



PRESIDENTS REPORT 2023 - 2024

www.cicadaqlld.org

Dear Members,

What an incredible year we've had! CICADA Queensland continues to grow, and we have so much to be grateful for. This year has seen some important additions to our CICADA family, with new groups established in Bribie Island and Mackay. I'd like to take this opportunity to sincerely thank all our coordinators across the state for their amazing work in facilitating these monthly meetups for you, our members. If you haven't already, do me a favour and personally thank them next time you have the chance. Their dedication deserves recognition.

This year, we've been able to increase the availability of live captioning at most of our meetups—something we're passionate about achieving at every location. We're committed to promoting these services throughout Queensland, ensuring that all our members have access to the support they need.

We've also had the privilege of exhibiting at the Regional Disability Expos again this year. At each event, with thousands of attendees, CICADA Queensland has proudly stood as the sole exhibitor representing hearing loss. Our advocacy for individuals with hearing loss continues to grow. We are being seen, we are being heard, and, most importantly, we are making a difference.

One of the significant milestones this year was the launch of our Hearing Solutions Summits, with the most recent event held on the Sunshine Coast, where nearly 70 people attended. The feedback has been overwhelming, with strong connections being built between medical professionals and our community—the consumer voice of people with hearing loss. The impact has been astounding, and we're already being encouraged to host more of these events across the state. I'm looking forward to continuing this next year, strengthening our advocacy and ensuring that our voice is heard where it matters.

I'd also like to take a moment to express my heartfelt thanks to our committee for their incredible work behind the scenes. Special thanks go to Penny and Deborah, our Executive, who are truly the backbone of our association. Their dedication keeps CICADA Queensland running smoothly and effectively.

Financially, we continue to be supported by our manufacturers and maintain a strong relationship with Queensland Health. We're constantly exploring ways to collaborate and make a meaningful difference for Queenslanders with hearing loss, as well as for those considering life beyond hearing aids with a hearing implant.

As many of you will have noticed on the voting form, we are proposing a small but important change to our vision and mission statement. When CICADA began almost 40 years ago, cochlear implants were the primary solution. Today, technology has advanced to offer a range of different hearing implant solutions. It's time to update our vision and mission to reflect this progress, ensuring that everyone with hearing loss, seeking solutions beyond hearing aids, feels embraced, acknowledged, and accepted by CICADA Queensland.

Thank you once again for your ongoing support over the last 12 months. We look forward to growing, expanding, and improving our efforts as we head into 2025.

Warm regards,



John Ross
President