

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

Fiona Ali

Cochlear Implant Recipient

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www.c-a-network.com



Cochlear Awareness Network



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Fiona's story

Gradual Hearing loss from early adulthood

*"Out of the Silence. It has been an incredible journey.
One I would not have missed."*

Cochlear Awareness Network

Hear now. And always



Cochlear™

Meet Fiona

Hi my name is Fiona Ali. I am 39 years old and live in Dunedin, NZ with my husband and four children. I grew up in Inverness Scotland and during my childhood I had no hearing difficulties. However, my father is profoundly deaf and I was exposed to the Deaf community and culture through him.

It wasn't until I had left home to go to college at age 19 that I began to notice I couldn't always hear what was being said - especially in noisy situations.

The deterioration of my hearing was a slow downward progression and for a number of years I coped quite well. I attended college in Edinburgh where I completed a Diploma in Hotel Management. I met and married my husband and life was great. We left Scotland in 1996 and I would not have described myself as being deaf. I didn't allow the hearing loss that I had to hinder me *too* much.

After the birth of my second child it was becoming more difficult to cope. I could no longer use the telephone, could only watch TV

with subtitles. I couldn't cope in groups or hear people speaking to me from behind and I couldn't hear my baby cry from another room. We had two more children and I was a stay at home Mum. To my family the fact that I couldn't hear was no big deal - that's just the way Mum was. To the outside world I coped wonderfully but under the surface was a different story. I had such feelings of isolation and frustration. I was part of this wonderful family but still felt lonely. I withdrew from life and suffered a period of depression. It was exhausting lip reading ALL day long when I had almost no sound.

Twice in this period I tried hearing aids but they offered me no real benefit. In 2005 I was assessed for a cochlear implant and it was a long two year wait for the surgery. When I look back I was scared silly about the actual surgery but for no reason. The scary stuff really started with *'switch on'*. The first few weeks were a jumble of conflicting emotions. Exciting and terrifying, exhausting and exhilarating!

My implant has been a success story and I have achieved high results right from the start. It has been life changing. To hear and understand my

husband and children's voices is incredible. To enjoy conversation and laughter around the dinner table; To converse on the telephone; To enjoy movies and know what the film is about. To hear the children sing at school.

Music! I find it very hard to articulate how I feel now that I listen to music again. Such a simple thing gives me such joy and has been a huge and very welcome bonus of having the implant.

Being able to hear again and living in the *'hearing world'* with sound has boosted my confidence and opened many doors. I am now working part time at my children's school and can fully participate in meetings without assistance. I am not two steps behind everyone.

It has been two years since *'switch on'* and I have not looked back once. It has been an incredible journey and I hope by joining the Cochlear Awareness Network I can help others who might find themselves in a similar position.

*There is not a day goes by that I do not think
"Wow - I can hear that!"*