



Can:Do Hearing News

Spring 2017

Welcome to the Spring edition of Can:Do Hearing News. In this edition we put the focus on Hearing Health and highlight the challenges faced by people with hearing loss.

We also offer more details about the reinstatement of the Pension Concession Card and share with you all the details about our exciting NEW paediatric hearing aid fitting service!

Am I eligible for NDIS funding?

The National Disability Insurance Scheme (NDIS) is being rolled out to eligible adults over the next 6 months across South Australia and is expected to cover the entire state and all age groups by July 2018, ultimately providing support to over 30,000 people living with a disability.

The NDIS is focused on giving participants under the age of 65 more choice and control over how, when and where supports are provided and gives you certainty you will receive the support you need over your lifetime.

Can:Do Hearing is proud to be a registered service provider for the NDIS to help support people with their individual hearing needs.

As it is such a big change, the NDIS is being introduced in stages commencing from 1 July. In the coming months, you may receive a letter providing further information about NDIS and your eligibility to access funding.

For further information about the NDIS and how it may affect you, visit ndis.gov.au

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Can:Do Hearing



Hearing loss; the invisible disability.

Hearing is precious and fragile. Often described as the 'invisible disability', hearing loss is not always so obvious and without access to the right communication, those affected can often become isolated from their family, friends and society.

Held in late August, Hearing Awareness Week aims to eliminate these stigmas associated with deafness or hearing loss and is a part of a campaign for greater awareness for hearing loss within our communities.

The number of Australians who are Deaf or hearing impaired is steadily increasing and by 2050 it is projected to affect 1 in every 4 Australians.

Hearing Awareness Week focuses on increasing awareness about this issue, improving lack of work opportunities and the associated health issues as well as improving the overall quality of life for those affected.

People often wait for years before they seek help for their hearing loss, ignoring the signs and reducing their capacity to communicate with others.

"This can have a big impact on a person's life, including the reduced opportunity to get a good education, to gain competitive skills and employment. It can also put quite a strain on relationships." says Joel Coultas, Can:Do Hearing Manager of Audiology Services. "We need to educate people about the various degrees of hearing loss and how to effectively communicate with people who are Deaf or hearing impaired,"

As technology advances, many people with hearing loss can benefit from the use of hearing aids and/or cochlear implants.



"These technological innovations have made a positive difference in the way people communicate and enjoy their lives, but many people, especially adults, cannot afford to buy and maintain their own hearing devices. One of the greatest challenges is a lack of recognition of the life-long financial burdens to access education and to participate fully in the workforce, Hearing Awareness Week helps to highlight what it truly means to have a hearing loss and what the community can do to work together to provide the right support and solutions." says Joel.

Hearing Awareness Week featured a range of promotional activities across Australia, including 'silent' sports events, public exhibitions on hearing technologies, and hearing safety training by employers to alert people to the issues.

For more information about the week or to get involved, visit hearingawarenessweek.org.au

If you are concerned about your hearing and want more information about hearing assessments or hearing aids, call the us on 8100 8209 or visit candogroup.com.au

Pension Concession Card - reinstatement

We understand that some Office of Hearing Service (OHS) clients may have lost their OHS eligibility from 1 January 2017 due to the Government changing the pension eligibility rules.

A new legislative update has since been introduced with the Government committing \$3.1 million in 2017/18 to reinstate the Pensioner Concession Card for pensioners who were no longer entitled to the pension following the changes on 1 January 2017. Reinstating the Pensioner Concession Card will enable pensioners to access Commonwealth subsidised hearing services.

The pensioner concession card will be reinstated and available for access from 9 October 2017.

Don't want to miss out?

Like @CanDoHearing on Facebook and keep up to date with all the latest news and clinic information!



Services update: paediatric hearing

Paediatric Audiologists Julieanne Yates and Allison Watts have joined the Can:Do 4Kids team to embark on an exciting new service!

Our Paediatric hearing aid fitting service was recently launched in response to client feedback from our families who want all of their audiology services and other early intervention support to be in the one place.

With our new multi-disciplinary approach and in addition to working in our Paediatric Clinic, our audiologists will also now work alongside the Can:Do 4Kids therapy team including Early Intervention Therapists, Speech Therapists, Occupational Therapists and Social Workers.

"We are thrilled that Can:Do 4Kids is able to provide specialised services with the addition of hearing aid services for children all under the one roof." says Joel Coultas, Can:Do Hearing Manager of Audiology Services. "We have the technology and clinical experience to be recognised as the ultimate one stop shop, working in collaboration with families to empower children to reach their full potential. We are very excited to share this new service with new and old clients".

The Paediatric Hearing Aid Service is currently based at our Welland Office where we can provide audiology services and hearing aid fittings to children aged 0 - 18 years with an aidable permanent hearing loss.

This service is available to current hearing aid users and newly diagnosed children who are self referred or referred by their Medical Practitioner.

If you are concerned about your child's hearing or would like more information about a new Paediatric hearing aid fitting service, please contact us on 8295 0209.



Binaural hearing aid benefits

Just as you use both eyes to see clearly, you need both ears to hear clearly. If your hearing assessment results show that you have a hearing loss in both ears (a bilateral hearing loss) it is most likely that you will be recommended as a candidate for binaural or two hearing aids. Here we discuss the benefits of binaural hearing aids and why they are important to ensure that you get the most out of your hearing experience.

Will I find it easier to listen with two hearing aids?

Yes. Binaural hearing aid wearers have reported that listening and participating in conversation is more enjoyable with help of two aids, as opposed to wearing just the one. The use of two aids means that the wearer does not have to strain to hear with the better ear thus helping the wearer relax more in conversations and suffer less fatigue.

Will two aids improve my understanding of speech?

Absolutely. By wearing two hearing aids rather than one (where appropriate), your brain is able to focus on the particular conversation you want to hear therefore understanding speech becomes much easier. As we were designed to have two working ears, it makes sense that people wearing two hearing aids will typically understand speech and conversation significantly better than people wearing just one hearing aid.

Will I hear better in noisy situations?

In most cases...yes. Your ability to separate speech from

background noise improves with the use of two hearing aids as your brain is able to more efficiently filter out noise, but still process speech. With just one aid, sound will be louder, but understanding in the presence of background noise will still be significantly impaired.

Will I be able to tell where sounds are coming from?

Yes. You will have a better ability to tell the direction of sound, this is what we call localisation. Localisation can help you in many social settings such as determining which direction traffic is coming from or where your children or grandchildren are playing. With binaural hearing aids, you will better detect where sounds are coming from in every situation.

To summarise, studies have shown that two ears functioning optimally together are far more efficient than one working harder than the other.

Therefore if your audiologist has suggested a binaural hearing aid fitting, we recommend that you give it a go so you can get the most out of your hearing experience.

How to get the most out of your hearing consultation

Here are some handy tips from our experienced Can:Do Hearing audiologists to ensure that you get the most out of your hearing consultation.

Before your appointment

- Discuss your hearing concerns with your doctor to ensure your hearing is NOT affected by treatable medical condition.
- If you a pensioner or veteran, you could be eligible for the Australian Government Hearing Services Program. Can:Do Hearing can apply for the program on your behalf – prior to providing any services.
- Obtain a referral or a Hearing Services Program medical certificate from your doctor if your hearing concern is NOT medically treatable. Bring this to your first appointment with us.
- Ask someone to attend the appointment with you. The experiences of those closest to you (close friends and family) in relation with your hearing loss may be important.

During Your Appointment

- Expect to undergo initial tests, such as a hearing assessment. Having a summary of your hearing concerns and key questions is always helpful, but not mandatory.

- Expect to be asked comprehensive details about your lifestyle, including situations where hearing is difficult or frustrating to those close to you.
- Make sure you have the opportunity to discuss and clarify your hearing concerns with your service provider.

At the end of your appointment

- Always take the time to clarify anything you do not understand.
- Ask questions related to services that available or not covered, especially when received under the government hearing service programs.
- Expect to be given a copy of documents, which include results from your assessment, information about fully and partially subsidised hearing devices as well any associated out of pocket costs.
- Take your time to consider your options before making any decision – especially a financial one.

After your Appointment

- Schedule and attend follow-up and review appointments to ensure you get the best results from your hearing health program.

Upcoming closures

Please note closure days for all sites;

Tuesday 12 September - closed all day

Tuesday 7 November – closed all day

We hope you've enjoyed catching up with the latest Can:Do Hearing news.

Joel

...and the team at Can:Do Hearing

Contact Us

We would love to hear from you. For further information about our services or to book an appointment please contact us on;

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