

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

Bethany Miller

Bi-lateral Cochlear Implant Recipient

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www.c-a-network.com



Cochlear Awareness Network



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Bethany's Story

Born Profoundly Deaf

"I truly believe that miracles happen."

Hear now. And always



Cochlear™

Meet Bethany

Hello everyone! I would like to share with you the story of my bilateral cochlear implants. I really hope you get something out of it and realise that for the deaf to hear is completely possible.

I was born on December 10, 1993. As my parents say, I was a bright and happy baby, always aware of what was going on around me. One day, my mum checked on me after a daytime sleep. She saw I was awake but not facing her and she spoke my name *"Bethany"*. I didn't respond, so she said it again, louder, still no response. She tried again and again! She knew then that there was something wrong with me. I was 10 months old. It took 5 months to get an answer. I was profoundly deaf.

My parents had no idea what to do. They were worried that if I only learnt sign language it would be very difficult for me to communicate with most people. A phone call from the principal of the Cora Barclay Centre (CBC) in Adelaide changed my life. During a visit, she said, *"We*

believe we can teach Bethany to speak".

I was enrolled at CBC and commenced Auditory Verbal Therapy with my teacher, Kerry. I did very well at first and much to my parents' delight I was soon saying my first words. Sometime later my parents and Kerry noticed I was responding less and less to things around me, so my Audiologist, Robyn did a test. There had been a significant drop in my already very bad hearing. I was taken to the ENT surgeon, Dr John Rice. He suggested I have a Cochlear implant. My parents thought long and hard about this and concluded that it was a good idea.

I was nearly four when I was admitted into the Women's and Children's Hospital for surgery. I was in the operating room for 5 hours. 2 weeks later, my implant was switched on. I could hear the birds singing, the sprinkler and the planes above. After lots of hard work and hours of my amazing Mum's time, I learnt to speak.

I am in high school now and I have been very

successful with my hearing and speech. I have done well at school, sports and public speaking.

In 2007, I made the choice to have a cochlear implant in my other ear. I wanted to have the second implant because I had been told that I would be able to hear better in noisy situations and hear more directional sound. It was also hoped that I would be able to hear better overall. This was enough to convince me that it would be worth trying, because I am all for the best hearing I can get.

It took many visits to my specialists but finally the operation day arrived. I went into the theatre and this time the surgery took only 2 hours. The recovery afterwards was quite painful and tiring! My second implant has already helped me, and I'm hoping it will help even more in the future.

"Because of my cochlear implants, I learnt to hear and speak even though I am deaf. I truly believe that miracles happen."