

## 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

##### Carol Beetles

##### Bi-lateral Implant Recipient

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Cochlear Awareness Network



Cochlear Awareness Network



## Carol's story

Gradual hearing loss since 20 years of age

*"Having a Cochlear Implant is like having the best of both worlds – I can choose either to hear or not to hear."*

Cochlear Awareness Network

Hear now. And always



Cochlear™

## Meet Carol

When I was a child I remember the dripping tap in the kitchen keeping me awake at night. My father said: *“You should just be thankful you can hear it!”*

Years later as my hearing deteriorated I lay in bed and tried to remember what that dripping tap sounded like.

In my early 20's when, due to hearing loss, my life changed considerably I found it difficult to communicate with people and suffered depression. I dreaded the thought of meeting new people and panicked every time the phone rang. When my children whispered a secret it brought tears to my eyes. I had no idea what they were saying. When they had friends home to play they looked at me as if I was some kind of monster. I was ashamed of my deafness and my hearing aids, because people seemed to think I was not only deaf but also dumb.

My hearing loss also caused problems in my marriage, because my husband was not very

patient. He got angry with me when I had to ask him to repeat things. Friends drifted away, most likely because it was just too difficult to communicate with me. I could not hear on the phone and certainly could not join them for coffee or a meal in a restaurant.

My mother's hearing had been bad for a long time and finally, at the age of 70 years, in 2001 she was fitted with a Cochlear Implant and had a fantastic result for someone of her age. So, Mum, Dad and my children started to badger me to get an implant as well.

Eventually I gave in and in February 2002 my life was changed forever – I was fitted with a Cochlear Implant. After my second mapping during a test of my speech comprehension I realised I was repeating everything word. I could hardly contain my excitement. I looked at my daughter Lisa, and she was smiling through tears. I will never forget that smile.

I didn't realise just how beneficial this implant was going to be until two weeks after I was

switched when I phoned my daughter, Trudy, for a quick chat. After I hung up it dawned on me that I'd actually heard everything she said. I rang her back and cried *“do you realise I heard you then?”* Through the tears she replied, *“yes, and I can't stop crying!”*

In August 2006, I had a second implant and after switch on I noticed an immediate improvement. I can now distinguish where a noise is coming from, music sounds wonderful and by switching my processor to program 2, I can keep up with the conversation even in a noisy environment!

My Cochlear Implants have certainly changed my life. I no longer consider myself deaf: I feel equal and love to meet new people. I am no longer depressed; I participate in meetings and conduct training sessions. Since my Cochlear implants, I have received several promotions!

*“My Cochlear Implants changed my life. I have so much to look forward too”*