

## KINDRED ORGANISATIONS



**Better Hearing Adelaide**  
Hearing loss management

Derik Ward

Tel/Fax: 08 8431 1397

eMail: gward@sa.chariot.net.au

www.betterhearingadelaide.com



**C. I. C. A. D. A. S. A. Inc.**

Cochlear Implant Club and Advisory Assoc  
Supporting Cochlear and Baha implantees

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## SOUTH AUSTRALIAN ADULT CLINICS



**SOUTH AUSTRALIAN  
COCHLEAR  
IMPLANT CENTRE**

Level 1 251 Morphett St

ADELAIDE SA 5000

Tel: 08 8203 8363 TTY: 8410 9955

eMail: contact@sacic.com.au



**Flinders Medical Centre**

BEDFORD PARK SA 5042

Tel: 08 8204 5933 Fax: 8204 4366

eMail: sandra.pickard@fmc.sa.gov.au

www.flinders.sa.gov.au

### Cochlear Awareness Network Volunteers

- Available to discuss their experiences
- Have lived deaf and had their hearing restored through either a Cochlear Implant or Baha
- Tell their story to community groups, clubs, schools and businesses
- Help potential recipients understand how a Cochlear Implant could help them
- Support other recipients
- Support local Cochlear Implant Clinics
- Visit Audiologists, GPs and ENTs to educate them about Implants



### Cochlear Awareness Network

PO Box 221 UPPER STURT SA 5156

Tel/Fax: 08 8388 2112

Mobile: 0427 427 330

E-mail: felicity@bleckly.com



## Cochlear Awareness Network

myStory

FELICITY BLECKLY

Deafness caused by measles



www.c-a-network.com

# myStory



**FELICITY  
BLECKLY**

**Felicity went slowly deaf from around age 9 and was living deaf by about 35. There were no solutions for her loss until she had a Cochlear Implant.**

Piano was my first love. For 14 years I took lessons, practising often four hours a day until I reached Grade 7.

My deafness was first diagnosed at 16, but I did not believe it. I left school, started work and went to college where I studied Applied Arts teaching with piano performance. Music was a big part of my life.

I joined the college choir but, my hearing loss first impacted on my life when I was asked to leave the choir because I could not always keep pitch. At the time all I felt was disgraced. Tinnitus became my constant companion at 18 and I visited many specialists for a cure for these other worldly sounds. I felt frightened and I feared total deafness. The specialists gave me no hope, predicting I would lose all hearing by 20.

But being young I continued with my dream—to learn the piano and became a piano teacher. By the time I was 29 (1980) I had completely lost hearing in my left ear with my right ear working at only 50%. I still worked in the music industry, demonstrating and selling pianos and organs, playing in shopping centres and concerts. My large repertoire came in handy when I played easy listening dinner music in restaurants and hotels.

During my time in the music industry when I won 'Rookie of the Year' in 1981 my prize was this beautiful piano.

I vowed to keep it for life. I played for hours always thinking about achieving more.

I lost the tinkly sounds of the high pitches first. I gave up teaching and slowly I stopped playing as all sound died. By the time I was 35 I was profoundly deaf and even with the help of a hearing aid I could no longer understand the tv, radio or movies and parties were hell. I had become isolated.



**MY BELOVED  
PIANO**

When I lost my job I made the heart rending decision to sell my beloved piano. It seemed my dream had become my nightmare.

But when I was 52 and had been living deaf for many years I had a Cochlear Implant and within a few minutes of processor activation I was listening to sounds and understanding speech, things which I thought had been lost to me forever.

Within a few months I was listening to music and my husband bought me a new piano—equally as beautiful and loved as the one I had been forced to sell.

My Cochlear implant means

**I no longer deal with deafness  
on a day to day basis.**

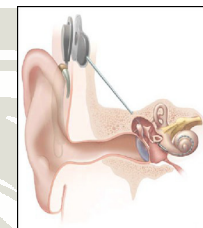
**I am no longer isolated.**

## Implantable Hearing Solutions

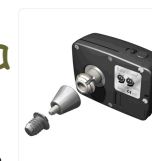
### Cochlear Implant

A Cochlear Implant is the first device ever to replace one of the senses. It is a hearing solution for children and adults, with severe to profound hearing loss : people who could not be helped before.

Unlike hearing aids a Cochlear Implant does not amplify sound. The implant by-passes the damaged portion of the ear and stimulates the hearing nerve in response to sound.



### Baha



A Baha is an implantable hearing solution which helps people with conductive or mixed hearing loss or single sided deafness. It works by using bone conduction to take the sound into the cochlea for those who cannot use traditional hearing aids.

#### For more stories

about people whose lives have improved with Cochlear Implants or Baha go to [www.c-a-network.com](http://www.c-a-network.com)

**For more about Cochlear**  
products and technology

Free call 1800 620 929  
[www.cochlear.com.au](http://www.cochlear.com.au)