

# CAN YOU HEAR?

## FACTS & FIGURES ABOUT HEARING

Hearing loss is a significant world-wide problem, requiring an increase in awareness and public health action. Here we look at the top facts about hearing loss, as listed by the World Health Organization.

- There are 360 million persons in the world with disabling hearing loss. This is 5.3% of the world's population, and 32 million of these are children.
- Chronic ear infections are a leading cause of hearing loss. Prevalence of ear infections ranges from 1% of the population in developed countries to 46% in developing countries. Ear infections can be managed effectively through medication and surgery, but left untreated can cause permanent hearing damage and life-threatening complications.
- Noise is a major avoidable cause of hearing loss. In many countries, excessive noise has become the most compensated occupational hazard.
- Hearing loss can be due to the use of medications. Some medications (including some antibiotics and anti-malarial drugs) can lead to irreversible hearing loss. This can be prevented through awareness amongst health-care providers.
- Up to 5 of every 1000 infants have disabling hearing loss. Early detection and management is important in providing appropriate support for hearing-impaired babies.
- Nearly one out of every three persons over 65 are affected by hearing loss. Left untreated, hearing loss affects communication and can contribute to social isolation, anxiety, depression and cognitive decline. Age-related hearing loss can be managed effectively through a variety of means, including hearing aids.
- 50% of hearing loss is preventable through public health action. Effective actions include immunisation, healthy ear care habits, and effective treatment of ear conditions.
- There are an estimated 56 million hearing aid users world-wide. Current hearing aid production meets only 3% of the need in developing countries.

Extracted from <http://www.who.int/>

## Spring Newsletter 2014

### Have we heard from you lately?

**If you have not had a review in the last 18 months, it's time for a visit!**

Regular hearing checks and device optimisation are needed to keep you hearing the best you can!

Office of Hearing Services voucher holders are eligible to receive services free of charge.

If you are unsure of your status, please contact us on **9321 7746**.

## TELL US YOUR STORY...



See page 2 for details

## Meet Amanda Riley, our Office Administrator

Amanda joined the MAS team in April 2014, and she brings with her over 20 years of administration experience, including work in the hearing care industry. She particularly enjoys the interaction with clients and their families and excels in providing friendly, professional and efficient support with enquiries and technical repairs.

Amanda is a qualified dog trainer and behavioural therapist and likes spending her spare time at the park or beach with her border collie, Mia. She also enjoys reading, gardening and yoga. We are thrilled to have Amanda on board and look forward to you meeting her in person next time you visit us.



### Tell Us Your Story...

Many people benefit from learning about others' experiences of hearing loss, and simply from knowing they are not alone.

If you would like to share your experience of living with hearing loss with our readers, please contact Medical Audiology Services on 9321 7746 or blog online at [medicalaudiology.com.au](http://medicalaudiology.com.au).

### Cochlear Implant Workshop

We welcome all cochlear implant recipients and their families, as well as those who would like to learn more about cochlear implants. The informal information afternoon is a great opportunity to meet cochlear implant users. You can share experiences, common concerns, and coping skills.

Please contact Medical Audiology Services on 9321 7746 if you would like to attend.

**Date:** 26th of November, 2014

**Time:** 3pm - 4:30pm

**Venue:** Subiaco Arts Centre, 180 Hamersley Rd, Subiaco

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