

# 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

**Jennie Perry Smith**

**Cochlear Implant Recipient**

Mob: 0418 194 628

Email: [jennie.perrysmith@gmail.com](mailto:jennie.perrysmith@gmail.com)

[www.c-a-network.com](http://www.c-a-network.com)



Cochlear Awareness Network



Cochlear Awareness Network



## Jennie's story

Post-lingually deafened

*"I call myself the Bionic Woman"*

Hear now. And always



## Meet Jennie

Twenty years ago, Jennie Perry Smith of Peregian Springs, Qld, was an influential corporate high flyer at the peak of her career. She was the Executive Director of the Information Policy Board for the Queensland Government, Chair of the Queensland Government Telecommunications Strategic Review, Chair of Information Policy and Planning Committee for Griffith University and last but not least, mother of two primary school children.

But her rapidly deteriorating hearing loss soon put an end to everything she had worked towards and she was forced to take early retirement. Little did she know that her biggest challenges lay ahead.

*"I just found it so hard to operate at the level required of me in terms of communication," Jennie says. "This was particularly the case in board meetings as I would miss much of the conversation. I relied heavily on lip-reading and was even video taping meetings so I could*

*watch them afterwards to catch up on the vital information I'd missed."*

And hearing aids were offering less and less relief from her isolation. *"I can remember sitting in a meeting and having both batteries in both aids go at once," she says. "I excused myself from the room and went to the bathroom and replaced the batteries. Once I realised I was really struggling I just left work."*

On the advice of her audiologist, in 2010 Jennie finally decided to have a cochlear implant and she is absolutely delighted with the results. Two weeks after surgery at switch-on, she was ecstatic when she scored 92% for sentence recognition without the need for lip-reading. The first sound she heard was her own voice. It initially seemed a little like a foghorn but, almost immediately, she found she had completely adjusted to its loudness. Every morning when she switches on her speech processor, she is reminded of this, as her voice seems a too loud but quickly attenuates to normal.

*"The social isolation I was experiencing has now ended due to the wonders of modern*

*technology. I'm able to relax around people and I'm much happier in myself. I still marvel at being able to talk to people in the car, even in the back seat, and can hear when someone speaks to me from another room," she says.*

Hearing problems weren't the only challenges Jennie was facing - she also suffered from cataracts. These have now been rectified with intra ocular lenses meaning she doesn't have to wear glasses anymore.

*"I now refer to myself as the 'bionic woman'" she laughs. "I've been so lucky to have benefited from these amazing technologies."*

*"But - I am not the only who has benefited from my Cochlear Implant. My family and friends no longer need to make so many allowances and concessions when communicating with me. I now think of myself as hearing impaired, not deaf and I have reconnected with the hearing world."*

*"I am lucky to have benefited from these amazing technologies."*