

Are you ready for “that” conversation? Learn how to identify and confidently talk to your clients about their hearing options

Ms Sarah Love¹ and Siew-Moon Lim¹

¹ *Lions’ Hearing Clinic, Perth, Australia*

Overview:

Cochlear implants have been commercially available since 1982, however globally only 1 in 20¹⁻³ who need cochlear implant technology receive it. Australia leads the world in cochlear implant provision, with nearly 10% of the severe to profound hearing-impaired population receiving implants⁴. For those that finally make it and get an implant, an adult’s journey is around 10 years from the time their hearing loss was significant to having surgery.^{5,6} It is time for this to change. We want to empower Audiologists to know when to introduce the idea of cochlear implants to clients. This workshop will provide you with guidelines on when and how to start the conversation about implants. Ideas on how to review your current client base will be provided. Expert clinicians will guide you through a series of case studies enabling ‘real life’ application of the concepts and information utilizing group discussions and role play activities. You will have a solid understanding of who is an adult candidate for cochlear implantation and the outcomes clients can achieve.

Learning Objectives:

- Clinicians apply their understanding of cochlear implant outcomes and how routine speech testing is an indicator of when to begin discussing the option of cochlear implant intervention
- Clinicians can confidently have conversations with their clients with moderate to profound hearing loss about cochlear implants, their benefits and where to access a full assessment

References

¹ Sorkin D. *Cochlear Implants Int* 2013;14(Suppl 1):S1.

² De Raeve L. *Eur Ann Otorhinolaryngol Head Neck Dis* 2016;133(Suppl 1):S57–60.

³ Raine C. *Cochlear Implants Int* 2013;14(Suppl 1):S32–7;

⁴ Access Economics. (2006). *Listen hear: the economic impact and cost of hearing loss in Australia*. Melbourne: CRC Hear and the Victorian Deaf Society.

⁵ The Nucleus Freedom Cochlear Implant System: Adult Post Market Surveillance Trial Results. 2008 June. Sponsored by Cochlear. Data on file.

⁶ Balkany, T., et al. (2007) Nucleus North American clinical trial, *O-HNS*, 136:757-762