



Accent Hearing
EXCELLENCE IN LISTENING

The Listener

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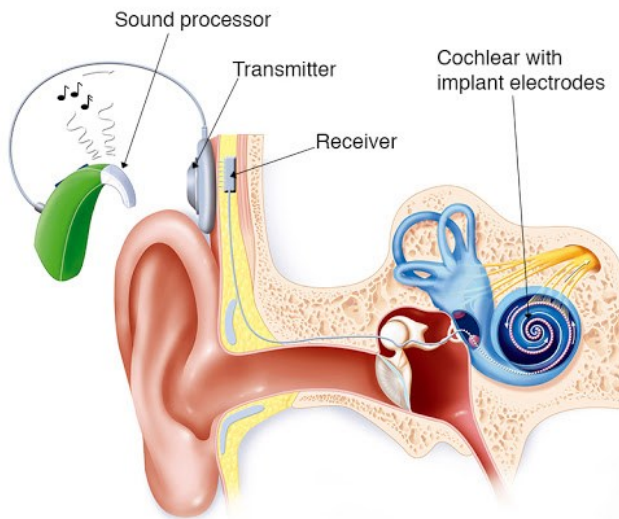
Grafton - Glen Innes - Inverell

www.accenthearing.com.au

Welcome to the Winter 2020 edition of Accent Hearing's Newsletter *The Listener*. Here we explore helpful hearing tips on all hearing matters.

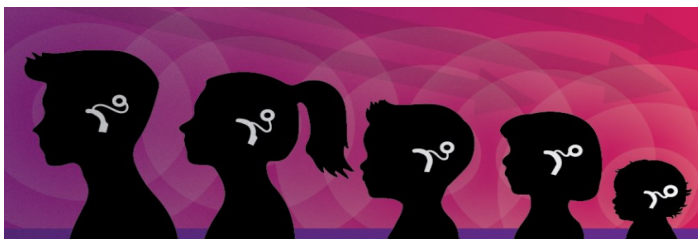
Cochlear Implant Service Available

Accent Hearing will be the first Audiology clinic in the Clarence Valley who can offer Cochlear Implant (CI) services. Having access to this vital service will save hours of travelling time for people who currently travel outside the Valley to receive services.



Our CI services can include 'switch-on' and blending sounds with a hearing aid on the other ear and any other further adjustments needed when required.

If a hearing impaired person is not perceiving benefit from a hearing aid, they can be referred for a cochlear implant evaluation. An evaluation does not necessarily mean they will undergo surgery, but rather be aware of all treatment options for hearing loss and make an informed decision for treatment.



Hearing Implants Australia (HIA) is Australia's professional network of independent health and hearing professionals, working together to improve the client's hearing and quality of life.



The HIA Professional Network ensures that those people who need hearing implants are able to access state of the art technology, under the continued care of their local provider.

Hearing Implants Australia is expanding the reach and access of hearing implant services across Australia. It does so by supporting the professionals caring for clients with hearing loss using the following values:

- Clients need to be under the continued care of local qualified hearing professionals who offer independent care for all their hearing aid and implant needs.
- General practitioners need a local network of qualified, experienced hearing professionals to whom they can refer people, knowing they will access the full suite of hearing solutions.
- Independent audiologists need the flexibility to offer clients continuity of care even when they transition from a hearing aid to an implantable hearing device.
- Cochlear implant surgeons need to work hand-in-hand with a network of experienced, independent hearing implant audiologists across Australia.



Do Hearing Aids Work?

Communication is a complex process and the fitting of appropriate hearing aids is only one part of an effective aural rehabilitation program. Hearing aids also require ongoing maintenance and is very important you know how to clean and maintain them for the most effective and beneficial usage.



Neural Adaptation to Amplification

With an initial hearing aid fitting, the client's concept of normal hearing will be

redefined and the process of subconscious selection will need to be relearnt, which can take up to several months. Unimportant sounds will seem to be both loud and unnaturally prominent and the main reason for hearing aid rejection, however if worn regularly for many hours a day, will ensure the concept of normal hearing will be redefined.

Benefits & Limitations - Hearing aids provide frequency specific amplification, compensating for the loss of volume resulting from a hearing loss. However, inner ear damage and neural changes from a significant sensorineural hearing loss, usually from excessive noise destroying the hair cells (cilia) in the cochlea, will cause a loss of clarity, so that hearing of speech will be distorted. Hearing aids provide a clear undistorted sound to your ears, however the sound may be distorted as it passes through the ear's neural pathways. This distortion reduces the ability to discriminate



speech through any background noise, making a hearing-impaired person having to concentrate much harder than someone with normal hearing, even while wearing hearing devices. Hearing aids do help many people in highlighting a dominant speech signal, but cannot fully separate a voice from competing noise.

If distortion reaches a level where amplification provides very little discrimination ability, hearing aids are of little benefit and a cochlear implant may be appropriate.



Realistic Expectations

In theory, the next time you hear a person saying that hearing aids don't work, please remember it will not be

the hearing aids that don't work. It would be the hearing impaired person who has not persevered with the new (back to normal) sounds; they have not been shown proper maintenance procedures or shown how to manage the hearing devices or; will have very poor speech discrimination, even when wearing the devices. However, the hearing devices would be giving some benefit, but speech may not be as clear as they would have liked it to be. It is all to do with 'realistic expectations' and working with your Audiologist for the most benefit.

Testimonial Corner....

After many years avoiding the inevitable, having had a few tests carried out by not very qualified hearing providers, I decided to book myself in for a hearing test with Accent Hearing.

My hearing assessment was done most professionally with thorough explanations throughout. Finally I was able to choose the best option of hearing aids which would give me the best results.

I cannot recommend Greg Butcher highly enough. His professional knowledge was most helpful in making this big decision.

If your hearing is impaired, do not wait any longer. Go and see Greg Butcher and find out how he can change your life as he did mine.

Herman Claassens, Grafton

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- **GRAFTON** | L5 'The Link' 50 Prince Street, Grafton Shopping World, Grafton NSW 2460 (PO Box 1500).
- **GLEN INNES** | Glen Innes Chiropractic Centre, 113 Meade Street, Glen Innes NSW.
- **INVERELL** | Skybridge Financial Building, 129-135 Otho Street, Inverell NSW.

Accent Hearing is independent and is locally owned. Our clinician Dr Greg Butcher is an Accredited University trained Doctor of Audiology; a full CCP Member of Audiology Australia & Independent Audiologists Australia; and a qualified Government & Medicare Hearing Services Provider.