



**Hearing aided**  
Cochlear implant changes  
Annette's life  
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## villagenews

### Annette gives ear to applause recognising her efforts

By Jenny Westdorp

NEW Farm resident Annette Gilmore has been recognised for her outstanding contribution to the advancement of hearing health in Australia.

Annette, recently received a HEARO Award from Cochlear Limited, which is considered the global leader in cochlear and bone conduction implant technology.

Annette, a cochlear implant recipient was recognised for her tireless efforts in raising awareness of hearing loss and the solutions available to help hearing-impaired adults and children connect with the world around them.

Annette was diagnosed with severe sensorineural hearing loss at 18 months of age which is a partial deafness that occurs from damage to the inner ear.

She was blessed with a patient mother, who, every time Annette mispronounced a word, encouraged her to say it correctly. This is the reason she speaks so clearly today.

As she got older, Annette's hearing decreased considerably. In 2003, her audiologist recommended a cochlear implant she refused, basically because of a lack of knowledge about the science, and struggled on with more powerful hearing aids.

Her work began to suffer.

Annette has worked for the Queensland Government for 11 years

during which time she has applied for higher-level jobs. The majority of those positions required answering telephones which she was not able to

difference it had made in their lives and the new confidence it had given them.

Armed with that knowledge, she agreed to have the implant in 2007.



Annette Gilmore has been recognised for her outstanding contribution to hearing health

do. A few positions required specific qualifications which she was unable to achieve as she had trouble studying.

After two years, she realised the hearing aids were not helping much so she began researching and talking to others who had had the implant. She was inspired by hearing about the

The operation was a success and only required an overnight stay in the hospital. Two weeks later, the external sound processor to the device was turned on.

After a period of adjustment, Annette said she was amazed at all the things she could hear for the first time, such

as plastic bags rustling, water running and birds singing – and even hear her trousers making noises when she walked which she found peculiar.

Annette's career took off too.

She is involved as a co-ordinator and qualified career planning officer for People with Disabilities Support Network within the Queensland Police Service

She said she believed that had she not have the implant, she would not have had the courage or the confidence to apply for her new position within the police service after having been passed over so many times previously.

Looking back over her career, Annette said she remembered thinking she would be trapped doing the same type of work at the same level for the rest of her life and it was devastating.

Now she is excited about where her career is heading for the first time in 11 years and believes she can overcome any hurdles that she may face, including obtaining her Certificate IV in Training and Assessment.

Last year, Annette received the Kaye Byrne Encouragement Award for the project - "Communication with Hearing Impaired Colleagues in the Workplace" at Police Headquarters on the International Day of People with a Disability.