



## A COCHLEAR™ IMPLANT COULD BE THE BEST INVESTMENT YOU COULD MAKE

Some people worry that a cochlear implant may be too expensive. We've put together this guide to help outline the funding options available for a Cochlear™ implant in Australia. We recommend you talk to your hearing care professional to discuss which solution will best meet your needs.

### Free information service:

Cochlear Engagement Team

[hearinghelp@cochlear.com](mailto:hearinghelp@cochlear.com)

1800 875 212

Please seek advice from your medical practitioner or health professional about treatments for hearing loss. They will be able to advise on a suitable solution for the hearing loss condition. All products should be used only as directed by your medical practitioner or health professional. Not all products are available in all countries. Please contact your local Cochlear representative.

The information in this brochure is provided by Cochlear Limited for general information purposes only. Cochlear takes care to ensure the accuracy, currency, authenticity and reliability of the information within this document. However, Cochlear accepts no responsibility for any errors or omissions in the document, nor for any changes or amendments affecting the information which occur after the time of publication. Cochlear recommends that readers exercise all due care, skill and diligence with respect to the use of the information in this document including, where appropriate, taking steps to confirm the accuracy of information. Cochlear has no control over and accepts no responsibility for the content of any material referred to by cross reference or in footnoting, including the accuracy, currency, authenticity, reliability and/or suitability of those materials.

*Cochlear, Hear now. And always, Nucleus, the elliptical logo, and marks bearing an ® or ™ symbol, are either trademarks or registered trademarks of Cochlear Limited (unless otherwise noted).*

© Cochlear Limited 2018 D1575158 ISS1 NOV18

## Funding Options for Cochlear™ Implants in Australia



Hear now. And always



## WHAT ARE THE COSTS INVOLVED IN GETTING AN IMPLANT?

The overall cost is made up of different components, these may include:

- Audiologist appointments
- ENT specialist appointment, and any medical imaging required
- Surgery expenses and post-operative care
- Cochlear implant device cost
- Post-operative appointments and sound processor activation
- Ongoing care and maintenance of a Cochlear implant sound processor

There are a number of ways you can receive financial support in Australia:

### ① State Government Funding

A limited number of cochlear implants are funded each year; there are usually waiting lists. For more information please speak to your hearing care professional.

### ② Department of Veterans' Affairs (DVA)

DVA may cover up the costs associated with Cochlear implants, including bilateral implants and sound processor upgrades. Contact DVA for further information [www.dva.gov.au](http://www.dva.gov.au)

### ③ Private Health Insurance

If you have private health insurance (hospital) policy covering implanted hearing devices, the cochlear implant system may be fully reimbursed. Coverage of the surgical procedure and hospital costs will depend on your level of cover. We recommend you contact your health fund and ask the following:

- Does my policy cover cochlear implant surgical procedure and the associated prostheses?
- Are there any restrictions on my specific cover for this procedure?
- Are there any waiting periods?
- Are there any known out-of-pocket costs?
- What is the sound processor replacement policy?

### ④ Self-Finance

You can pay for a cochlear implant system, specialist and surgical costs yourself. Make sure you discuss this with your medical team so you are aware of all costs involved.

## YOU DESERVE TO ALWAYS HEAR YOUR BEST

### Ongoing care and maintenance

Like a hearing aid, the Cochlear implant sound processor requires ongoing care and maintenance. Cochlear equipment includes a standard warranty\*. To ensure your sound processor is protected against loss, consider portable goods insurance (under home and contents policy).

If there are any unexpected repair, service or replacement costs once your warranty expires, you may want to explore the Cochlear Care Service Plans.

\*For more information please visit [www.cochlear.com/au](http://www.cochlear.com/au)

### Replacing your sound processor

Cochlear leads the way with innovations to improve your hearing performance for now and years to come. Upgrades for the sound processor used for your cochlear implant don't require surgery. When the time comes you can upgrade your sound processor through:

- **Private Health Insurance** – based on your health fund, clinical need and sound processor warranty
- **Australian Hearing** – for eligible clients who already have a device. For more information visit [www.hearing.com.au](http://www.hearing.com.au)
- **National Disability Insurance Scheme (NDIS)** – for upgrades and aftercare. Further information is available on [www.ndis.gov.au](http://www.ndis.gov.au)

Speak to your hearing care professional to see if there is an option for you.

