

HOW TO LOCATE A QUALIFIED AUDIOLOGIST

All Members of the Audiological Society of Australia (ASA) are University Graduates bound by a Professional Code of Ethics and Standards of Practice and have access to postgraduate education programs. Look for the letters MAudSA (CCP) after the audiologist's name to ensure that you are consulting a qualified audiologist who has completed the ASA Certificate of Clinical Practice (CCP).

TO OBTAIN A FREE DIRECTORY OF CLINICS WHERE QUALIFIED AUDIOLOGISTS WORK VISIT:

www.audiology.asn.au

or contact us on
(03) 9416 4606



AUDIOLOGY AUSTRALIA
AUDILOGICAL SOCIETY OF AUSTRALIA INC.

Audiological Society of Australia Inc. T/A
AUDIOLOGY AUSTRALIA

Suite 7, 476 Canterbury Road,
Forest Hill, VIC. 3131
Telephone: 03 9416 4606
Facsimile: 03 9416 4607

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AUDIOLOGY

and Hearing Aids



Your Hearing Health Professionals



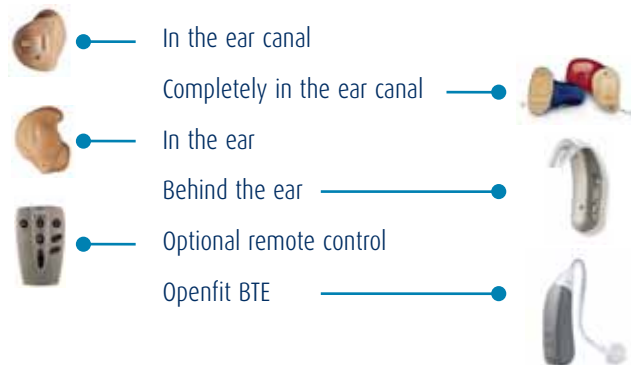
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IMPAIRED HEARING

One in three people over the age of 65, and one in ten people of all ages have significant hearing impairment which affects communication and quality of life. Professional rehabilitation combined with carefully selected and accurately prescribed hearing aids will overcome most verbal communication and hearing difficulties. While hearing aids rarely enable people to hear as well as someone with normal hearing, hearing aids improve quality of life by enabling people with hearing loss to communicate more easily with those around them and to participate more in society.

HEARING AIDS

There are different types of hearing aid, which include:



BASIC COMPONENTS

Most hearing aids feature the following components:

- Microphone - to convert sound waves into an electrical signal
- Amplifier - to increase signal volume
- Microprocessor - to adjust the amplified signal to individual hearing loss
- Earphone - to convert the processed signal back into sound waves directed into the ear

OPTIONAL COMPONENTS

- Manual or automatic volume control
- Telecoil or audio input for use with telephone, TV, or other external input

- Advanced features such as adaptive directional microphones, noise reduction processing and FM technology to improve speech intelligibility and comfort in noisy conditions
- Feedback cancelling to reduce the chance that your hearing aid will whistle
- Remote Control may be used to operate some features
- Bluetooth wireless technology

HOW AUDIOLOGY CAN HELP

Audiologists are University Graduates with extensive specialist training at post graduate level in the non-medical management of hearing disorders including hearing aid selection, prescription, evaluation and aural rehabilitation.

AUDIOLOGICAL ASSESSMENT

The important first step is comprehensive hearing testing to determine the degree and type of hearing loss. Audiologists can interpret the results and advise if referral for medical diagnosis and management is necessary before hearing aid fitting. Further tests for hearing aid suitability may include speech discrimination in noise, speech processing and loudness discomfort testing.



HEARING AND SELECTION, PRESCRIPTION AND EVALUATION

Audiologists have extensive postgraduate training in:

Acoustics and Biophysics to evaluate your requirements and recommend possible alternatives to hearing aid amplification. For example, a cochlear implant or improved room acoustics at home or work may be a better solution.

Psychology and Neurophysiology so that evaluation of your communication needs, cosmetic requirements and any disabilities are carefully considered.

Aural Rehabilitation including speech reading, auditory training, auditory adaptation and other skills to assist you in your adjustment to hearing aid use.

Acoustic Phonetics (the physics of speech) the understanding of which is critical to hearing aid programming and evaluation of the final hearing aid prescription to ensure that you gain maximum benefit.

Every hearing loss is different in terms of degree, type and cause. Most hearing aids can be individually programmed by computer to allow for all these factors as well as your individual needs at home, work, and in educational and social situations.

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