

## Sound Description

## How to make the sound

### Lip sounds

**p & b** In most Australian languages the b/p sound is usually just one sound, which is in between these two in English. However, in some languages of Victoria, people say a 'p' at the ends of words.

**m** The same as English 'm'

### Tongue-tip sounds

These sounds are made with the tip of the tongue. There are two sets of tongue-tip sounds. Each set has a 'd', 'n' and 'l'.

#### Behind the Teeth

**t or d** This set of tongue-tip sounds sound like English 'n', 'l', or 'd/t'. Like the b/p sound, the 't/d' sound is usually just one sound, in between these two in English. However, in some languages people say a 't' at the ends of words.

**n** The same as English 'n'

**l** The same as English 'l'

**r or rr** Aboriginal languages may have two or three 'r' sounds, including one like the English 'r' sound in the word 'round', and a rolled sound like a Scottish pronunciation of 'round'.

#### Curled Back - Retroflex

**retroflex t and d, often spelled rt or rd**

This set of tongue-tip sounds is made by making a 't/d' sound but curling the tongue tip back behind the gum ridge.

**retroflex n** This sound is made by making an 'n' sound but curling the tongue back behind the gum ridge.

**retroflex l** This sound is made by making an 'l' sound but curling the tongue back behind the gum ridge

### Tongue-middle sounds

These sounds are made with the middle of the tongue. There are two sets of tongue-middle sounds; tongue-middle on the back of the teeth and tongue middle on the roof of the mouth

#### Tongue-Middle and Teeth

**t or d, often spelled th or dh**

These sounds are made with the tongue-middle at the back of the teeth while making a 't/d' sound.

**n often spelled nh**

This sound is made with the tongue-middle at the back of the teeth while making an 'n' sound.

**l often spelled lh**

This sound is made with the tongue-middle at the back of the teeth while making an 'l' sound.

#### Tongue-Middle and Roof of Mouth

**t or d, often spelled ty or dy**

These sounds are made by making a 't' or 'd' sound with the middle of the tongue on the roof of the mouth.

**n, often spelled ny**

This sound are made by making a 'n' sound with the middle of the tongue on the roof of the mouth.

**l, often spelled ly**

This sound are made by making a 'l' sound with the middle of the tongue on the roof of the mouth.

### Tongue back sounds

**k or g**

The 'k/g' sound is usually just one sound, in between these two in English. In some languages people say a 'k' at the ends of words.

**ng**

This sound is the same as English 'ng' as in 'singer'. In Aboriginal languages it is often found at the start of a word, which English speakers may find difficult because in English it never starts a word. Try saying sing, then ing, then just ng.