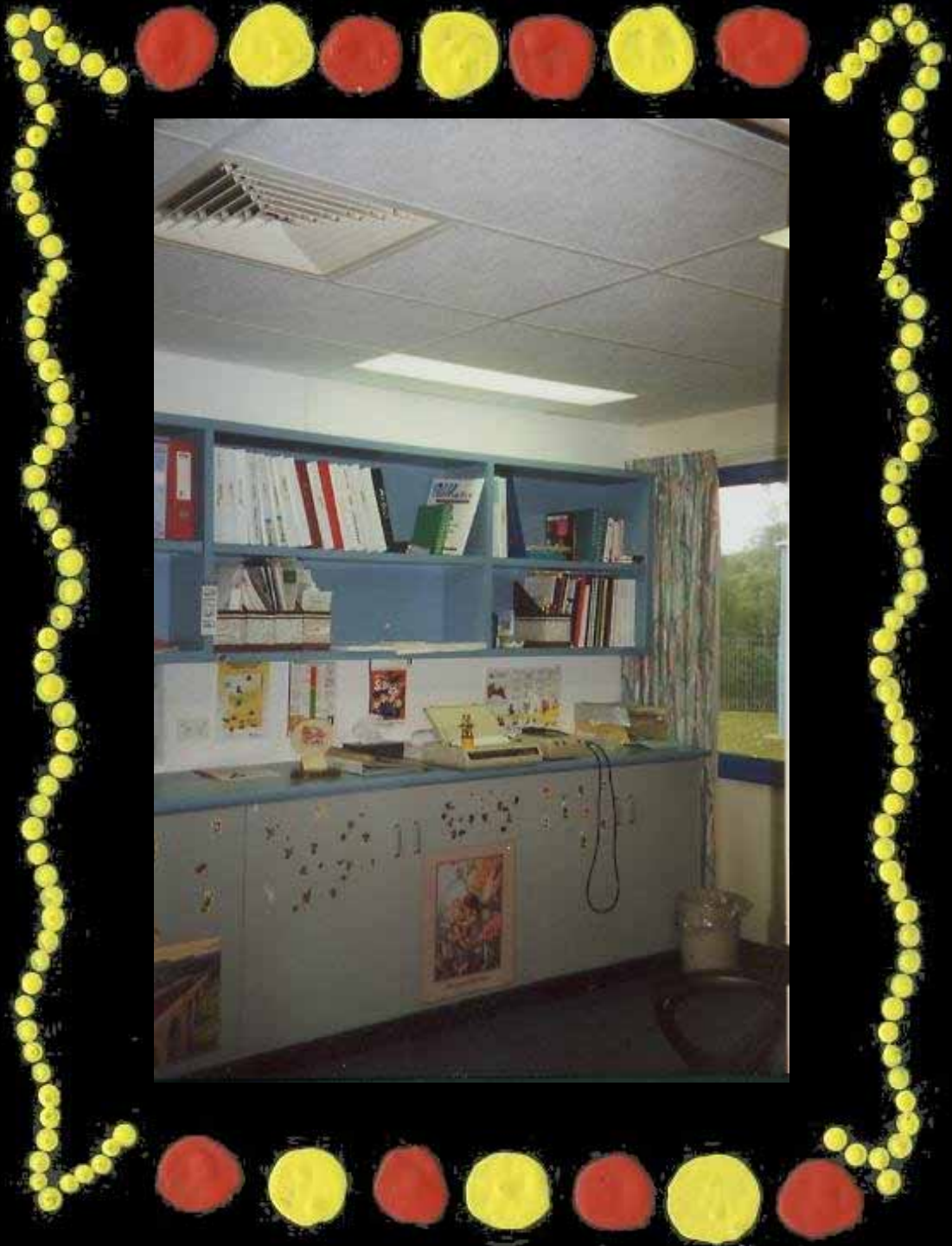
This is Anna, Judy and Pam.
They are nurse audiometrists.
They are trained to check out ears and hearing.



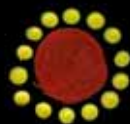
One of 'em will check
your jarjum's ears.



Judy, Pam or Anna will come and get you and your jarjum from the waiting area.

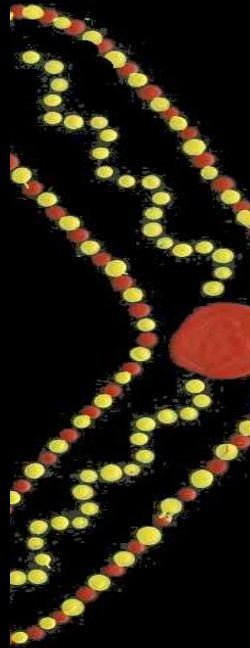


They will take you and your jarjum into this room.



First off, the nurse audiometrist will look in your jarjum's ear with a tool called an otoscope.

The otoscope lets the nurse audiometrist look at your jarjum's ear drums.



They will be looking to see if your jarjum's ear drums look O.K. like this one.



Sometimes the jarjum's ear drums look real red and sore like this ear drum.





Or your jarjum could have 'glue ear'. 'Glue ear' means that there is fluid like glue **behind** the ear drum.

When the fluid fills up behind the ear drum it can burst the drum and put a hole in it. This causes fluid that looks like water or runny glue to drip out of your jarjum's ears. This fluid can make your jarjum's ears smelly.

When a jarjum has 'glue ear' their ears can get sore. Sore ears can make your jarjum cranky!



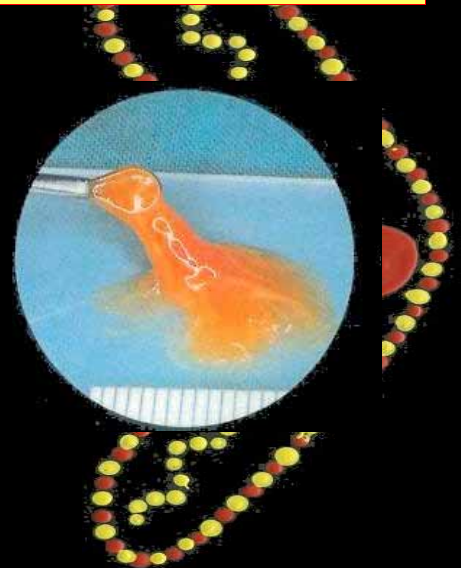
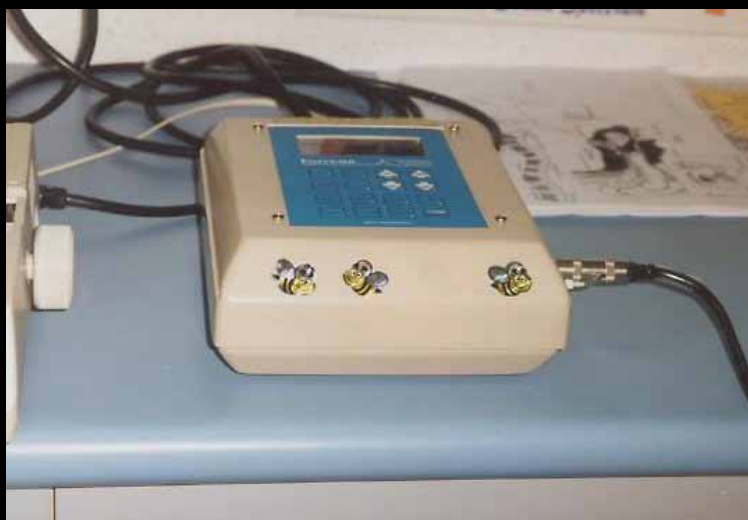
Next, the nurse audiometrist will check to see if your jarjum's ear drums vibrate or move when a sound hits them. This is important cause ear drums have to vibrate and move so we can hear sounds clearly.

When jarjum's have 'glue ear' the fluid like glue stops the ear drum from vibrating or moving. This means that your jarjum will not be able to hear real well.

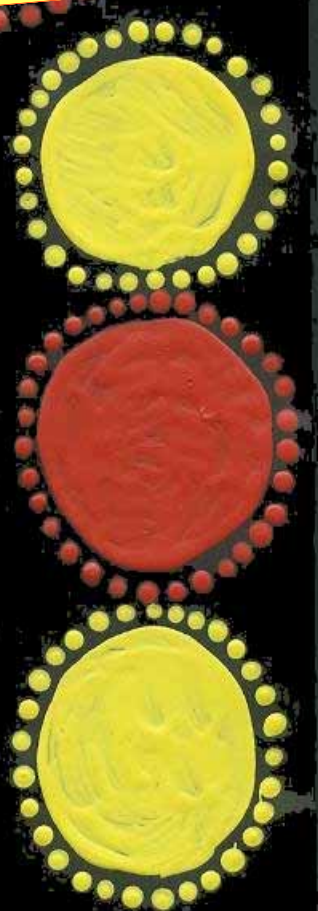
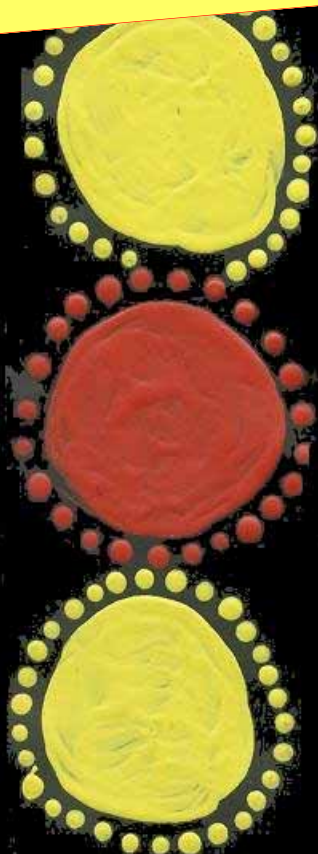
'Glue ear' can make your jarjums moogole cause the 'glue' makes it hard for your jarjum to hear what you are saying to 'em!

Jarjum's with 'glue ear' can have lots of trouble learning at school cause they find it hard to hear what the teacher is saying too.

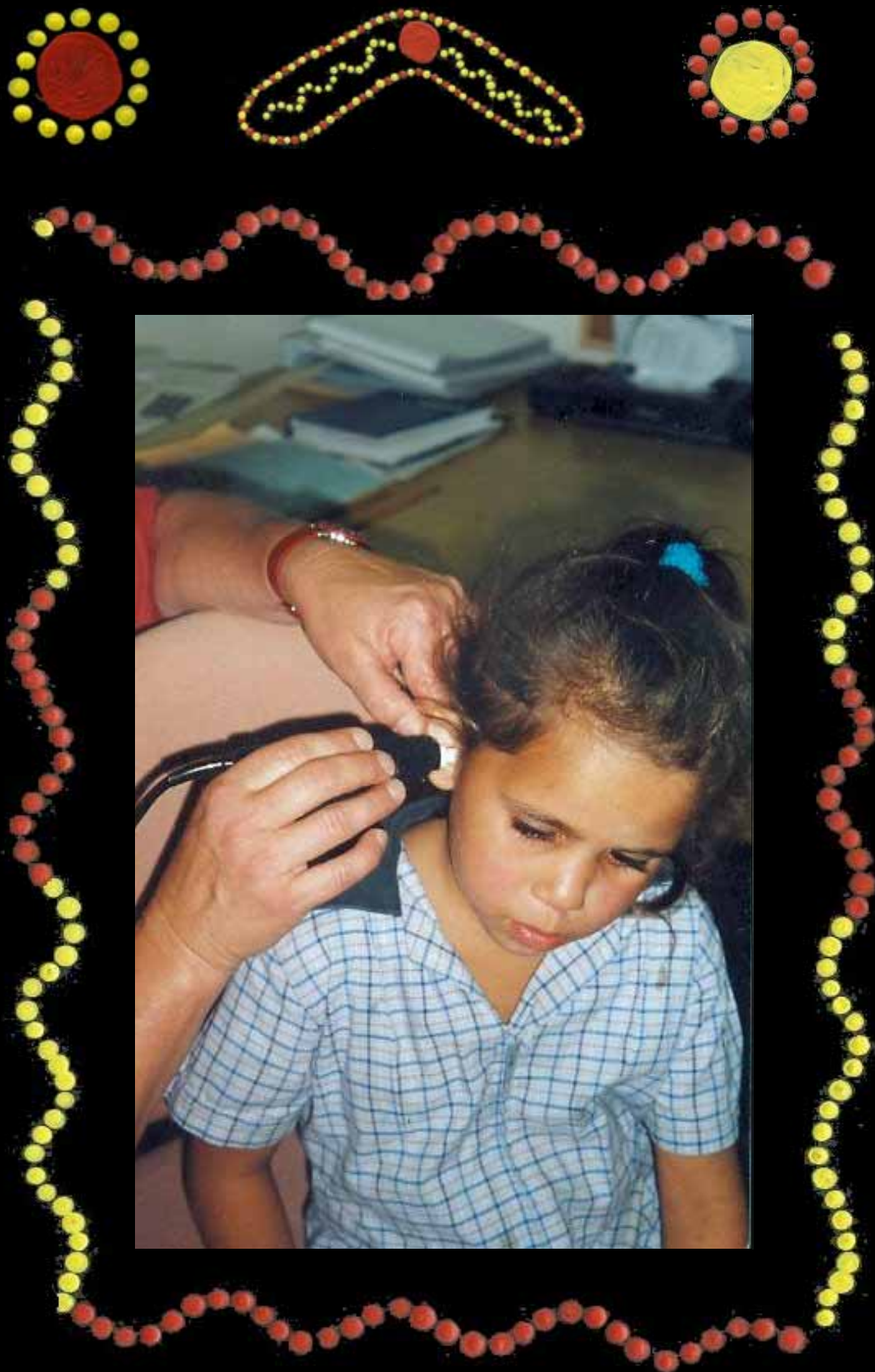
To check the way the ear drums move or vibrate a machine called a tympanometer or 'tymp' is used. The kids call it the 'buzzy bee' cause it makes a buzzing sound.



First the nurse audiometrist puts a small rubber tip onto the end of the tympanometer probe. The probe will sit on the outside part of the ear canal.



The rubber tip is soft. It will not hurt. It sends the buzzing sound to your jarjum's ear.



The nurse audiometrist puts the probe on the outside part of the ear canal. Your jarjum listens to the buzzing bee sound.

Next, the nurse audiometrist checks if your jarjum can hear LOUD, soft, HIGH and low sounds.

This tells the nurse audiometrist if your jarjum is having trouble hearing when people are talking to them.



First, the nurse audiometrist will show your jarjum how to hold and push the little red button. Your jarjum will learn how to push the button when they hear a sound.



Sometimes little jarjums use the beads. The nurse audiometrist will show your little jarjum how to move a bead when they hear a sound.

A machine called an audiometer sends lots of high, low, loud and soft sounds to headphones that will be put over your jarjum's ears.



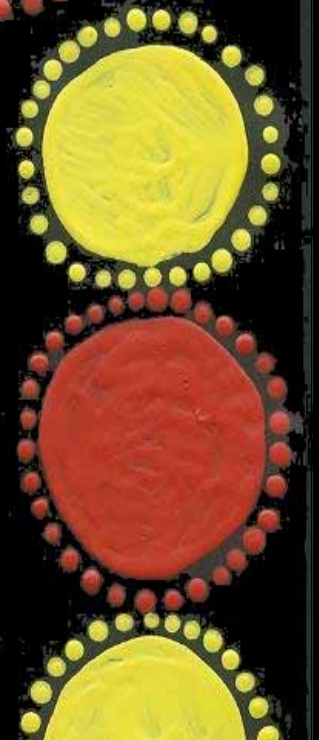
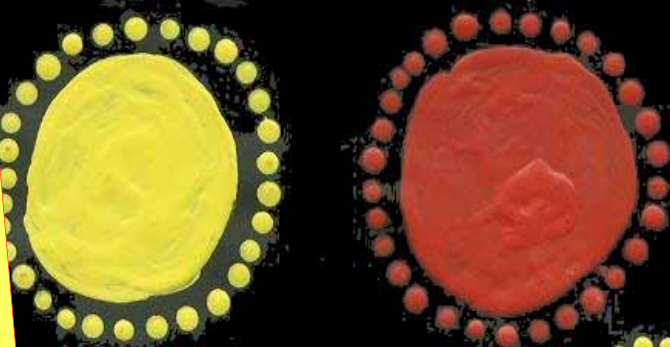
When your jarjum hears these sounds they push the little red button or pick up a bead.

Headphones on... listening for the sounds.

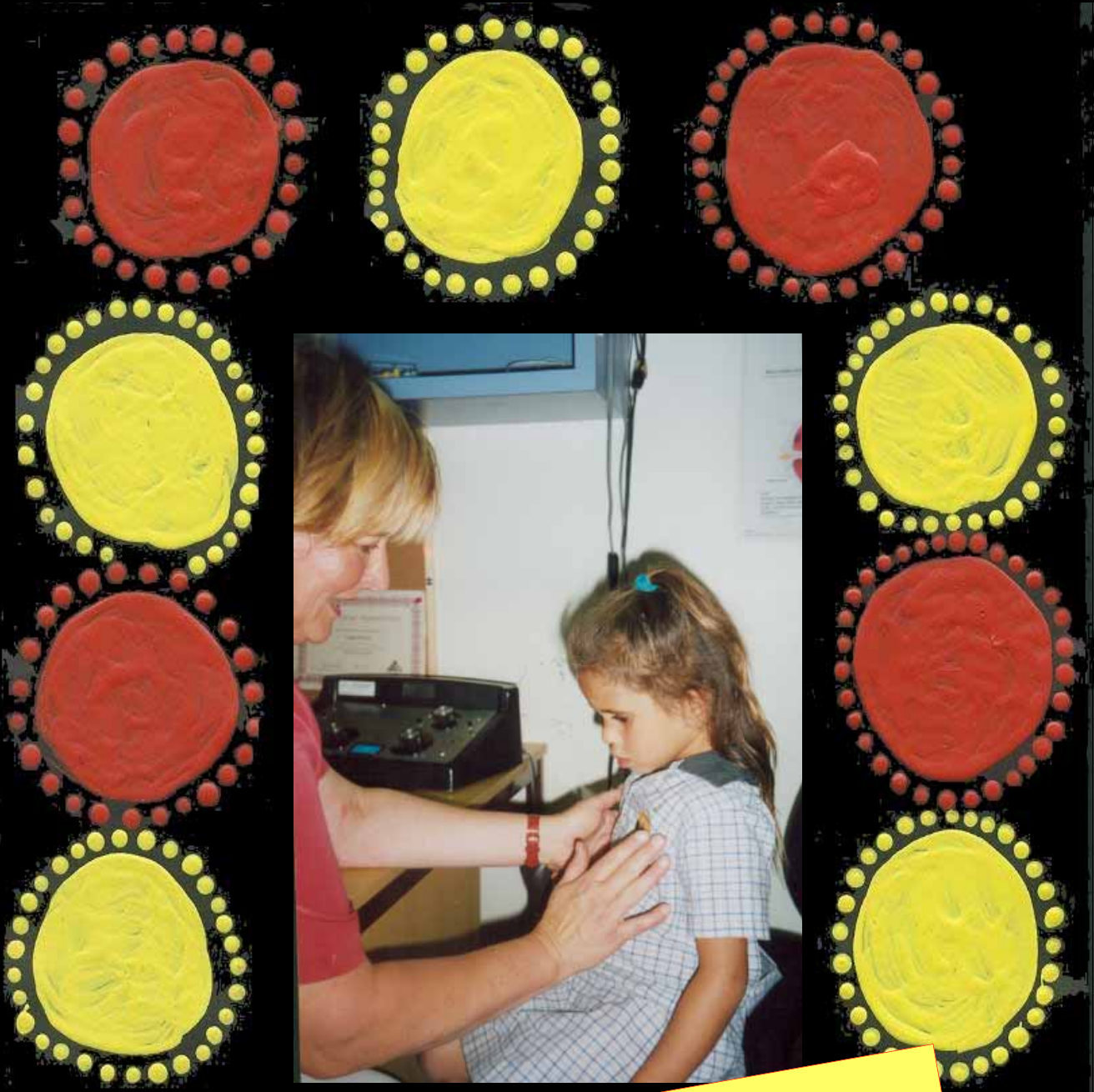
Last of all, the nurse audiometrist finds out what your jarjum can hear right inside the inner ear—the snail shell bit. This is called bone conduction.



A little disc is put behind the ear. It sits on the bone. It feels a bit tight. It will not hurt.



Your jarjum will listen for the sounds. They will push the little red button when they hear a sound.



All done! Your jarjum will get a sticker
Sometimes they will get a balloon.

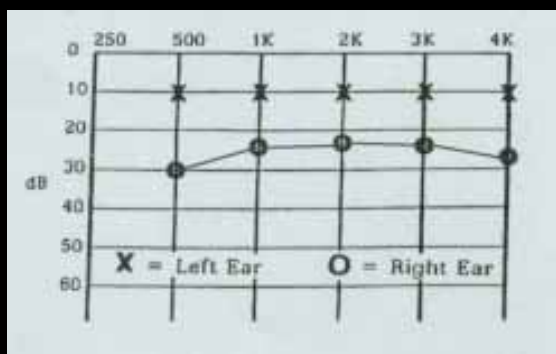


Last of all, the nurse audiometrist will sit with you to talk about your jarjum's hearing.

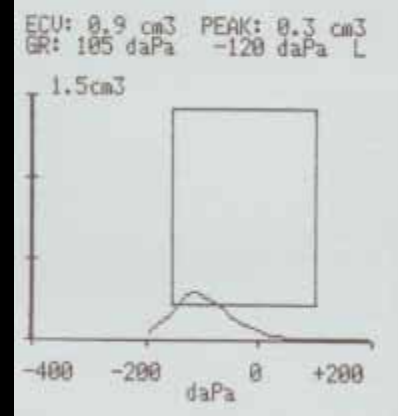
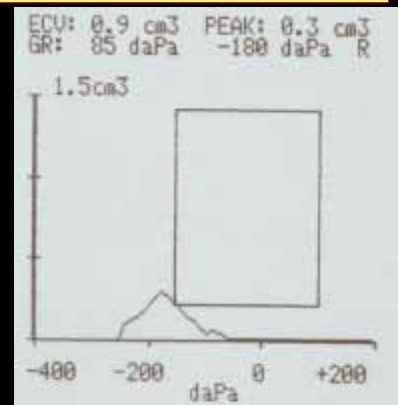


The nurse audiometrist will show you a graph or picture of what your child can hear. She will explain it to you.

The pictures will show you what your jarjum can hear in their left ear and what your jarjum can hear in their right ear.



Just talk to the nurse audiometrist if you want to know more about your jarjum's hearing!



If your jarjum is not hearing real well the nurse audiometrist will want to check your jarjum's hearing again. If this is O.K with you, they will work out a day and a time for you to bring your jarjum back to have their hearing checked.



If your jarjum is not hearing real well the nurse audiometrist will give you a letter to take to your Doctor.

In the letter there will be a copy of the graphs or pictures from your jarjum's hearing tests for your Doctor to look at.



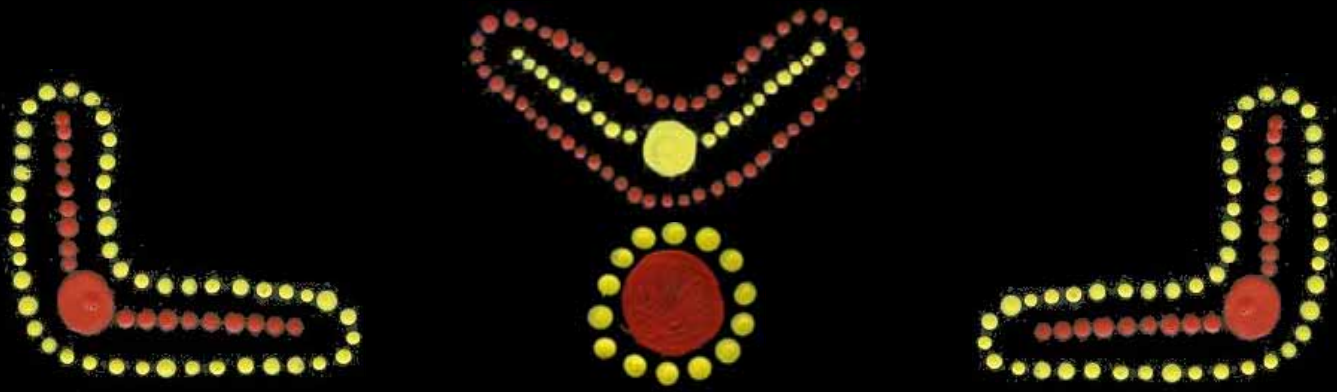
If your jarjum has sore ears or 'glue ear' the Doctor might want your jarjum to take some medicine like antibiotics. The antibiotics will help to heal the infection in your jarjum's ears.



To get the antibiotics to work on your jarjum's ears you will need to do 2 things -

Keep the antibiotics in the fridge and keep giving your jarjum the antibiotics every day until there is nothing left in the bottle.





Some jarjum's keep getting 'glue ear' over and over again. If this happens to your jarjum you will need to take 'em back to see the Doctor. Tell the Doctor your jarjum still has sore ears.



Your Doctor might want your jarjum to go to see the Ear, Nose and Throat specialist .

An Ear, Nose and Throat specialist is also called an E.N.T. These Doctors know all about ears and hearing.

The E.N.T will look in your jarjum's ears. They will also look at the graphs or pictures from the hearing test and talk to you about your jarjum.

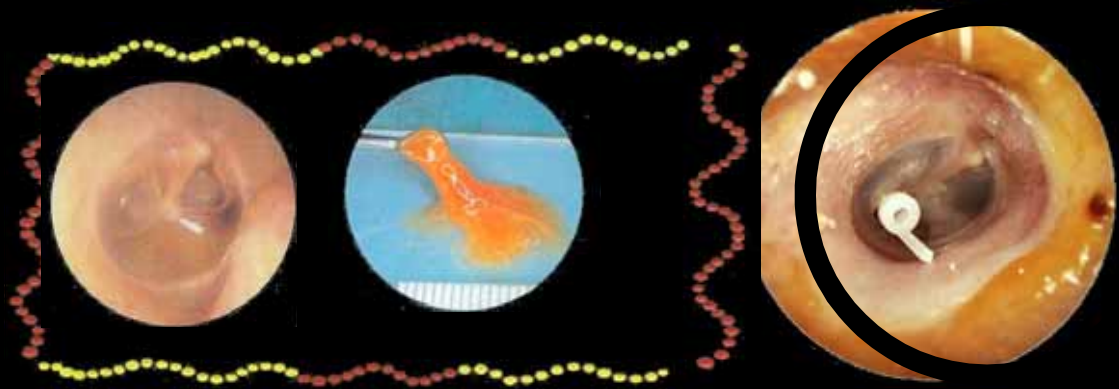


Sometimes the Ear, Nose and Throat specialist will want your jarjum to get grommets.

A grommet is a little plastic tube that is put in your jarjum's ear drum to let the air flow through the ear drum. Grommets help to keep your jarjum's ears dry so the fluid like glue won't come back again. The grommets will help your jarjum's ears heal faster.

Grommets are very, very small. A grommet is the same size as one grain of rice!

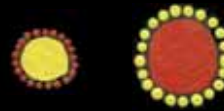
If your jarjum needs grommets they will need to go into hospital for an operation. This can all be done in one day!



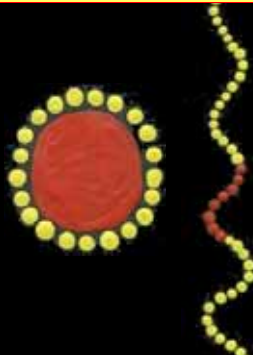
Jarjum's learn better when they can hear so it is real important that we look after our jarjum's ears!



An 'extra special thankyou' to Lavandis Kapeen for letting us take her photo!... and to her Mum, Vanessa Kapeen for the photos and the great paintings xxx



A 'big thankyou' to the Nurse Audiometrists—Pam Warmsley , Judy Thorne and Anna Tonkin for the photos and the information. Thankyou to Cathy, Sue and Madeleine for the photo— Child and Family Health (C & FH) Northern Rivers Area Health Service, Goonellabah.



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Booklet designed and created by Kimberlii Austen



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