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PRESIDENTS LETTER 2025

LETTER FROM THE PRESIDENT



Financial Year 2024-2025

JOHN ROSS

The 2024-2025 financial year has been an exceptional one for CICADA Queensland — a year of achievement, growth, and laying strong foundations for what promises to be an even more exciting future.

This year we've continued to strengthen our presence across Queensland, building valuable relationships, hosting support events, and representing the voice of people with hearing loss at both state and national levels. From regional meet-ups and expos to leadership gatherings and technology partnerships, CICADA Qld has remained at the forefront of community connection and hearing health advocacy.

One of the most significant milestones for hearing health in Australia occurred this year, with the announcement that the **audiology profession will now be regulated under AHPRA** (the Australian Health Practitioner Regulation Agency). This landmark decision ensures audiology will be held to the same standards as other allied health professions — a huge win for Australians with hearing loss. CICADA Queensland played a key role in supporting this outcome, ensuring that the lived experience of people with hearing loss was heard and represented throughout the consultation process.

Internationally, CICADA Qld has also had a voice through my role as **Chair of the Lived Experience Subgroup for the ANZ Hearing Health for Adults Collaborative**. This group recently launched the Living Guidelines for Adult Hearing Health, including referral, evaluation, and outcome standards for cochlear implantation across Australia and New Zealand. These guidelines are already shaping best practice in hearing health care and will continue to evolve as part of a global collaboration to improve hearing outcomes for adults.

Closer to home, one of the year's highlights has been our **partnership with QPAC (Queensland Performing Arts Centre)** to implement cutting-edge assistive listening technology — the first of its kind in the venue's history. Thank you goes to Rob Frith, our Toowoomba Coordinator, whose commitment helped make this partnership possible, and to our members who tested the system ahead of its public launch. QPAC is just the beginning — we're already exploring new opportunities to expand assistive listening access across other venues and public spaces in the coming year.

Looking ahead, 2025-2026 will see significant opportunities for growth. We're targeting new regional areas for expansion and developing plans to deliver **hearing health presentations in retirement villages** across the state – pending the success of our current grant applications. These programs will help reach more Queenslanders than ever before, especially those who may not yet know about the benefits of hearing implant technology or assistive hearing solutions.

I want to extend my heartfelt thanks to our **Committee**, whose dedication, professionalism, and teamwork continue to guide this organisation forward. Each committee member contributes unique skills and perspectives that keep CICADA Qld strong, stable, and forward-focused. To our **Coordinators around the state**, your commitment to running local meetups, supporting new recipients, and building community is what makes CICADA Queensland truly special.

And finally, to our **members** – thank you. Your support, encouragement, and involvement are what drive everything we do. Whether you've attended an event, volunteered your time, shared your story, or simply stayed connected, you are part of what makes CICADA Queensland a vital community for people living with hearing loss.

It has been a big year, but more importantly, it has been a year that has set solid foundations for even greater things to come. With continued advances in technology, stronger partnerships, and a clear vision for growth, CICADA Queensland is well-positioned to lead the way in hearing health support, advocacy, and innovation across our state and beyond.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be 'J. Ross', with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

John Ross
President – CICADA Queensland