

Cochlear implants for adults



Cochlear Implant Services



nextsense.org.au

Redefining what's possible

NextSense is a not-for-profit organisation supporting people who are deaf, hard of hearing, blind or have low vision across Australia for over 160 years.

We work with adults, children and their families to create an individual program that meets their unique needs. As a registered NDIS provider, we collaborate with you and your family to achieve your goals.

NextSense delivers essential support, offering more cochlear implants than any other service in Australia. We stand as a global leader in research, technology, and professional education within our field.



Our difference



160 + years experience.



We're for everyone, right across Australia.



Australia's largest cochlear implant program.



Our dedicated people.



Not-for-profit service.



Registered NDIS provider.

We deliver Australia's largest and most comprehensive cochlear implant program.

Each year through NextSense:

400+

people receive cochlear implants

5,200+

people supported by our cochlear implant program

Is a cochlear implant right for me?

With hearing aids on, do you find it difficult to hear:

- 1 on the phone?
- 2 in crowded places?
- 3 children's voices clearly?

If you answered yes

to any of these questions, a cochlear implant may be right for you.



About cochlear implants

A cochlear implant is a hearing device that stimulates the hearing nerve, known as the cochlea or auditory nerve, to provide access to high-quality, more detailed sound.

Unlike hearing aids, which amplify sound, cochlear implants provide direct access to the cochlea, often making it easier to:

- understand speech
- interact with others
- hear in loud environments
- locate where sound is coming from
- connect with the world around you



Did you know?

92% of adults who could benefit from this life-changing technology haven't explored it yet.



Cochlear implants have been in use for **more than 40 years**.



There are **over 500,000** cochlear implant recipients worldwide.



Support for all ages—our youngest recipient was three months, and the oldest in their nineties.

Cost is no barrier at NextSense

Our cochlear implant program gives you access to a range of funding options to support you on your journey.

If you are an Australian resident covered by Medicare, cochlear implants and our support services generally come with no out-of-pocket expenses. We're able to provide our services through government funding, private health insurance, and support from donations.

There are state, territory, and charity-funded support schemes to assist with travel and accommodation for families in regional areas to help access our services.



From initial assessments to ongoing mapping, all in-person cochlear implant services are bulk-billed at NextSense.



The NextSense team will help you explore the funding available for any services not covered by Medicare.



We assist clients to access NDIS funding for equipment and services.



Both public and private surgeries available.

Why does hearing loss need to be addressed?

Hearing loss is the number one, biggest modifiable risk for dementia in middle age.¹

As hearing deteriorates and people withdraw from social activities, wellbeing and mental health are at risk.

**If this sounds like you,
take the step to redefining
what's possible today.**

¹ Livingston, G. et al 'Dementia prevention, intervention, and care: 2020 report of the Lancet Commission', THE LANCET COMMISSIONS|VOLUME 396, ISSUE 10248, P413-446, AUGUST 08, 2020

How does a cochlear implant work?

A cochlear implant bypasses the damaged parts of the inner ear by stimulating the hearing nerve with electrical signals. The nerve then sends a signal to the brain where it is interpreted as sound.

A cochlear implant has both internal and external parts.

The internal parts are implanted via a surgical procedure.

- The receiver and magnet are placed under the skin behind the ear.
- The electrode array (a series of electrodes) is placed in the cochlea.

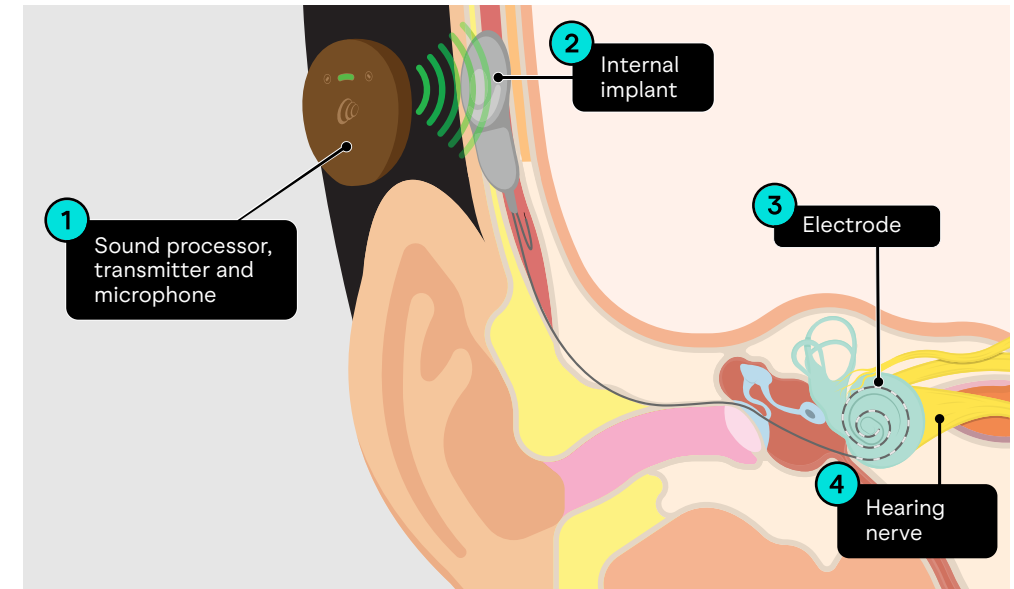
The external parts are worn on the outside of the ear and can be put on and removed by the recipient, or by a parent or caregiver. External

parts can be upgraded as technology advances without additional surgery.

They are:

- The sound processor, which is powered by batteries and looks similar to a hearing aid.
- The cable and circular coil connected to the sound processor, that's usually held on the head by a magnet. There are also off-the-ear options that may suit some people.

Cochlear implants provide direct access to sound



1 Sound is received by the microphone of the sound processor and processed into digital signals then transmitted.

3 Electrical signals are sent to the electrode array to stimulate the hearing nerve fibres in the inner ear (cochlea).

2 The processor sends the digital signals across the skin where it's converted into electrical signals by the internal device.

4 Signals are then sent, via the hearing nerve to the brain, and recognised as sound.

Your journey with NextSense

We are with you every step of the way, from the first consultation to a lifetime of care and support.

Before your initial assessment, we will require both:

1. A referral from your GP or ENT so we can bulk bill our services to Medicare.
2. An audiogram (hearing test results) dated within the last 12 months to help us understand your current levels of hearing.



1

Assessment—
understanding whether
a cochlear implant could
help you.

2

Consultation—
exploring your options.

3

Surgery—
undergoing your
cochlear implantation
procedure.

4

Switch-on—
switching your
implant on.

5

Ongoing care—
increasing your
access to sound.

6

Support for life—
accessing tailored care
and ongoing support.



Our information sessions

Discover how you could benefit from a cochlear implant and learn about the journey from a cochlear implant recipient.



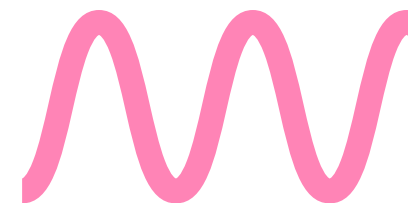


Did you know?

On average, implanted adults **understood sentences almost 8 times better** than those with hearing aids.²

Meet Alan Edwards, cochlear implant recipient

"Cochlear implants have made a world of difference to me, and I am eternally grateful for the amazing gift I have been given."



'I stopped listening to people, became more isolated, socialised less and, when I did go out, would avoid conversation. In the end my family started talking around me, not with me. I ended up feeling depressed and alone, despite having a wonderfully supportive family and good friends.

Everyone is different. For me, the loss of hearing led me to a very dark hole that I struggled to survive in. Everything was joyless. Cochlear implants gave me a way out of that hole. That's what they have given

me. Not just hearing but a better quality of life, hope and hearing.

An investment in the adult cochlear implant program is a great investment in society because it enables people with a world of experience to stay involved and continue to contribute to society in ways they would struggle to do if they didn't have cochlear implants. I am able to work full time and am looking forward to spending time with my grandchildren, when they arrive!'

² Runge CL, Henion K, Tarima S, Beiter A, & Zwolan TA. Clinical Outcomes of the Cochlear™ Nucleus® 5 Cochlear Implant System and SmartSound™ 2 Signal Processing. J Am Acad Audiology 27:425-440. (2016)

We help you explore your options

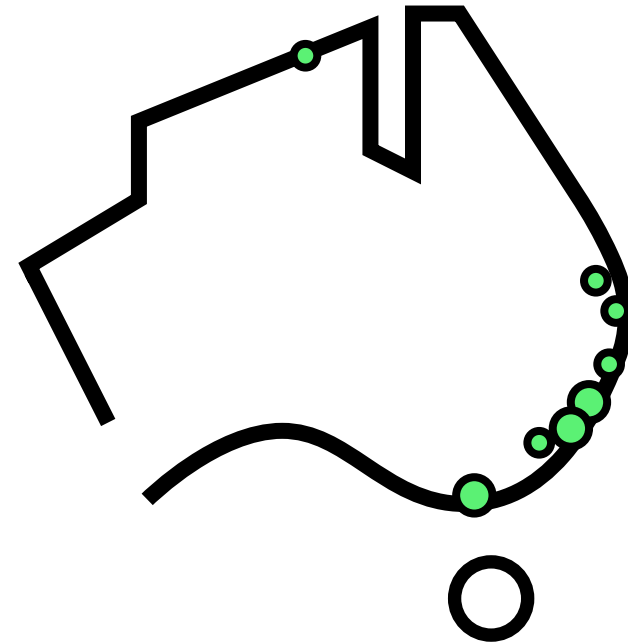
Cochlear implants are suited to people with moderate to profound hearing loss in one or both ears.

The technology is specifically designed for people with sensorineural hearing loss, meaning the loss is caused by damage to the inner ear. This can be the result of the ageing process, illness, or unknown causes—and can occur at any age.

Whether your hearing loss has been gradual, or it has occurred suddenly, a cochlear implant can increase access to sound, even in noisy environments, to help you live life to the fullest.

Your personal circumstances, including the type and degree of your hearing loss, your general health, and your desired outcomes are all factors that determine your best solution. That's where we help—and can determine whether a cochlear implant or bone conduction implant is right for you. We provide you with the information, advice and support you need to make the best decision for you.

Our locations



An extensive network of 20 centres

We support people wherever they are in Australia, via Connected Services and telepractice.

NextSense has a network of centres across Australia, in cities and regional areas in NSW, ACT, VIC, QLD and NT. For those who can't access or don't live near a centre, NextSense Connected Services can provide access to in-home therapy services via high-quality video conferencing.

We'll connect you with an experienced team member to discuss your needs.



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