

IMPORTANT INFORMATION:

Headphones and Airport Security

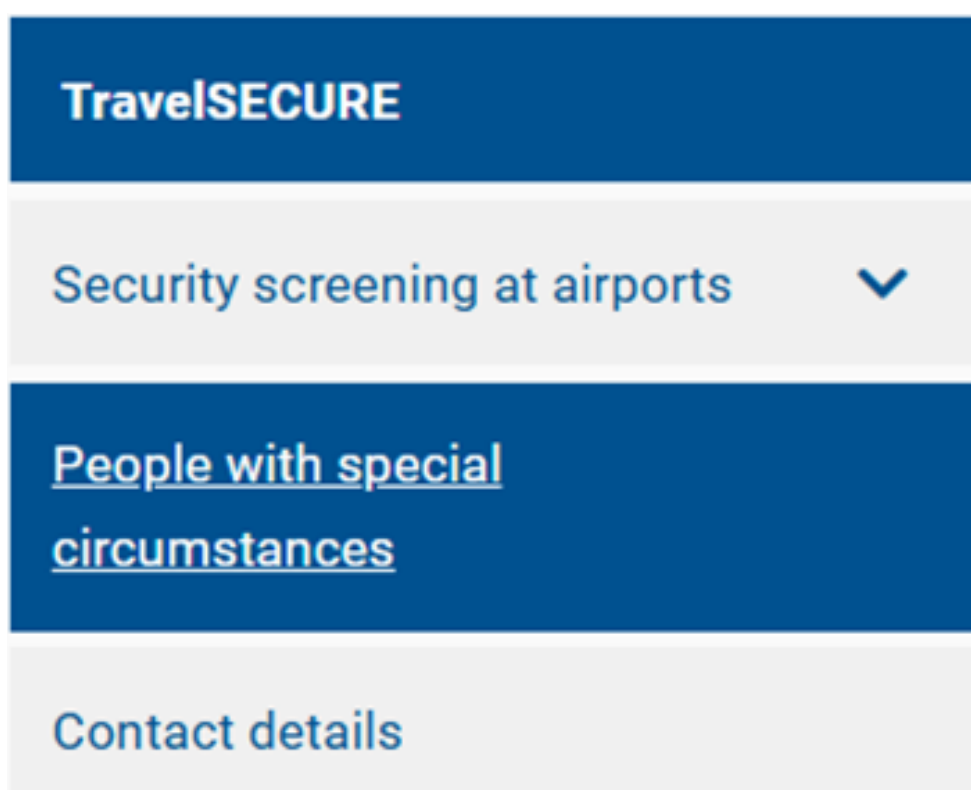
New rules from the Government means you don't necessarily have to take your noise-cancelling headphones off when going through the body scanners at airports.

Aspect Autism Friendly knows that Autistic people travelling through the airport benefit from noise-cancelling headphones.

Historically, all travellers have had to take off their headphones when going through body scanners and security at the airport. This causes stress and overwhelm, and often means that Autistic people struggle to engage in the security process positively.

Body Scanners

New regulation is available on the [Home Affairs Travel Secure website](#).



◀ On this page there is a link on the side of the page for '**People with special circumstances**' (travellers with medical devices, who are deaf or hard of hearing, travellers who are blind or have low vision, Assistance animals and **Hidden Disabilities** like Autism.

The Hidden Disabilities information is as follows



Hidden disabilities

[Details](#)

Where possible, screening officers will allow people with hidden disabilities to keep their support items with them while being screened. While you are unable to choose your method of screening, we suggest carrying evidence, such as a letter from your legal medical practitioner, if there are screening methods that may not be suitable. This will assist the screening officer to choose an appropriate method of screening for your circumstances.

What this means is that Autistic travellers should be able to keep noise-cancelling headphones (used as a disability support tool) ON when going through body scanners.

Note: If you keep headphones on, you will likely be asked to have the headphones screened. A physical search of these items may be required as well.

The steps should be as follows:

- Security should ask whether you need to keep your headphones on
- If you say yes, they will allow you to go through the body scanner with headphones on, but will ask you to complete secondary screening (e.g. swab for explosives, physical search of items)



However, it will take time for this guidance to get to every security staff member at every airport.

Security processes are complicated, and there may be rare occasions where this process might not be an option.

What can help checklist:

- ✓ Check the airport website ahead of time for security screening procedures
- ✓ Prepare for screening well so you meet all the other regulations
- ✓ Wear your Sunflower Hidden Disability lanyard if you use one
- ✓ Use an Autism Alert Card
- ✓ Bring confirmation of diagnosis (e.g. diagnostic letter)
- ✓ Say “I need to keep my noise-cancelling headphones on, please”
- ✓ If not available, say “Have you got another option, please?”
Or, “Can I keep my hands on my ears?”

✉ **Need more information? Get in touch autismfriendly@aspect.org.au**