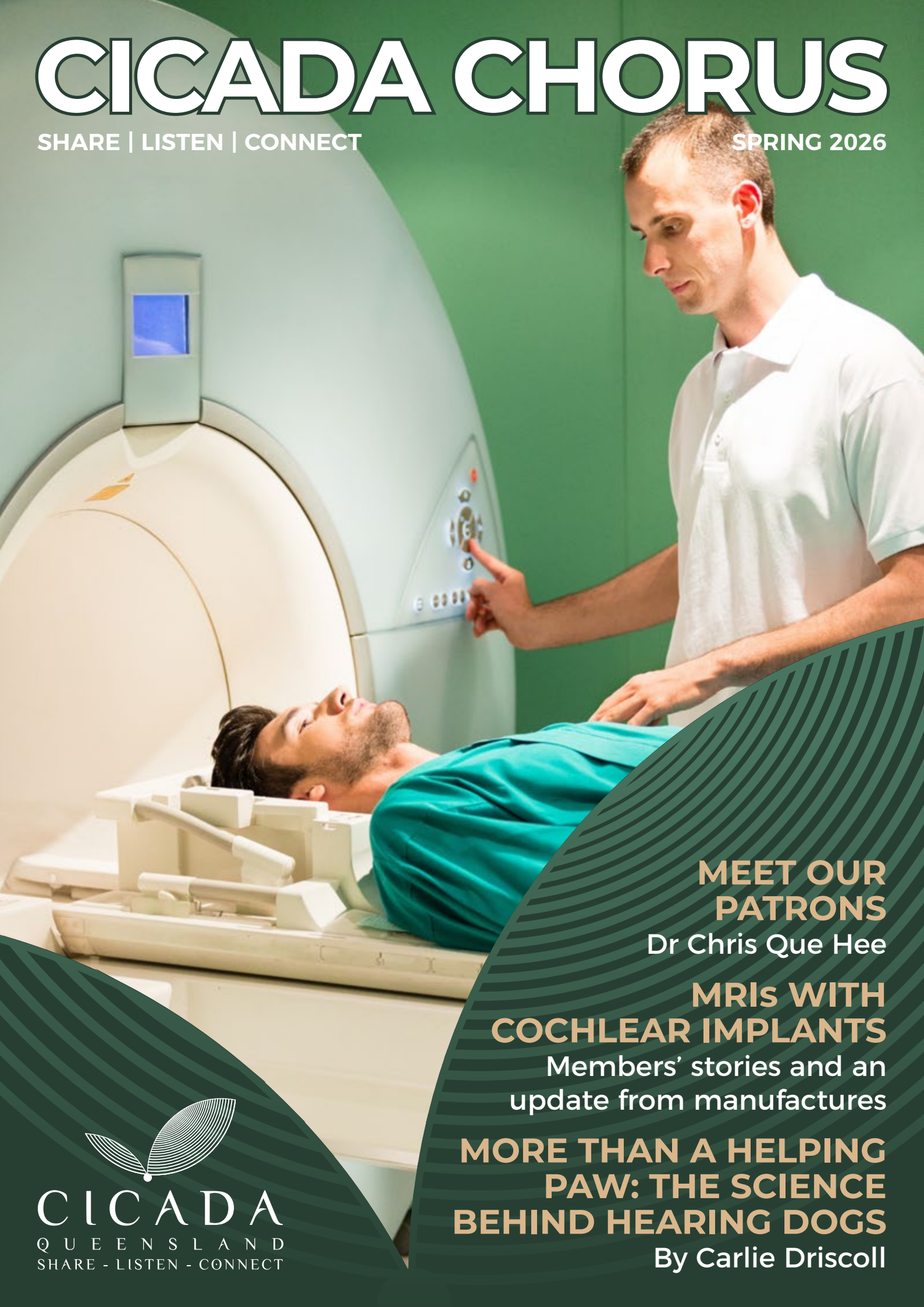


CICADA CHORUS

SHARE | LISTEN | CONNECT

SPRING 2026



MEET OUR PATRONS

Dr Chris Que Hee

MRIs WITH COCHLEAR IMPLANTS

Members' stories and an update from manufactures

MORE THAN A HELPING PAW: THE SCIENCE BEHIND HEARING DOGS

By Carlie Driscoll



CICADA
QUEENSLAND
SHARE - LISTEN - CONNECT



SHARE

- Support and assistance for hearing implant recipients and anyone affected by hearing loss.
- Independent information on all hearing technology options.
- CICADA Chorus magazine and regular newsletters.

LISTEN

- Hearing implant rehabilitation seminars.
- Listening resources for all brands of hearing implants.
- Education and advocacy on hearing loss issues.

CONNECT

- Hearing Solutions Summits - educating and connecting professionals with hearing implant candidates.
- Regular social meet-ups with a CICADA Qld group in your local area.
- Morning teas and larger events.
- Virtual chats - connect with us from any location.

**You are not alone –
Meet others on a similar journey**

Contact us:

connect@cicadaqld.org



PRESIDENTS DESK



Let's focus on something that sits at the heart of who we are – connection.

One of the realities we continue to see is that many people with profound hearing loss are not aware they may be eligible for an assessment for hearing implants, and therefore do not realise they have this option. The uptake of cochlear implants among potentially eligible adults in Australia is estimated at 10.5%*, meaning many who could benefit do not pursue it. This isn't always by choice, but often because the information, awareness, or confidence just isn't there yet.

That is why what we do matters.

At its core, CICADA Queensland is about people coming together – sharing stories, having conversations, and spending time with others who have walked a similar path. Sometimes the most powerful form of awareness isn't a brochure or a presentation, but simply sitting alongside someone who understands.

Our Hearing Solutions Summits continue to reflect this. At our recent Townsville event, one audiometrist shared:

"As an audiometrist, I have had limited exposure to cochlear implants. However, I gained several valuable insights and key takeaways that will help me confidently counsel and encourage suitable clients to consider CI surgery with less apprehension."

This kind of feedback reminds us that our role extends beyond supporting individuals with hearing loss. By creating opportunities for connection, we also help hearing professionals better understand the real-world impact of these technologies – which, in turn, supports more informed referrals and better outcomes.

None of this happens without the people behind CICADA Queensland. To our Committee: your dedication, time, and steady leadership continue to guide us forward. To our coordinators across the state: your local presence and commitment to community bring our mission to life in a very real way.

And to our members – thank you. Whether you are at the beginning of your journey or have been part of the community for many years, your willingness to share, support, and connect is what makes CICADA Queensland what it is.

As we move into the months ahead, we do so knowing that awareness grows one conversation at a time – and that together, we are making a difference.

**Source: Cochlear Implantation in Australia: A Retrospective Analysis of 23 Years of Activity*

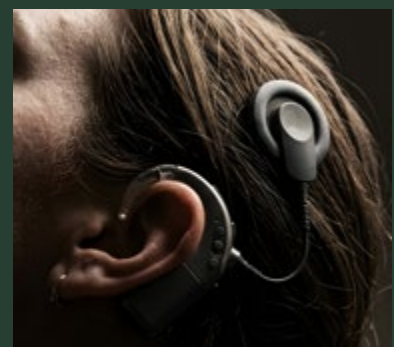
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ASSOCIATE PROFESSOR CHRIS QUE HEE

Over the next few editions of CHORUS, we will be introducing our CICADA Queensland Patrons. We are delighted to feature a special article in this issue from one of our long-time champions, ENT Surgeon Associate Professor Chris Que Hee.

Before you dive into his piece, we want to take a moment to thank Chris for the steady support and guidance he has offered CICADA QLD over the years.

If you're new to our community, you might be wondering what a Patron actually does. While our committee looks after the day-to-day running of the association, our Patrons play a distinct yet equally vital role. They are our professional allies – trusted advocates who help bridge the clinical world with the real-life experiences of our members.

Chris has been an integral part of that mission. Through his expertise and willingness to stand alongside us, he helps ensure our community is backed not only by social connection, but by strong clinical insight as well.

We are genuinely grateful for his ongoing commitment to CICADA QLD.

My story with cochlear Implantation started more than 20 years ago. When I was a registrar at the Mater hospital, Dr Tony Parker was one of the few surgeons who performed Cochlear implantation. At that stage there was very little funding and only one or two patients per year were able to have a Cochlear implant operation. The patients having these operations were very hearing impaired and most of the time communication with them was only possible by writing things down.

After I finished my training as an ear nose and throat surgeon, I did a fellowship year in Melbourne. I worked at the Royal Victorian Eye and Ear Hospital and the Blonic Ear institute. During that time I

was exposed to many people who were working in research into hearing but I was also fortunate to do multiple cochlear implant operations. When I returned to Brisbane in 2004, I took up positions at the Mater Children's Hospital and the Mater Adults' hospital. I was fortunate enough to become part of the cochlear implant programmes at both of those hospitals. I also performed private Cochlear implant surgeries and was associated with both the Hear and Say centre and Neurosensory.

Since I started out my Cochlear implant journey, I have performed almost 900 Cochlear implants surgeries on both adults and children. It is extremely satisfying

to see children who have been implanted as babies grow up as individuals with no limitations and able to do whatever they want. It's also wonderful to see adults with severe hearing loss being able to return to employment or even just being able to return to the things they love that they were missing due to the hearing loss.

The surgery for Cochlear implantation hasn't really changed much during the years. There have been minor changes in the technique but generally things are very much the same as they were 25 years ago. The patients have changed in some ways and we now implant people with residual hearing. What has also changed is the technology around



the implants. The implants are far more advanced in terms of the quality of the speech it can provide to a patient. The ability of modern cochlear implants and speech processors to link with patients' phones and technology is wonderful.

I hope that in the future we will see a totally implantable Cochlear implant commercially available. I know that many patients would appreciate a totally implantable solution. I also hope that the

implant technology becomes available so that we can preserve a lot more residual hearing in patients having Cochlear implantation.

Currently I perform private cochlear implant surgery through Complete ENT in children and adults and public cochlear implantation at Queensland Children's Hospital.

It has been a privilege to be a part of so many patients' journeys and

I hope that I can help many more people in the future.

Associate Professor Que Hee is an Associate Professor at the University of Queensland and lectures to Medical Students, Audiologists and General Practitioners. Chris is an ear and cochlear implant surgeon privately and at the Queensland Children's Hospital and Mater Hospital Brisbane.

HIRES ULTRA 3D COCHLEAR IMPLANT

HASSLE-FREE MRI

An MRI may never be part of your hearing journey. But if you need one in the future, your cochlear implant should not add unnecessary complexity.

The HiRes Ultra 3D features an innovative multi-magnet assembly designed to align with the magnetic field of an MRI scanner. This allows recipients to undergo MRI scans up to 3.0 Tesla under approved conditions, without magnet removal surgery or head bandaging.



BEFORE THE SCAN

HASSLE-FREE

No magnet removal surgery or head bandaging. Remove your sound processor and headpiece.

DURING THE SCAN

PAIN-FREE

Designed for a pain-free MRI experience, with no restriction on head orientation.

AFTER THE SCAN

UNINTERRUPTED HEARING

Put your sound processor and headpiece back on and continue hearing.



TESTED TO WITHSTAND
200 3T MRI CYCLES¹

BUILT FOR MORE THAN MRI

HiRes Ultra 3D is about more than MRI. As part of the AB cochlear implant system, it is designed to bring more pitch detail to the moments you enjoy today, while supporting continued developments in sound processing over time.

Scan to discover more about HiRes Ultra 3D.



1. Advanced Bionics. (2025). Reliability of HiRes Ultra 3D multi-magnet assembly to withstand 200 MRI cycles. 027-N469-02.

THIS PRODUCT IS NOT AVAILABLE FOR PURCHASE BY THE GENERAL PUBLIC

D000041632 RevA



WHAT DOES A COCHLEAR IMPLANT SOUND LIKE?



MEGAN TAYLOR · ADVANCED BIONICS

Knowing what cochlear implants sound like is important for people considering one and their families.

A cochlear implant has an external sound processor and an internal implant that work together to deliver sound information to the auditory nerve and brain. Hearing this way can take time to adjust to, and with practice, speech and sounds may become more natural.

What might it sound like at first?

A cochlear implant does not provide sound in the same way as natural hearing. It directly stimulates the auditory nerve with electrical signals, bypassing damaged parts of the ear.

Because of this, sound may seem electronic, mechanical or digital, especially at first. New recipients sometimes describe sounds as tinny, distant or robotic. Over time and with practice, the brain can adapt, and sounds may become clearer and more natural.

Everyone hears differently depending on their hearing loss, device settings and personal experience. These descriptions should therefore be used to learn more, not as exact demonstrations of what hearing with a cochlear implant will sound like.

What do AB cochlear implants sound like?

With AB cochlear implants, users have the ability to hear five times more pitches than with any other cochlear implant on the market.²

Imagine listening to a piano where every single note is clear. AB technology is designed to provide access to the full range of sound, helping create a richer, more vibrant hearing experience.

AB cochlear implants can also use the T-Mic™ microphone, which is placed at the opening of the ear canal. This allows it to make use of the natural shape of the outer ear to help users locate where sounds are coming from.

How cochlear implant sound continues to evolve

The way people experience sound with a cochlear implant can also change as technology develops. New features such as wireless connectivity and AI-powered sound processing have changed how people experience music, phone calls and other sounds.

Researchers are also exploring new ways to customise sound processing for individual hearing needs.

Every experience is different

Many factors can affect how a cochlear implant sounds for an individual, including hearing history, programming, rehabilitation and listening practice.

Some people adapt quickly, while others may need more time. A hearing healthcare professional can help explain what may be realistic for each person.

Read the full article

Explore more recipient perspectives and learn more about what hearing with a cochlear implant may sound like.

[ADVANCEDBIONICS.COM/BLOG](https://advancedbionics.com/blog)

Every hearing experience is different.
The moments people value are different too.

WHAT WILL YOUR MOMENT BE?

Discover Advanced Bionics recipients sharing the voices, sounds and experiences that shaped their moments of connection.



2. Firszt JB, Koch DB, Downing M, Litvak L. (2007) Current steering creates additional pitch percepts in adult cochlear implant recipients. *Otology and Neurotology*, 28(5):629-636.

Each person's situation is unique, so your experience may not be the same. Talk to your hearing care provider about whether a cochlear implant is right for you.

THIS PRODUCT IS NOT AVAILABLE FOR PURCHASE BY THE GENERAL PUBLIC

LIVING WITH MS, A COCHLEAR IMPLANT, AND THE QUEST FOR AN MRI

By Margaret Hall

My experiences with MRIs are mostly good, though some haven't been so smooth. My story might sound familiar to many of you – after all, an MRI is just another one of those procedures you would prefer to avoid, but ultimately don't have much choice about.

Everyone's medical situation is unique, so seeking advice directly from your specialist, doctor, or radiologist is always the best way to address any concerns. Their guidance is tailored specifically to your needs.

In 2013, I was diagnosed with Multiple Sclerosis (MS). Since then, I've had annual brain and spine MRIs – scans that can take up to an hour and a half, which is certainly no walk in the park! However, in 2024, I underwent cochlear implant surgery on my left side, implanted with a Cochlear Nucleus device, paired with an off-the-ear Kanso 2 processor (CP1150)

After surgery, getting an MRI became a bit more complicated. Before my procedure, my ENT surgeon assured me that scans up to 3 Tesla (3T) could be performed safely with my device. Yet, when I went looking for a radiology clinic willing to scan my brain and spine, it felt like searching for a needle in a haystack.

It was a deeply frustrating experience. Almost every provider I spoke with declined, citing unknowns around CIs and MRIs. Their main concerns were potential magnet damage or severe artifact "shadowing" on the scan images. Some even suggested I would need a minor surgical incision to temporarily remove the magnet

before the scan – a prospect I was not eager to explore!

Following a recent visit with my neurologist, there was concern that my MS might have progressed, so I was given another referral for a brain and spine MRI. After spending countless hours on the phone and exchanging back-and-forth emails with clinics, it became clear that few facilities felt equipped to perform it. As a result, I went two years without my routine scan.

More recently, I learned I need a total knee replacement, which required an MRI of my knee. I was hesitant and anxious at first, remembering my recent hurdles. But I reminded myself: This is my knee, not my head. I went ahead with the 20-minute scan, during which my head remained outside the machine entirely.

If you've never had an MRI, the experience can feel daunting – especially if you lean toward claustrophobia. While twilight sedation through a cannula used to be a common option for longer scans, restrictions around sedation have tightened recently. That said, I can reassure you from years of experience that the scan itself is completely painless.

Staying perfectly still when you're in pain can be a challenge, as is fighting the urge to scratch a sudden itch on your nose! In those moments, the best approach is to try to relax and focus on your breathing.

When you walk into the room, you're dressed in a disposable gown (definitely not a fashion

statement!) and all jewelry or metal items must be removed. Your focus naturally shifts to the giant machine humming in front of you. I was given earplugs and headphones and requested some peaceful, therapeutic music. Once you're positioned, the bed elevates and slides into the scanner, bringing your face quite close to the top of the drum.

Once the machine starts, its rhythmic thumping vibrates right through the headphones, completely washing out the music. It feels less like a medical scan and more like being suspended inside a giant, pulsing drum. Over time, that steady thumping takes on a strange sort of heartbeat rhythm. Closing your eyes and focusing on your breathing makes the time pass quickly. Before you know it, the noise stops, the bed slides out, and the machine goes back to being nothing more than a quiet object of curiosity.

Radiology teams are wonderfully supportive and will walk you through every step of the procedure. Never hesitate to ask questions if you feel unsure. For my knee MRI, I simply placed my processor and hearing aid into my bag before entering the room. The staff reassured me that everything was safe, and the process went smoothly.

As for my brain and spine MRI – I haven't had it yet, but I'm feeling positive. I feel I've overcome my apprehensions, and I'm scheduled to have the scan done soon at Sunshine Coast University Private Hospital (without sedation!). I'll be sure to let you know how it goes.





MY MRI EXPERIENCE WITH A COCHLEAR IMPLANT

By Stephen Wenke

My story starts 12 years ago when I first applied for a cochlear implant after losing 100% of the hearing in my right ear as a result of Meniere's Disease. Although I was accepted, I had to decline the procedure at the time because I required periodic head MRIs.

Fast-forward to two years ago: I attended a CICADA presentation at Maroochydore about cochlear implants and learned that modern CIs can now be MRI-compatible. After going through the necessary assessments and procedures, I had my surgery in May 2025, followed by my "switch-on" 14 days later. I have a MED-EL SYNCHRONY 2 implant and a SONNET 3 audio processor.

Over the following 12 months, I had numerous mapping sessions and was fitted with a new left hearing aid paired with the CI.

In April 2026, my specialist at Wesley Hospital gave me a referral for a brain MRI and advised that I could have it done locally. However, when I phoned the suggested radiology clinic, I was told they did not perform MRIs for cochlear implant recipients. I then called several other clinics across the Sunshine Coast, but received the same response.

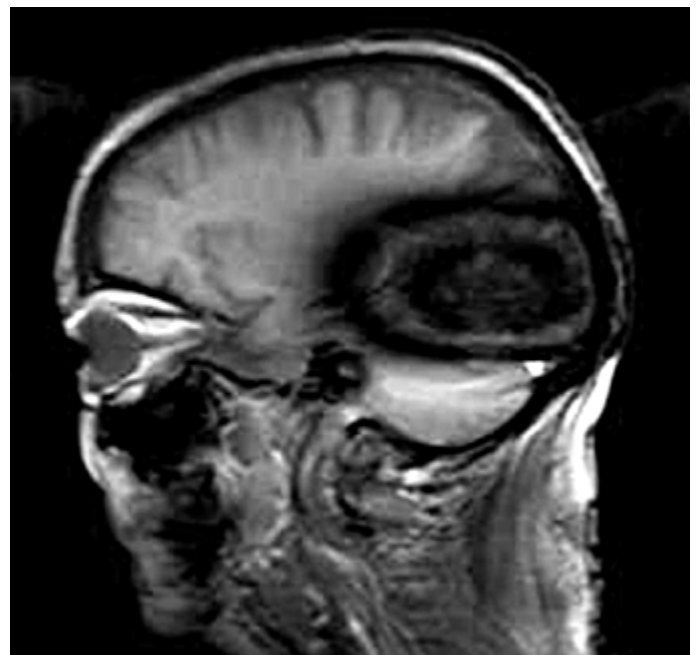
Unsure of how to proceed, I contacted my ENT surgeon's clinic, but they couldn't recommend a suitable facility. Next, I reached out to MED-EL and spoke with Rebecca Claridge. She was incredibly helpful, locating a clinic in Kawana and sending me detailed information regarding the MRI protocol for my device. I also found the "Medical Procedures for MED-EL CI Systems" booklet in my kit, which gave me much more confidence when speaking with local providers.

Eventually, I contacted Sunshine Coast Radiology, and they directed me to their clinic at Sunshine Coast University Private Hospital in Birtinya. (I later learned

that Sunshine Coast Radiology on Wisers Road, Buderim, also performs CIs/MRIs). I emailed the clinic all the implant details and procedures provided by MED-EL.

Upon arrival at Birtinya, the radiographer talked me through every step and protocol they would follow, including scanning at the 3T level. They ticked off each safety requirement and offered me a supportive head bandage over the implant site – which was optional, but I chose to wear it.

The 35-minute scan was very noisy, but completely bearable. My head was held securely in place, and I felt no pressure or sensation around my implant at all. It felt just like any other MRI I had undergone in the past. The staff were exceptionally professional and put me completely at ease. I now feel fully confident about having MRIs whenever necessary in the future.



MRI scans with an implant from Cochlear®

Most people with a hearing implant from Cochlear can have an MRI.

MRI machines use powerful magnets that can interact with the hearing implant. To help ensure your scan is performed safely and comfortably, it's important to follow the recommended guidelines and consult your healthcare professional beforehand.

Cochlear has been designing implants with MRI compatibility in mind for decades, becoming the first manufacturer to introduce implants with removable magnets in 1997. Today, the latest generation Cochlear® Nucleus®, Baha® and Osia® implants continue to be designed to support access to MRI scans.



*MRI indications will vary in some markets. Cochlear Nucleus implants are MR Conditional, meaning they have demonstrated safety in the Magnetic Resonance Imaging (MRI) environment within defined conditions. Always read the instructions for use and discuss with your doctor before undertaking any MRI procedure.

**Magnet removal is sometimes required for scans around the head due to the shadow created by the magnet.

Please seek advice from your health professional about treatments for hearing loss. Outcomes may vary, and your health professional will advise you about the factors which could affect your outcome. Always follow the directions for use. Not all products are available in all countries. Please contact your local Cochlear representative for product information. In Australia, Cochlear Nucleus implant systems are intended for the treatment of moderately severe to profound hearing loss, Baha bone conduction implant systems are intended for the treatment of moderate to profound hearing loss, and the Cochlear Osia System is intended for patients aged 5 years and above with up to 55 decibels sensorineural hearing loss. Patients should have sufficient bone quality and quantity to support successful implant placement. Surgery is required to use this product. Any surgical procedure carries risk. These products are not available for purchase by the general public. For information on funding and reimbursement please contact your healthcare professional. Cochlear, Hear now. And always, Nucleus, Baha, Osia and the elliptical logo are either trademarks or registered trademarks of the Cochlear group of companies. © Cochlear Limited 2026. D2479634 v1 2026-07.

Frequently Asked Questions

Can I have an MRI with a Cochlear implant?

Yes, it is MR Conditional, meaning an MRI can be done within defined conditions. Conditions vary depending on implant model and MRI strength. Most Cochlear® Nucleus® implants released in Australia since 2019 support both routine 1.5T and high definition 3T MRI scans without the need for magnet removal** or head wrapping. This helps ensure there is no need for additional surgery, head bandaging during the scan, no delays in accessing an MRI and, most importantly, no unnecessary time without sound.

What about Cochlear implants from before 2019?

Most previous generation Cochlear® Nucleus® implants support MRI at 1.5T with the magnet in place and 3T with the magnet removed. Depending on the implant model, additional precautions may be required to help reduce the risk of discomfort or dislodgement of the implant magnet during the scan. For this purpose, Cochlear have developed the Cochlear MRI Kit.

What is the Cochlear MRI Kit?

The MRI Kit is provided to healthcare professionals, who will use it to help prepare for and manage your MRI scan. The Cochlear MRI Kit contains magnetic splints that fit over the implant site and a self-adherent compression bandage to help hold the magnet in place. Each kit includes two splints so it can be used with bilateral cochlear implant recipients.

What happens if I need to have the magnet removed from my cochlear implant?

If this is the case, it is a simple surgical procedure that's usually done before the MRI scan, with the magnet reinserted afterwards. Your hearing healthcare professional can provide further guidance to you and your radiologist.

What about bone conduction implants?

Cochlear's bone conduction implants are also MR Conditional. Baha® Connect recipients can undergo MRI scans at both 1.5T and 3T. The Baha® Attract system is approved for MRI at 1.5T, or the magnet can be temporarily removed for 3T scans. For the Osia® system, OSI200 implants require the Osia MRI Kit at 1.5T and temporary magnet removal at 3T. Osia OSI300 implants provide access to both 1.5T and 3T MRI scans with the magnet in place** and without the need for head wrapping.

Can I wear my sound processor during the scan?

No, the sound processor and all external accessories for cochlear and bone conduction implants must be removed during the scan as the MRI could damage them. They can be worn again as soon as the scan is complete and you are out of the MR environment.

Is there a limit to the number of MRIs I can have?

There is no specified limit to the number of MRI scans a recipient can undergo. Cochlear® implants are tested to internationally recognised MRI safety standards. Speak to your healthcare professional to advise on individual factors.

How do I know which implant mode I have?

Your implant model is indicated in your identification card that you received at your implantation surgery. You can also ask your hearing healthcare professional.

Where can I find more information about MRI compatibility?

You can see Cochlear's complete MRI considerations by reviewing our information online: <https://www.cochlear.com/au/en/home/ongoing-care-and-support/device-support/mri-considerations>

Consult your healthcare professional before undergoing an MRI to know what the precautions are for your implant. The latest MRI information from Cochlear must be followed.



MED⁹EL



Your MRI Safety Is Our Guarantee

Most of us will need an MRI scan at some point in our lifetime. That's why we don't just offer the highest MRI safety: We guarantee that your MED-EL cochlear implant won't be damaged during an MRI. This life-long MRI Guarantee is the first of its kind and covers all MED-EL cochlear implants since 1994. So if you need to have an MRI now or in the future, you know that your MED-EL implant will be safe.

Find the detailed terms and conditions on: <https://go.medel.com/mri-guarantee-terms>

hearLIFE

Want to learn more?
<https://go.medel.com/MGp1>



MRI Matters: Choosing for Today and Tomorrow

Judy's Story: MRI Confidence with Cochlear Implants

For many people considering a cochlear implant, hearing outcomes are understandably front of mind. But there is another important question worth considering: What happens if you need an MRI in the future?

Most people will need medical imaging at some point in their lives, whether for an injury, ongoing health condition, or further investigation. For cochlear implant candidates, understanding MRI compatibility should be part of the decision-making process.

For cochlear implant recipient Judy, it was certainly an important consideration. Having experienced sudden profound hearing loss, Judy was exploring her implant options while also thinking about her long-term health needs. In her words,



"I was offered three possible implant choices, but only one at that stage had an MRI option," Judy explained. "As I had already had several MRIs, it made me think that it would be reasonable to choose MED-EL. It made sense to me, and I have never, ever regretted it."

Judy received her first cochlear implant in 2017, followed by a second implant three years later. Since then, she has undergone multiple MRI scans and has found the process straightforward. Initially, some radiology providers were hesitant.

"When making an MRI appointment, I initially encountered resistance from the radiology practice," she said. "I explained about the MED-EL rotating magnet, gave them a copy of the manual and contact information for my MED-EL Clinical Specialist. They kept it on file and it's been smooth sailing ever since."

Today, Judy encourages other recipients to be proactive by sharing their implant information and MRI documentation with imaging providers before their appointment.

Leading the Way in MRI Compatibility

MED-EL recognised early that MRI access would be an important consideration for implant recipients. In 2015, it became the first cochlear implant manufacturer to introduce MRI-compatible technology for scans up to 3.0 Tesla with its SYNCHRONY implant system.

The implant's freely rotating magnet is designed to align with the MRI magnetic field, helping make MRI scans more comfortable and reducing the need for additional procedures.

While MRI compatibility is now available across implant systems, MED-EL remains the only hearing implant company to offer a Lifetime Global MRI Guarantee*. The guarantee covers unlikely MRI-related complications, including implant damage, magnet dislocation and demagnetisation, when scans are performed according to approved guidelines.

Choosing a cochlear implant is not simply a decision about hearing today. It may influence medical care and diagnostic options for decades to come. MED-EL recipients can undergo unlimited MRI scans, supported by a guarantee that provides confidence throughout the life of the implant.

Confidence from the Imaging Suite

James Finlay, MRI Services Senior Manager at Hunter Imaging, works regularly with cochlear implant recipients and understands the concerns many people have before their first MRI.

"Having an MRI with a cochlear implant can be a daunting experience, not only for the recipient, but also for the MRI radiographer in many cases," he shared.



However, James says MED-EL's MRI guidance and implant design help simplify the process for imaging providers.

"One of the key benefits for the MED-EL range of implants is that patients can undergo MRI exams up to 3 Tesla. This is a big advantage over some other implant manufacturers who are limited to 1.5 Tesla or require surgery to remove the implanted magnet."

From his experience, the results speak for themselves. *"Out of all the vendors, we've never had a patient with a MED-EL device unable to proceed and complete their MRI."*

Peace of Mind for the Future

For Judy, the MRI experience has been far easier than she originally expected.

"When preparing for an MRI, remember it's only a test," she said. "We're so fortunate to be in the age of the rotating magnet."

Judy's story is a reminder that choosing a cochlear implant is about more than hearing today. It is also about the confidence of knowing that, if an MRI is needed in the years ahead, your implant has been designed with that future in mind.

Questions to Ask Your Cochlear Implant Team

1. How many MRIs can I have with this CI?
2. What is the process if I need an MRI?
3. If I choose this CI, where can I get an MRI near me?

Ask MED-EL
hearinghelp@medel.com.au

Connect with Judy
Scan the QR Code





THE AUSTRALIAN DEAF GAMES

By Garry-West Bail
Project Manager, Games Organising Committee

The Australian Deaf Games is the pinnacle multi-sport event for Deaf people in Australia involving up to 20 sports and attracts over 1300 competitors and participants from all over Australia and neighbouring Pacific nations.

The Games gives Deaf and hard of hearing people an opportunity to be exposed to a national competition format that promotes the development of Deaf sport. It provides:

- Opportunities for social and elite competition
- Encouragement of sporting involvement and its benefits to long term health and well-being
- An environment that promotes a positive lifestyle balanced with social outcomes and sporting opportunities
- An effective selection process for individuals and teams to be selected to represent Australia at International Deaf events.

The 2026 Australian Deaf Games was centred on the Sunshine Coast region of Queensland, utilising the many world-class sporting venues located throughout the area. With fourteen different sporting competitions and a wide variety of events that celebrated and showcased Deaf culture, the 2026 Games delivered the biggest Deaf community event in Sunshine

Coast history and the biggest Games ever! Over 1,450 Deaf and hard of hearing people and over 150 volunteers joined in the festivities.

A variety of sports were played, including basketball, futsal, touch football, netball, swimming, athletics, table tennis, tennis and golf and new sports such as pickleball and handball.

CICADA QLD manned a booth at the expo meeting many of the athletes and showcasing our offering.

All athletes, most officials and most visitors are Deaf or hard of hearing. Several CICADA QLD members participated and we were excited to cheer them on in their sports. We also had the opportunity to interview several other participants and will be profiled in our 2027 CHORUS edition on "Living well with Hearing Loss".

The essence of the Games is **'Achieving Sunshine Moments Together'**.

Legacies from the Games include:

- 1 A variety of businesses undertook deaf awareness training including Sunshine Coast Council, Caloundra RSL, and the Sunshine Coast Airport
- 2 Via a partnership with the Queensland Department of Education a games mascot competition was conducted, a mini-games prior to the event was held for 75 students and a games camp was supervised during the Games for 12 students. In addition, several resources including videos were produced that now can be used within the education system and business networks alike.

HISTORY

The Australian Deaf Games is a unique, four-yearly event controlled and managed by Deaf Sports Australia via a State-based Games Organising Committee. It is one of the oldest ongoing Deaf sporting events in the world. The origins of interstate Deaf sport competitions in Australia can be traced back to 1895 when the Victorian Deaf cricket team travelled to South Australia for a friendly Deaf cricket match.

The first "Deaf Sports Carnivals" were held as early as 1911 and continued regularly until the Games in its current format began in Sydney in 1964. Since then, the Games have been held every 3-4 years, with the 2018 Games being held in Albury Wodonga and the 2022/2024 Games held in Newcastle and Lake Macquarie.

The 2024 Games celebrated 60 years since the first Australian Deaf Games in 1964. In addition, the Games highlighted 70 years since Deaf Sports Australia was formed. It was a wonderful opportunity to celebrate the first Games and deaf sport history.



MORE THAN JUST SPORT

Whilst sport is clearly core, the Australian Deaf Games also constitutes a major social and cultural festival for the whole Deaf community. It provides a unique blend of social activities matched with a vast list of sporting events that together cater for a diversity of Deaf community needs. From humble beginnings in 1911 the event continues to grow and broaden in its appeal.

From the editor: Watch this space! In our next edition of CHORUS, we are interviewing several athletes and supporters to hear their experiences at the games.



MORE THAN A HELPING PAW: THE SCIENCE BEHIND HEARING DOGS

Carlie Driscoll BSpPath, PGDipAud, PhD, University of Queensland



If you've ever noticed a dog wearing a bright orange jacket in a shopping centre and wondered what it was doing there, there's a good chance you were looking at a Hearing Dog – one of Australia's most underappreciated assistance animals.

Hearing dogs are professionally trained to assist persons with hearing impairment by alerting them to environmental sounds, such as a door knock or oven timer. However, they can offer so much more than practical assistance: From as early as the 1970s, they have been suggested to improve a person's overall quality of life.

At the University of Queensland, our research team has spent several years investigating what Hearing Dogs actually mean to the people who own them, and the findings go well beyond what most people – including many audiologists – might expect.

Who seeks a Hearing Dog, and why?

Our first study surveyed every person on the 2019 Australian Lions Hearing Dogs waitlist. We found that most of the persons wanting a Hearing Dog were women, aged in their sixties, retired, living alone, and regular users of hearing devices. Crucially, most were not seeking a Hearing Dog instead of their cochlear implant or hearing aid; they were seeking something their device simply couldn't provide.

What struck us most was that despite use of a technological aid, these persons with hearing loss continued to have significant social and emotional difficulties. Compared to the general Australian population, waitlist members reported substantially poorer scores for energy, pain, general health, and social functioning. Loneliness and relationship difficulties were their most pressing daily challenges. And when we asked what they most wanted from their Hearing Dog, the top answers weren't "doorbell" or "smoke alarm" – they were "a companion" and "a living thing to love."

What happens after the dog arrives?

Our second study compared those same waitlist members with 58 people who had already received a Hearing Dog. The owners described their dogs in terms that were frankly moving: sources of safety, confidence, and joy; best friends who had, in some cases, given them a reason to get up in the morning.

We found a consistent trend toward better Hearing Handicap scores (less impact of hearing loss) and higher emotional and social functioning in owners compared to those without a Hearing Dog, although these findings did not always reach statistical significance.

The bond itself matters

In our third study, we examined the emotional attachment between Hearing Dog owners and their dogs, using the Lexington Attachment to Pets Scale. Owners scored exceptionally highly, particularly on "people substitution" – meaning the dog functioned as a genuine social companion, filling a relational role that hearing loss had eroded.

This isn't surprising when you consider that research shows people with severe or profound hearing loss are at elevated risk of social isolation and loneliness. A Hearing Dog doesn't just alert you to the kettle – it keeps you company, encourages you to get outdoors, signals to others that you have a hearing impairment, and often serves as a conversation starter with others. For cochlear implant and hearing aid users who may still experience listening fatigue in demanding social environments, the constant, effortless, and unjudging companionship offered by a Hearing Dog could be particularly meaningful.

Looking after the dogs

Most recently, our team developed the HERO – the Hearing Dog Evaluation and Reporting Overview – a welfare tool to ensure that the dogs themselves are thriving. Because this relationship only works well when it works for both parties.

If you're interested in exploring whether a Hearing Dog might be right for you, we'd encourage you to speak with your audiologist or contact Australian Lions Assistance Dogs directly <https://lionsassistancedogs.com.au/>.

Associate Professor Carlie Driscoll is based at the School of Health & Rehabilitation Sciences, University of Queensland, where she is Head of Audiology and Director of the Animal-Assisted Interventions Research Alliance.



LIVING IN REGIONAL QUEENSLAND WITH A COCHLEAR IMPLANT

By Lindsay Creighton

In 2005, living in Moranbah, I was diagnosed with otosclerosis. After an unsuccessful stapedectomy in Brisbane, I relied on hearing aids from Mackay, traveling 1,000 km round-trip for specialist care. Managing hearing loss was challenging, especially in noisy workplaces, requiring self-taught strategies to navigate acoustic interference.

In November 2022, my right ear suddenly went completely deaf. Initial treatments in Brisbane failed, but tests confirmed I was a candidate for a cochlear implant. Navigating options led me to CICADA QLD, a support network that connected me with Dr. Shane Anderson in Townsville – much closer to home than Brisbane.

In June 2023, Dr. Anderson performed my surgery at the Mater Hospital in Townsville. Activation followed 12 days later. Initially, voices sounded like Donald Duck, but through dedicated rehabilitation – including listening to audiobooks – my brain adapted. Over the next year, I made regular 550 km round-trips to Townsville for remapping. Today, my sentence comprehension in quiet environments is at 94%, and my bimodal setup (a Nucleus® 8 processor and a left hearing aid) works seamlessly. I have even reconnected with my love for classic pub rock.

Living in regional Queensland required traveling over 8,000 km throughout my hearing journey. Today, I volunteer as a CICADA QLD Coordinator for the Mackay and Whitsundays regions, helping others connect, share experiences, and navigate their own hearing paths.



Scan the QR code to read the full original article.

WHAT CICADA QLD MEANS TO ME

Regional meet-ups have been essential for me. They allow me to connect, swap stories, and learn from lived experience. Being part of the coordinator network introduced me to many inspiring hearing implant recipients.

I now volunteer as a CICADA QLD Coordinator for small groups in Mackay and the Whitsundays (alternating between Cannonvale and Bowen). Building local community groups is deeply rewarding.

Outside of volunteering, I still play guitar and work on my three cars – a Ford Falcon FG XR6 Turbo sedan, a Ford Falcon Fairmont Chia ESP 5.8L V8, and Robyn's Subaru Liberty sedan. I've learned to keep my head at a safe distance while under the hood, as the implant's magnet loves to grab onto the car bodywork if I get too close!

I look forward to continuous hearing improvement – and plenty of new Jack Reacher audiobooks.



Editor's note - A special thank you to Lindsay Creighton, CICADA QLD's Mackay & Whitsundays Coordinator, for sharing his story on navigating regional healthcare. Lindsay is a vital contributor to our regional network.



BEYOND THE AUDIOGRAM: LESSONS FROM BOTH SIDES OF THE DESK

By Daniel Pistritto

Hearing loss is rarely a simple reduction in volume. It is often a landscape of inconsistency – hearing fragments of sentences, relying on facial cues, and constantly solving a mental puzzle to make sense of the world.

Diagnosed at age thirteen, I grew up believing hearing loss was something to be managed in secret. Out of fear of standing out, I left my first hearing aid in a drawer and became an expert at masking my struggle. I nodded along in conversations, laughed at unseen jokes, and pushed through immense cognitive load just to appear as though I was coping.

What an audiogram measures in a clinical booth fails to capture the true cost of living with hearing loss: the severe listening fatigue, the constant hyper-vigilance, and the emotional toll of invisible effort. In noisy classrooms, workplaces, or social settings, missing context is frequently mistaken for disengagement or lack of attention. When you live with progressive or unilateral loss, adaptation eventually reaches its limit.

My perspective changed fundamentally when I entered the field of hearing care as an audiometrist and later received a cochlear implant in my left ear. While the implant brought back rich access to sound

– restoring high-frequency details, spatial awareness, and the joy of music – it also highlighted an essential truth: devices reduce barriers, but listening still requires work.

The most transformative step in my journey was not technological; it was behavioral. It was choosing self-advocacy over concealment. When you hide your hearing loss, you hide your needs, making it impossible for others to support you. By speaking openly, requesting environmental adjustments, and asking for clear communication, the burden shifts from silent coping to shared understanding.

Improving hearing is only part of the equation – improving life, confidence, and human connection is the true goal.



For the full personal story and more practical insights, scan the QR code to read the complete article on Daniel Pistritto's blog.





HEARING SOLUTIONS SUMMIT

Bundaberg

By Russ Ezzy, Bundaberg Coordinator

CICADA Queensland held a Hearing Solutions Summit in Bundaberg for the first time on 18 May, 2026. It was a resounding success, and plans are already underway to run it again next year!

Six of the region's eight hearing clinics were represented at the professional development session, with over 30 people attending throughout the event. A major drawcard for local clinicians was the opportunity to earn Continuing Professional Development (CPD) points locally without needing to travel to capital cities.

Industry Support & Clinical Insights

We received fantastic support from Cochlear Limited and MED-EL. Unfortunately, the representative from Advanced Bionics was unable to join us due to flash flooding in Brisbane. Oticon Medical also delivered a very informative presentation on their Bone Anchored Hearing System (BAHS).

The star presentation of the show was undoubtedly delivered by Dementia Australia, focusing on the critical link between hearing loss and brain health. Attendees learned that individuals with severe to profound hearing loss are up to five times more likely to experience the onset of dementia compared to those with normal hearing. Moving forward, we plan to leverage this powerful insight to raise awareness and encourage adults over 50 to explore cochlear implants sooner.

Video Feature & Acknowledgments

CICADA QLD President John Ross presented an insightful video on cochlear implants by ENT surgeon

Dr Kristy Fraser-Kirk. This marks the second instalment in a planned series of recorded clinical presentations that will serve as an invaluable resource for future summits and may be viewed on CICADA QLD's website via this link <https://cicadaqld.org/implant-info-videos>. The video was exceptionally well received, and we owe a big thank you to John for his hard work producing these materials.

Special thanks must also go to our Events Coordinator and Committee Member, Jody Wallace. Jody poured an incredible amount of time and energy into organizing the summit and securing formal CPD accreditation for attending professionals.

Looking Ahead to Next Year

Speaking with local audiologists at the conclusion of the evening, feedback was overwhelmingly positive. Representatives from Hearing Australia were particularly supportive, with many asking for this to become a regular event on the Bundaberg calendar.

Their primary piece of constructive advice was simply around timing. For any CICADA Coordinators planning a Hearing Solutions Summit in their own regions, it is essential to provide local hearing professionals with at least **three months' notice**. That is how far in advance their clinical schedules fill up!

I'm already looking forward to May next year.

Townsville

By John Foreman, Townsville Coordinator

The inaugural Townsville Hearing Solutions Summit took place in June 2026, bringing together audiometrists, audiologists, clinicians, device manufacturers, and support organisations to network and explore pathways for clients when traditional hearing aids are no longer effective.

Professionals' Afternoon Session

The afternoon program featured presentations from Dementia Australia, Advanced Bionics, Cochlear Limited, MED-EL, and Oticon Medical, offering local professionals deeper technical and clinical knowledge on how hearing implants can transform patient outcomes.

The impact of the session was captured perfectly by one attending clinician on their feedback form:

"As an audiometrist, I have had limited exposure to cochlear implants. However, I gained several valuable insights and key takeaways that will help me confidently counsel and encourage suitable clients to consider CI surgery with less apprehension."

Public Information Session

Following the professional development session, members of the public were invited to join the event for an informative evening.

- **Dementia & Brain Health:** Dementia Australia delivered a compelling presentation highlighting the strong link between unaddressed hearing loss, cognitive decline, and mental health. Attendees learned that with nearly 500,000 Australians currently living with dementia, prioritizing brain health through better hearing is more critical than ever.

- **Regional Excellence in Public Health:**

Representatives from Townsville University Hospital (Queensland Health) outlined their remarkable achievements in servicing hearing implant recipients across North Queensland. Townsville University Hospital remains home to the only public cochlear implant program outside South East Queensland.

- **Surgical & Rehabilitation Insights:** A local ENT surgeon walked attendees through the surgical procedure, emphasizing that while surgery is an essential step, the true journey to improved hearing relies on the post-operative expertise of audiologists during mapping and rehabilitation following switch-on.

- **Lived Experience:** CICADA QLD President John Ross concluded the session by sharing his personal journey with hearing loss and cochlear implantation, underscoring the power of peer connection and self-advocacy.

This major CICADA QLD initiative provided the North Queensland community with an invaluable opportunity to connect, learn, and discover life-changing hearing solutions close to home.



HEARING AIDS NO LONGER WORKING – WHAT IS THE NEXT STEP?

by Linda Bradby, magazine editor

Peer reviewed by Emma Knight, Rehabilitation Audiologist, Neurosensory

For many people living with significant hearing loss, the question is not simply do I need new hearing aids, but have I reached the point where a hearing implant should be considered?

That decision can be life-changing.

A hearing implant evaluation is far more specialised than a standard hearing test.

More Than a Hearing Test

An audiologist assessing someone for a hearing implant, is not simply checking hearing levels. They are evaluating how well the person understands speech, how effectively hearing aids are working, and whether implant technology may provide better access to sound and communication.

What To Look For

An implant assessment service should include:

- comprehensive hearing evaluations
- speech understanding tests with and without hearing aids
- careful hearing aid verification and optimisation
- counselling about realistic outcomes
- discussion of rehabilitation requirements after surgery
- collaboration with a multidisciplinary implant team (ENT surgeons, MRI/CT radiographers, balance testing, speech pathologists and rehabilitation programs)
- discussion about consistency of current aid usage

- the client's goals
- the expected performance with a cochlear implant (based on age, hearing loss and other factors) and
- current performance with the best non-surgical treatment we can provide now.

In Australia, an emerging **60/70 referral guideline** is being used to help identify adults who may benefit from a cochlear implant assessment. This suggests that people with a pure-tone average hearing loss of **60 dB HL or greater** and speech understanding scores of **70% or less** should be considered for referral, although a full hearing implant evaluation is needed to determine candidacy. The 60/70 rule is a screening tool rather than a strict eligibility criterion. A comprehensive hearing implant evaluation considers many factors, including hearing history, hearing aid benefit, speech perception performance, and individual communication needs.

Patients should feel comfortable asking direct questions, including:

- How often do you perform implant assessments?
- Are you part of an established implant program?
- What speech testing methods do you use?
- What rehabilitation support is available after implantation?

Because this professional will be your partner in hearing for years to come, selecting the right one requires careful consideration. Here is a guide on what to look for

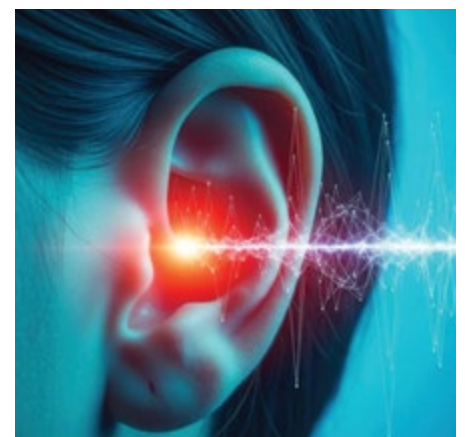
when choosing a hearing implant audiologist.

Prioritize 'Beyond-the-Map' Long-Term Care

Getting your implant turned on is just the beginning. Your brain will need time to adapt to electrical hearing, meaning your audiologist's approach to rehabilitation and lifetime mapping of the processor is important.

You will need routine checkups across your entire lifetime to monitor the internal device function and upgrade external processors. Choose a clinic whose location is easy to access or offers remote mapping and consultations (like telehealth). If you are bimodal (one side is implanted and the other side uses a hearing aid), ask if your audiologist looks after both devices.

By choosing an audiologist who pairs technological expertise with a collaborative, patient-centered approach, you set yourself up for the best possible hearing outcome on your cochlear implant journey.





Ange Jonassen

BRISBANE SOUTH REPORT

In July, we were delighted to welcome our CICADA QLD President, John Ross, and his wife, Donna Ross, who delivered their wonderful presentation, "Living with Hearing Loss."

Together, they spoke openly about the challenges, frustrations, adjustments, and successes that hearing loss can bring – not only for the individual, but also for their partner and family. Their honest and inspiring presentation reminded us that while everyone's journey is unique, none of us has to face it alone. By sharing their personal experiences, John and Donna provided encouragement, practical ideas, and hope to everyone in the room.

Shared Experiences & Peer Support

It was a fantastic morning, concluding with a relaxed morning tea where attendees had the opportunity to connect and chat. We were thrilled to welcome more than 35 people to learn, share experiences, and meet others on a similar hearing journey.

It was especially encouraging to see people currently wearing hearing aids learning more about cochlear implants and exploring what that next step could look like for them. At the same time, experienced

cochlear implant recipients generously shared their stories, answered questions, and offered reassurance over morning tea. Those informal conversations are often just as valuable as the main presentation itself!

Looking Ahead

I am really looking forward to the months ahead and continuing to support our members as we learn from one another, share our experiences, and encourage each other along our hearing journeys. We have some exciting events lined up to finish the year!

- October Gathering: Our next meeting will feature an audiologist as a guest speaker to share clinical insights and answer your questions.
- End-of-Year Social: We will wrap up the year with a fun social activity, giving everyone another great opportunity to catch up and celebrate.

Keep an eye on the CICADA QLD website and Facebook page for upcoming event details!



Gillian Bartholomew

BRISBANE NORTH REPORT

After a short winter break, the Brisbane North group reconnected on Saturday, 1 August for a relaxed social meetup at Crockatt Park in Woody Point. Despite overcast skies and a chilly coastal wind, we had a fantastic

turnout – with many regular attendees, partners, and even pets braving the weather to enjoy warm drinks, delicious food, and great conversation.

Conversation flowed easily, and one comment stood out: "It's just nice to be able to talk to others who 'get it' and know what it's like to live with hearing loss."

The Value of Connection & Safe Spaces

Providing a welcoming, safe space where members can discuss anything "hearing-related" without fear of judgment or misunderstanding is the core objective of our group. Discussions throughout the morning spanned a wide range of topics – including cochlear implant experiences, hearing aid troubleshooting, navigating the NDIS, communication strategies,

traveling with hearing loss, and sharing a few lighthearted laughs over misheard moments.

Four attendees highlighted that social isolation remains a common and challenging experience for people with hearing loss, emphasizing the vital need for inclusive groups that foster connection and genuine friendship.

One attendee, who has been deaf since childhood, shared that joining CICADA QLD was her very first time socializing with peers in her age group who share similar hearing experiences – and expressed what a transformative, positive milestone it was for her.

Looking Ahead

More social gatherings and informative sessions are currently being planned for the second half of the year. In September and November, we will return to Bracken Ridge Library for our regular information and catch-up meetings.

Whether you have recently been diagnosed with hearing loss or have navigated it for decades, we warmly invite you to join us! Our members come from a wide range of backgrounds and ages, and they are always happy to answer questions, offer support, or simply share a laugh over a cup of tea.



EAR TO THE GROUND...

Events and meet-ups may be found on the CICADA QLD website

DARLING DOWNS

The Darling Downs group continues to meet each month on the third floor of the local library. The rooms are well-equipped for audio-visual presentations, with tea and coffee facilities. That hot drink was gratefully received last month when there was no power and we all had to wait outside in fresh air for a time until the library was open.

Our group watched the new video earlier in the year and had a great discussion. It was timely for our new members. We have several new or pending implantees in the group—and there is such an excited interchange of information between members that we hardly make it into the meeting room before we are immersed in conversations.

Last month, Gillian Bartholomew, our Brisbane Northside Coordinator and registered counsellor, came to our group, and shared her insights into the impact hearing loss can have on everyday life. Members of the group talked about their experiences listening fatigue, especially within noisy environments, and we discussed some well-being strategies. We would love to have Gillian visit again.

John Ross will be returning to the group in August, and we look forward to some more answers to technology puzzles.

Thank you Pamela, who has kindly agreed to continue as our interim host, while we source a new meetup coordinator for the Darling Downs.

"I have joined CICADA Qld. I would pay \$20 just to come to a meeting! It's not just very informative, but also gets me talking and listening to other humans!"

Crystal Maher, new member and recent hearing implantee

"I always come out of the meetings with a smile on my face."

Mary Russell, who visits Queensland from Victoria every Winter



Penny Phillips

SUNSHINE COAST

How quickly time flies when you're having fun and back in the world of sound! The first half of 2026 has zoomed by, and the number of people reaching out to investigate our services and support for their cochlear implant journey continues to grow.

The last couple of months have certainly confirmed this trend, with a wonderful turnout of new faces at our recent gatherings. The Sunshine Coast region has now reached a grand milestone of 80 financial members! It is immensely rewarding to see such strong support for our local branch. Fortunately, not everyone attends at the same time, keeping our monthly sessions at a comfortable 20 to 30 people.

Growing Community & Recent Events

Our 2026 Bird Walk at Mary Cairncross Scenic Reserve was a great success. The weather was remarkably kind to us on the day, and our guide, Carolyn, brought her husband along this year. A big thank you to everyone who braved the early morning start – keep an eye out for our next outing!

In June, we enjoyed an outstanding presentation by Gillian – our Brisbane Northside Coordinator and professional counsellor – on strategies for coping with hearing loss. Navigating hearing loss is not always an easy journey, but having practical tips and coping mechanisms on hand makes a world of difference. Thank you, Gillian, for sharing your insights with us.

Looking Ahead

Plans are already well underway for the second half of the year, so be sure to check your monthly newsletter to see what's coming up next. Finally, a HUGE thank you to all our wonderful volunteer helpers – we truly couldn't do it without your dedicated support.

Happy listening and hearing!



EAR TO THE GROUND...

Events and meet-ups may be found on the CICADA QLD website



MACKAY & WHITSUNDAY

Mackay Group

Marking two years since our launch in 2024, the Mackay group continues to provide vital local connections. Established initially by my wife Robyn, myself, and founding members Margaret and Betsy, the group has been sustained over the past year by Christine and me.

We gather at the Mackay Jubilee Community Centre – affectionately known to locals as "the old Mackay Library" – near the Entertainment Centre and council chambers. The venue and staff continue to be exceptional. In June 2026, we were pleased to welcome two potential new members: a lady experiencing her initial switch-on with a Cochlear Limited Nexa implant, and a mother gathering information ahead of her young son's implant procedure.

Whitsunday Group

The Whitsunday Group alternates meeting locations each month between Cannonvale (Airlie Beach) and Bowen to accommodate local members. We have 3 to 4 core attendees alongside a network of phone contacts, and we welcome any suggestions on strategies to increase group engagement and membership given the travel distance of living in regional areas.

The Challenge of Regional Distance

A recurring challenge across both groups is accessing specialised audiological care. Members routinely travel immense distances for mapping and fine-tuning; for example, one member commutes from Bowen to Brisbane for regular appointments. Even regional care demands significant travel – a round trip from Bowen to Mackay spans roughly 390 km, while Bowen to Townsville is 408 km return.



John Foreman

TOWNSVILLE

Townsville has been buzzing with activity since February!

In March, we were delighted to welcome CICADA QLD President John Ross and his wife, Donna Ross. They hosted a fantastic Hearing Solutions presentation at Carlyle Gardens Retirement Village,

followed by an evening session at the Townsville RSL focused on navigating hearing loss. While attendance among veterans was modest, the evening sparked great conversations and laid important groundwork for future outreach.

MRI Safety & The Hearing Bank

In April, Kate from Queensland X-Ray delivered an informative presentation on MRIs and key safety considerations for cochlear implant recipients. During the session, members also learned how to store crucial medical information on their My Health Record via myGov, as well as set up the Medical ID feature on their smartphones.

In a wonderful show of community support, several members donated their superseded or surplus cochlear implant parts, hearing aids, and accessories to our local Hearing Bank initiative. These donated items provide essential spare parts and backup devices for members who are awaiting repairs or managing on older technology.

A Busy June: Summit & Bird Walk

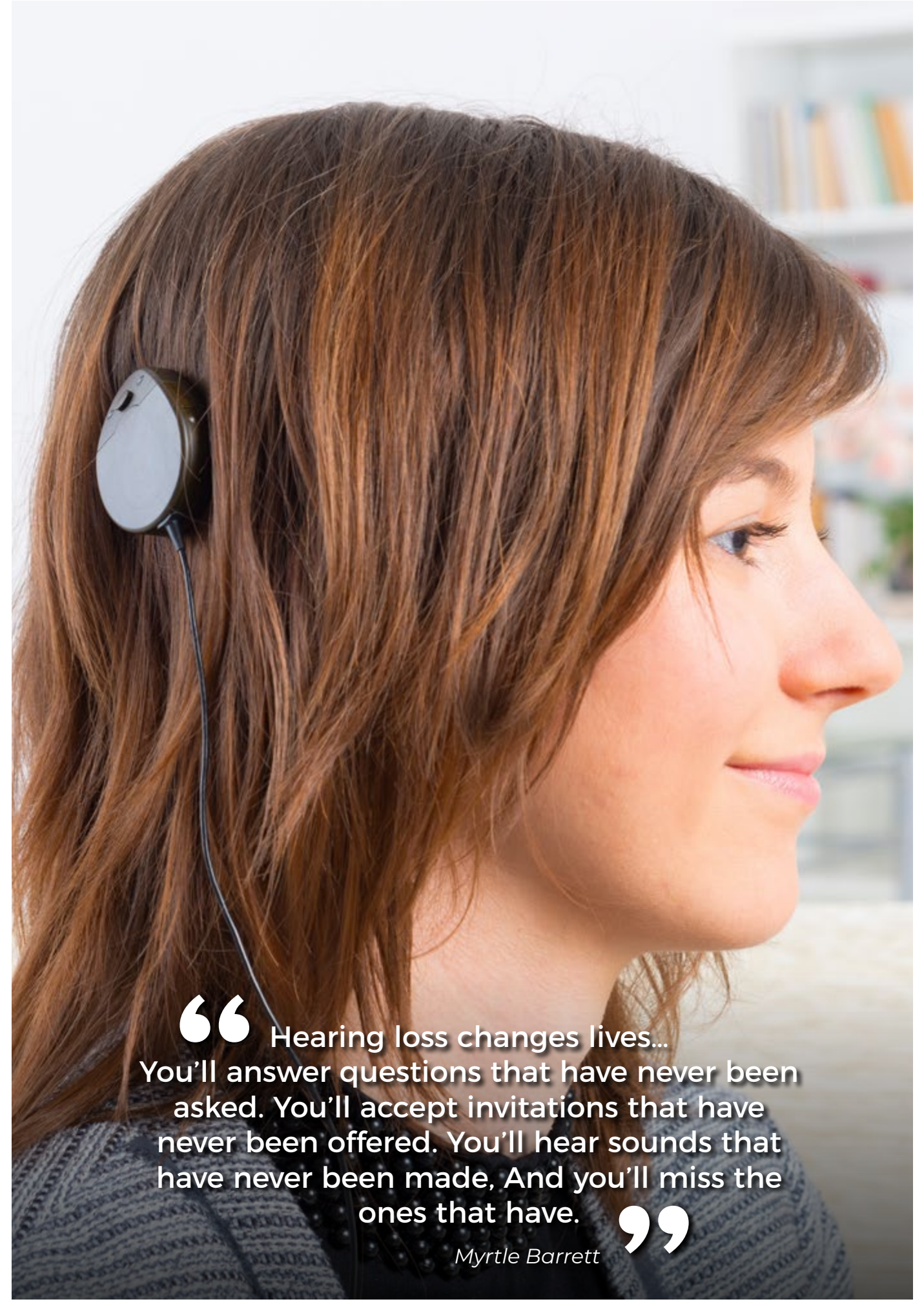
June was an exceptionally busy month for Townsville!

We kicked off with the inaugural Townsville Hearing Solutions Summit, bringing hearing professionals, clinicians, audiologists, and audiometrists together to network and explore implant pathways for clients with profound hearing loss. This was followed by an engaging public session for individuals and families eager to learn more about cochlear implants.

Later in the month, we hosted a Bird Listening Walk led by members of BirdLife Townsville along the Ross River bushland. It was a fantastic opportunity to practice real-world listening skills – hearing, locating, and identifying local bird species. We used a bird identification phone app to assist us, and several members remarked on what an enjoyable, fun form of auditory rehabilitation it was! We definitely plan to do it again.

"I'll definitely join up, I enjoyed yesterday at the meeting, I didn't feel so alone in the world. I'm so happy I came."

Myo Beets, new member starting on her hearing implant journey

A close-up profile shot of a woman with long, wavy brown hair. She is wearing a black cochlear implant processor on her left ear, with a thin black wire extending from it. She is looking off to the right with a gentle smile. The background is softly blurred, showing what appears to be a bookshelf.

“Hearing loss changes lives...
You'll answer questions that have never been
asked. You'll accept invitations that have
never been offered. You'll hear sounds that
have never been made, And you'll miss the
ones that have.”

Myrtle Barrett

Your hearing is personal. Your headphones should be too.



Personalised Sound

Complete your hearing profile while wearing your processor



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Wireless connection to any Bluetooth device



Active Noise Cancellation

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Listen with sound tailored to the way you hear.

Audeara A-02 Headphones use your unique hearing profile to personalise your listening experience.

If you wear a cochlear implant, you can create your Audeara hearing profile while wearing your processor, so the profile reflects the way you actually listen. Using the Audeara app, the A-02 guides you through a simple hearing check across different frequencies and uses your responses to create a listening profile unique to you.

Once your profile is created, it's saved directly to your headphones, so you can enjoy music, movies, podcasts and more with sound shaped around your listening needs.

Your processor stays part of the way you listen. Audeara simply adds another layer of personalisation to help make the experience your own.

Learn more at audeara.com



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WHO WE ARE

CICADA Qld Inc. is an independent, not-for-profit organisation run by volunteers, supporting people with hearing loss and hearing implants for over 30 years.

VISION STATEMENT

To ensure all Queenslanders of all ages affected by hearing loss, considering hearing implants, or currently using hearing technology, along with their families, are supported and informed.

MISSION STATEMENT

To work collaboratively with hearing professionals and the industry to promote and provide awareness, rehabilitation support, and opportunities for social engagement in a community encompassing all people with hearing loss, current hearing implant users, those considering hearing implants, and their friends and families.



Would you like to host a CICADA Qld group in your local area?

Can you spare a few hours a month to hold a regular MeetUp? We are looking for friendly, outgoing people with a passion for supporting people with hearing loss,

hearing implant users and prospective cochlear implant recipients.

Good with technology? We need volunteers to assist with social media, graphic design, digital content and technical assistance. Are you a business with a venue or room suitable for our MeetUps? If any of the above apply, please contact us.



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Whilst every effort has been made to ensure the information in the CICADA Chorus is accurate, it's intended as a general guide only and should not replace personalised advice from your hearing health professional.

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