

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

For more information on Cochlear solutions

1800 620 929 (Toll free in Australia)

0800 444 819 (Toll free in New Zealand)

customerservice@cochlear.com

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

Rob Dobson

Bi-Lateral Cochlear Implant Recipient

Ph: 08 85576324

Mob: 0427620828

Email: rob_dobson@bigpond.com

www.c-a-network.com



Cochlear Awareness Network



Cochlear Awareness Network



Rob's story

Born Deaf

"Having bi-lateral implants means I now focus on living and not hearing."

Hear now. And always



Meet Rob

I would like to share with you my journey through life being hearing impaired and now my new life as a bi-lateral recipient of Nucleus Freedom Cochlear Implants.

I have a severe/profound Sensorineural hearing loss in both ears. When I was born there were no hearing tests for babies so my parents had to work out whether my hyperactive behaviour indicated a hearing loss.

It seems I was born deaf but was not diagnosed until I was at least 3 years old and was not fitted with bi-lateral hearing aids until I was 4 years old. This meant I was behind others in my age group in terms of language development.

Throughout my schooling I relied heavily on a small amount of residual sound using two hearing aids plus lip-reading. Coping in mainstream schools in normal hearing classes (primary and secondary) was a challenge.

I felt isolated from peers and I only had additional support twice a week. This was both good and bad. It singled me out from the group, showing I needed help, but at the same time

help wasn't offered often enough.

One of the biggest challenges has been dealing with the demands of the 'hearing establishment'. Going through university required a supreme effort even though I was lucky to get a little support.

Over the last few years I had heard about cochlear implants from friends. I met with my ENT Specialist and the wonderful audiologists at the South Australian Cochlear Implant Centre (SACIC) and we explored and discussed the benefits that a Nucleus Freedom cochlear implant would give me.

The assessments demonstrated I would receive a significant improvement with an implant and this would make communication easier. I felt I had nothing to lose but everything to gain.

I received my first implant in 2007. My activation (switch-on) went really well and exceeded everyone's expectations. I was overjoyed and emotional, my hands trembled.

After living with my first implant for about 18

months I decided I would benefit with an implant in my other ear and in late 2008 I had this operation.

Once again the process was totally successful. I have had to get used to hearing from both sides and that has been a huge learning curve.

The best things about the second implant have been restored detection of everyday sounds in the hearing environment, improved face-to-face communication and the ability to understand speech through hearing alone.

Before I had my implants, spending time with family and friends had been rewarding but exhausting. Now I have bilateral implants, I focus less on trying to hear and more on other activities.

I have been writing an online 'blog' about my bilateral cochlear implant journey. You can visit my blog at <http://rsdobson.blogspot.com/>

"With my bi-lateral implants I feel more energized than ever before."