

Unaccompanied Minors Policy

- At The Ear Nurses, it is *recommended* that all children under the age of 18 yrs be accompanied by their parent or guardian for the procedure of microsuction and aural toilet.
- However, children 16 and 17 yrs can attend an appointment unaccompanied, preferably with consent and medical history forms signed by parent/guardian.
- According to Youth Law Australia (<https://yla.org.au/>) persons over 16 yrs of age can consent to medical treatment without their parent/guardian. It is up to the treating nurse to assess the patient and his/her capacity to consent to medical treatment. Things to take into consideration:
 - level of maturity
 - their understanding of the proposed treatment and its consequences
 - and the severity of the treatment.
- Children **under 16 yrs** must have a parent/guardian present in the clinic during treatment.