

# Cochlear Hearing Solutions

## Cochlear Implants

Captures sound using an external speech processor and sends it to the inner ear via an internal implant placed in the cochlea.



- ① Behind the ear processor
- ② Cable & Coil

## Bone Conduction Implants

Re-routes sound via bone conduction, sending it directly to the cochlea, bypassing the middle ear.



### For more recipient stories

[www.c-a-network.com](http://www.c-a-network.com)

### For more information on Cochlear solutions

1800 620 929 (Toll free in Australia)

0800 444 819 (Toll free in New Zealand)

[customerservice@cochlear.com](mailto:customerservice@cochlear.com)

[www.cochlear.com](http://www.cochlear.com)

## Cochlear Awareness Network (CAN)

CAN is a team of volunteers who are recipients of Cochlear hearing solutions, or parents of recipients. They proactively educate the community and health professionals on how Cochlear hearing solutions can dramatically improve the communication ability and quality of life for people impacted by a significant hearing loss.

### Cochlear Awareness Network Volunteer

**Michael Anderson**

**Cochlear Implant Recipient**

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Cochlear Awareness Network



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## Michael's story

**Progressive Hearing Loss after 40**

*'Grandad!' is now my favourite new sound.*

Cochlear Awareness Network

Hear now. And always



Cochlear™

## Meet Michael Anderson

Between the ages of 40 and 55 I lost my hearing, my job, my confidence and a lot of friends. I became isolated, at times moody and depressed and looked to the future with dread. This is my story of how receiving a cochlear implant saved me and gave me back my life.

No one in my family had major hearing problems so it was a surprise to me when shortly after I turned 40 I started to notice a hearing loss. The sound from TV was too soft, people mumbled, backgrounds were too noisy. Eventually, I accepted the truth, fronted up to an audiologist and soon found myself the owner of a single, in the ear hearing aid. I was shocked and embarrassed and wore it only with close friends and family, never at work.

Predictably, over the years my hearing got worse and soon my job as a teacher of English at a High School was in jeopardy. Two behind the ear hearing aids still didn't help. I was becoming remote, reclusive. Not only was it too hard to teach, I couldn't participate in meetings,

enjoy staff room banter with colleagues, ring parents or do any of the hundreds of tasks that require good ears. Inevitably, I had to leave the classroom and carry on in education, at a greatly reduced salary, doing other tasks such as the school magazine and newspaper.

Away from work, I avoided social situations and could no longer go to films or plays or enjoy music. A meal out at a restaurant with my wife meant communicating by way of a note book she always carried with her. I was becoming a hermit – a grumpy hermit.

Then my life changed. After 14 years of progressive hearing loss I was asked if I'd like to be assessed for a cochlear implant. I had little idea what this meant but, in 2006, I went through the assessment getting more and more excited by the minute. When I was accepted for an implant behind my right ear, I was over the moon. The date for surgery couldn't come quickly enough. My waiting time was barely a year and I eagerly checked into the hospital, looking forward to the operation, recovery and switch-on. It was a breeze. I was so excited that any pain or discomfort barely registered.

*'Can you hear me, Michael?'* were the first words of what I now see as the second half of my life. Could I hear? You bet! Progress was exciting and quick. Within a short time conversations were back to normal, I could use the telephone and watch TV without captions. Eating out was now a real pleasure. I was sociable again.

I travelled overseas within 2 weeks of switch-on having a ball on long haul flights listening to music, watching films and chatting. Previously, this would have been one long bore for me.

Now, I feel I have my life back thanks to my cochlear implant. In many ways, losing my hearing and regaining it has been the best thing that's happened to me and I will always be eternally grateful to Cochlear, my surgeon and everyone at SCIPA in New Zealand.

*"Life is exciting again, and I'm in it."*