

HEARING AND HAPPINESS

Hearing is the joy of living: the better you can hear, the better you find your way around in the world. Good hearing plays a crucial part in our quality of life.

Writer: Dirk de Moore – Audiologist

Why is our hearing so important to us?

Our quality of life is linked to our ability to hear well. You find it easier to join in daily life and you are more self confident in your work and with your family. Hearing opens up the world of the spoken word and thus direct communication with other people. It is the key to interpersonal relationships and social activities. Some sounds, such as music, the sounds of nature or the voice of loved ones speak to us on an emotional plane.

What impact does hearing loss have at home?

I often joke with my patients that I'm part audiologist and part marriage counsellor. Most couples complain that their spouse is as 'deaf as a post' and that this causes much domestic tension. The reply however is usually along the lines of, "well if you faced me instead of sticking your head in the kitchen cupboard or walking away when you talk then maybe I'd have a better chance of hearing you." Improving your hearing will help your happiness on the domestic front and much of my time in the hearing clinic revolves around talking to couples about how

to communicate better.

Women are usually more pro-active in seeking help but they are also the main instigator in getting their partners to do something about their hearing.

What's the latest technology like in hearing aids?

Technology has come a long way. We now have miniature instruments that provide optimal support in the most challenging listening situations. Our clinic fits reputable European hearing aid brands that match the latest technology with award winning design. As we specialise by choice in the private hearing aid market, we also have high proportion of younger active working clients who are technology savvy and happy to embrace new age hearing instruments. But we can all be intimidated by new technology, so we make state of the art hearing solutions both effective and easy to use.

How important are cosmetic factors?

Frankly, very important. Most hearing aids we fit are either invisible or virtually invisible when worn. I find this especially important to first time users and not only with women but



also men. A discreet cosmetic solution, with state of the art technology, gives people the confidence they are looking for.

What's special about your clinic?

We specialise in providing hearing aid fittings to private clientele who are seeking an exclusive and customised service from highly experienced and ethical professionals.

I've been fitting hearing aids for more than 30 years and understand what is required to achieve successful outcomes. Independent survey results (EARtrak) also reveal a high satisfaction rating (more than 95 per cent) with our services. We are locally owned and operated and not commercially linked to any manufacturer. This is important because it means our customers receive independent advice on what hearing aid option will best meet their lifestyle needs.

For more information or to make an appointment contact the Bendigo Hearing Clinic on (03) 5442 5800 or visit www.bendigohearingclinic.com.au ■

Life Amplified

Penny – horticulturalist, receptionist, hearing aid user



DIRK de MOORE – Audiologist

- Latest technology
- Hearing assessments & hearing aid fitting
- 60 day trial periods
- Cosmetically appealing solutions
- Worksafe, industrial, earplugs
- Professional independent advice

(03) 5442 5800 13 Rowan St, Bendigo

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