



COCHLEAR
IMPLANT PROGRAM
An **RIDBC** service



**Do you struggle
to hear even with
hearing aids?**

**An implantable hearing
device could be for you**

Do you struggle to hear in
crowded places?

Do you find it difficult to
hear on the phone?

Are you no longer able to hear
children's voices clearly?

*"I can hear the fizz when
I open a bottle, which I couldn't
before, and the sound of rain on
different surfaces."*

- Leanne



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What are implantable hearing devices?

Unlike hearing aids, cochlear implants don't just make sounds louder, they stimulate the hearing nerves directly providing access to higher quality, more detailed sound at close to normal levels.

Other implantable hearing devices, such as bone conduction implantable devices (BCIDs) are also available within our program. We can help you to find out which hearing solution will provide the best outcome for you.

About us

SCIC Cochlear Implant Program is a service of RIDBC. RIDBC is a charity and supports children and adults of all ages with hearing or vision loss, providing specialist education, therapy, audiology and cochlear implant services.

SCIC Cochlear Implant Program is one of the largest and most advanced services of its kind worldwide. Our services are lifelong and tailored to meet your individual needs. You will have access to a highly qualified and experienced team of specialists and a range of other professionals depending on your needs.

“My family and I say, thank you everyone, for giving me back the ability to hear”

– Andries



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Who can benefit?

People of any age can benefit from implantable hearing devices such as cochlear implants or bone conduction implantable devices.

While hearing aids amplify sounds, some people may still find speech difficult to understand. Implantable hearing devices can provide help for children and adults who gain little or no benefit from conventional hearing aids.

The level of success of an implantable hearing device is dependent on many factors and our specialist team can evaluate and discuss these with you and your family during the assessment process.

What ongoing support is available?

We offer ongoing support for children and adults of all ages. This support can be provided face-to-face through one of our centres, or via video conferencing, anywhere in Australia.

We support you with ongoing assessments to monitor your progress, plus regular device programming and optimisation.

We also provide device support including troubleshooting, replacement parts, upgrades and equipment loans through a 24/7 helpdesk.

“Listening to her chat to her brothers as they play brings a smile to my face every day.”

– Simone, Amelie’s Mum



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Your hearing journey

SCIC Cochlear Implant Program provides lifelong support and care throughout the entire hearing implant journey.

Our experienced team includes audiologists, ENT surgeons, biomedical engineers, speech pathologists, teachers of the deaf, psychologists, social workers, physiotherapists and occupational therapists who work together with you to provide comprehensive support for your individual needs.

Our surgeons can test your device during the operation. Most people are able to return home the following day.

We can support you, your family and any other professionals that are working with you to help you make the most of your new hearing device.



“My cochlear implants are the best things ever!”

- Daniel



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Frequently asked questions

Are implantable devices better than hearing aids?

Implantable hearing devices can deliver improvements over hearing aids, especially in the crucial area of speech recognition.

What is the cost of an implantable hearing device?

Our services are available to both public and private health patients.

An implantable hearing device and the affiliated support services we provide are often able to be supplied to individuals with no out of pocket costs.

We utilise funding received from government, Medicare, the public health system, private health insurance (if available) and/or support from our charitable fundraising initiatives to provide our services.

Can I get an implantable hearing device in both ears?

During the assessment process you will receive a recommendation about which ear to implant or if bilateral (both ears) implantation is a suitable option.

How future proof is the technology?

Implantable hearing devices are designed to last a lifetime and are usually able to be upgraded without the need for further surgery. Advancements in the technology are ongoing and we provide advice on new product releases, updates and enhancements.

Can I use the telephone?

Many people who use implantable hearing devices can also use a phone. This ability does vary and depends upon the associated factors of your hearing loss and your commitment to practicing with your device.

Can I play sport or swim?

Contact sports such as football and activities where blows to the head are possible are not advised. Water sports are fine and either require you to remove your processor or utilise a water protective sleeve available from most manufacturers.

Am I too old?

Nobody is too old for an implantable hearing device. There is no upper age limit for implantation if you are medically fit for surgery. Recipients in their nineties have been implanted with good outcomes.

Which hearing device is suitable for me?

We can help you to find out which hearing solution will provide the best outcome for you through our assessment process.



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Contact us



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To make an appointment or to learn more about SCIC Cochlear Implant Program contact us on:

- 📞 **1300 658 981**
- ✉️ **scicadmin@scic.org.au**
- 🌐 **www.scic.org.au**

Please visit our website www.scic.org.au to find your nearest centre.

Support us

Did you know we are a charity and your gift is vital to help us continue to support thousands of people each year with their hearing journey?

Help us by making a donation online or by telephone:

- 📞 **Donate by phone:** 1800 043 411
- 🌐 **Donate online:** www.scic.org.au/gift

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