

# 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

**Karin Jamieson**

### Bi-lateral Cochlear Implant Recipient

Tel: 02 6362 4092

Mob: 0412 766 346

Email: [karin.jamieson@bigpond.com](mailto:karin.jamieson@bigpond.com)

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



Cochlear Awareness Network



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## Karin's story

Meniere's Disease

*"I feel that I am part of the real world again."*

Hear now. And always



Cochlear™

## Meet Karin

I enjoyed normal hearing until the late 1990's, when I was diagnosed with Meniere's disease.

For many years the impact of the disease was minimal. I maintained an active life-style travelling for work and attending meetings and conferences. I was heavily involved with our children's activities at school and sport, and fitted in my own passion – hockey, playing First Grade in local competition.

By 2002, hearing loss in my left ear impacted at work and I began employing coping strategies. The frequency and severity of attacks increased; the challenges of dealing with a disease that eroded both hearing and balance were constant. In September 2003 I resigned and underwent surgery to try to combat attacks. The surgery was reasonably successful and in December 2003, I resumed part-time work with noticeably reduced hearing in my left ear. By March 2004 it was obvious I had bilateral Meniere's disease. Deterioration in my "good ear" was rapid and devastating, more in terms of hearing loss than attacks. I trialled numerous hearing aids

unsuccessfully and became very frustrated with my inability to easily discriminate speech.

I pushed for referral for assessment for a Cochlear Implant and that was when the downwards spiral stopped. On May 2nd 2006, I underwent surgery for the first implant. Switch on day was May 16th; within two days of switch on, my hearing aid broke down so I was entirely reliant on the Cochlear Implant.

One month after implant, I strapped on a rugby helmet and went back to hockey - and I'm still playing. One year post implant I achieved over 90% speech discrimination. I started to socialise again and instead of relying on email to communicate, I could pick up the phone - landline or mobile.

**Why a second CI?** Loss of hearing in my right ear plus resumption of the Meniere's attacks impacted negatively on my quality of life. I had:

- Little to lose in terms of residual hearing.
- A very real desire to become even more "normal" in terms of hearing binaurally.
- Total trust in the team involved in my first

Cochlear Implant process.

- A shorter period between hearing loss and implant meant a shorter rehabilitation.
- If one processor malfunctioned, I could still function effectively with the other.

The second implant was again done by Dr Biggs on August 21st, 2007. Over a year later, I'm amazed at the changes in my life. I find very little difference between my hearing on either side and feel much more balanced and the Meniere's attacks have ceased too.

Among the most notable gains I have made since becoming a bi-lateral CI recipient are:

- I enjoy music – and I now have an MP3 player (with personal audio cable).
- I watch TV and movies without relying on sub-titles though I sometimes use them as a back up.
- I cope in many situations such as parties, restaurants, and shopping centres.

*"I feel that I am part of the real world again"*