



TECHNOLOGY & SERVICES

The sheer volume of technology available to help us with hearing loss can be overwhelming. When we think of technology, we often think of one or two specific items.

Outlined below are categories of technology and services we offer – some of which you may not have thought of. You can also contact me with what you would like help with. We aim to make this process simple and easy.



ALARM CLOCKS WITH VIBRATION

It can often be difficult to wake up to alarm clocks if you have a hearing loss, particularly when most of us don't wear our hearing aids or cochlear implants to bed. To avoid waking up the whole neighbourhood with excessively loud alarm clocks, we have alarm clocks with separate bed shakers that wake you up using vibrations, as well as portable vibrating and Bluetooth activated alarm clocks for travelling.



BELLMAN VISIT WIRELESS ALERTS

Some alarm clocks can be linked in with other triggers so that you are alerted or woken up to what you need to be aware of, be that the smoke detector, doorbell, personal caller, baby monitor, telephone, smartphone or your video doorbell. These systems can also be linked to a vibrating pager, loud ringer or to flash alerts throughout the house.

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BLUETOOTH NECKLOOP

It is easier to see with two eyes rather than one and it's the same with hearing from two ears! A Bluetooth Neckloop enables you to connect any phone or computer with Bluetooth to any hearing aid or cochlear implant with a Telecoil (sometimes called a 'T' Switch). The neckloop gives you the ability to make the most out of your hearing from both ears.



VIDEO DOORBELL

I use the Ring video doorbell which links with my smartphone and my Bellman Visit alerting system. The ring doorbell connects to your smartphone, tablet and computer, and allows you to check via the camera who is there and even speak and listen through it. This is a great choice to reduce anxiety experienced by some people with hearing loss.



HEAR TV – HEADSET OR TELECOIL

If you often have friends, relatives or even neighbours commenting that your TV is too loud, you may want to look into getting a TV listening system. These come with headsets for those who don't have hearing aids or cochlear implants, or a neckloop for use with the Telecoil. These systems have a separate volume control just for your ears, so it won't bother anyone else.



BELLMAN MICROPHONES

The Bellman microphones use large and simple buttons to get the best results for those with or without hearing aids. They are designed as an alternative to hearing aids, or to assist with background noise, listening to the TV and as a remote microphone to hear from a distance. They are ideal for those who may be intimidated by the 'fancier' technologies, or the miniaturisation of hearing aids making them hard to use.

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ROGER MICROPHONE

Background noise can be one of the biggest struggles to overcome with a hearing loss. To overcome this, there is a range of roger microphones to help in a variety of situations. My favourite is the Roger Select, which helps at cafes and restaurants. The Roger Pen helps at parties, weddings, after church and at other standing events. The Roger Table Mic is great for meetings and large group discussions. Others include the Roger Clip-On Mic, Roger Touchscreen Mic and Roger Pass Around Mic. There are a range of receivers to use with the Roger system for hearing aids, cochlear implants or just on its own.



WIRELESS FOR COCHLEAR

Cochlear or GN ReSound brand users, can benefit from a range of wireless devices, including a TV Streamer, a Phone Clip and the Mini-Mic for listening from a distance. These connect directly to the Cochlear brand processors N6 and N7.



SOUND FIELD SYSTEMS

Sound Field Systems are wonderful for school classrooms and educational environments. This system can link in with the Roger Microphones so that everyone can hear well without the teacher/lecturer/trainer needing to strain their voice.



HEARING LOOP LISTENER

If you don't have a cochlear implant or hearing aid but would like to make the most of hearing loops provided in public spaces the Hearing Loop Listener will let you tune in to any hearing loop and listen using headphones. These are also important for any public spaces to have on hand to test their hearing loops regularly, and to loan out to those clients without hearing aids or cochlear implants.

SERVICES

HEARING COACHING

We provide individualised support for you, and your family, to develop skills and strategies to best manage your hearing ability. We look at different areas of your life and how to make the most of your hearing. Commonly this is provided in the home, or via Zoom, and is for all ages.

WORKPLACE TRAINING

In all organisations some staff members can have difficulty adapting, or listening to the needs of someone with a hearing loss – whether that be a colleague or a supervisor or other staff member. We can provide assessments, skills, and strategies for working with clients, staff and/or colleagues with hearing loss. Both individual and group sessions available.

HEARING LOOPS & AUGMENTATION (ALSO KNOWN AS FMS OR INFRARED SYSTEMS)

Hearing loops are the standard of access for those with hearing loss in Australia. When installed correctly by trained professionals, they provide a clear direct signal to the audio source for all users in the space. Hearing loops should be installed in all public spaces using sound systems, but they can also be used on the phone, or for connecting wirelessly to the TV.

COCHLEAR IMPLANT REHABILITATION

The process of rehabilitating your hearing after a cochlear implant is tiring and requires support. We can help you with completing your weekly homework and with staying motivated through the tiring process.

AGED CARE TRAINING

With hearing loss being so common as we get older, those who work in aged care need a higher degree of understanding, to work with clients with hearing loss. We teach these skills and strategies to interact with and support clients with treated, or untreated hearing loss. Both individual and group sessions available

NDIS

Hearing Connections is a Registered NDIS Provider.

OTHER THOUGHTS

While these are not provided by Hearing Connections, they are worth considering

- Landline phones – I recommend the Uniden SSE45 or SSE47.
- Lions Hearing assistance dog.
- Smart watch.

FURTHER INFORMATION

If you have any questions, email Andrew Stewart: Managing Director of Hearing Connections at andrew@hearconnect.com.au

Other articles are available [here](#)
Sign up to receive our newsletter [here](#)

About the Author

Andrew Stewart is qualified in electronics and has been leading research into hearing augmentation systems for over 30 years – including designing, installing, testing and commissioning of Hearing Augmentation Systems. He and his team have conducted their own research of comparison methodologies of installing hearing loop systems and designed and constructed test equipment. He's been involved in installations at Sydney Opera House, First Class Qantas Club Singapore, art galleries, museums, theatres and many others.

Andrew was a key leader in the development of AS 1428.5 - 2010, the authoritative document on Hearing Augmentation in Australia. He is also a life member of Deafness Forum of Australia (the peak body for hearing impaired people in Australia) and continues to represent them, as he has on many committees for over 20 years. Andrew has been hearing impaired all his life, with a progressive loss, and now wears two cochlear implants. He has 9 other family members who wear hearing aids and/or cochlear implants.

Why choose Hearing Connections

Hearing Connections is built on experience of Andrew Stewart, who:

- Has been **wearing hearing aids** since age 7, and now wears two cochlear implants.
- Knows both sides of the story – the **lived experience**, and the **electronics qualifications**.
- Has been **specialising** in Hearing Augmentation Systems for over 33 years.
- Was **instrumental** in the writing of the definitive Australian Standard **AS 1428.5**.
- Has conducted **research and development** of Hearing Augmentation systems for improved outcomes.
- Has over **33 years of design, installation and commissioning** of Hearing Augmentation systems (loop systems, FM systems, sound field systems and public address systems) for a range of public access buildings, from small halls to significant buildings and venues, including Sydney Opera House and airports.
- **Lectures** in Hearing Augmentation for building professionals.
- Provides **training** in Hearing Augmentation for Access Consultants, Building certifiers and surveyors, and architects.
- Over 20 years of **advocating** for the needs of deaf and hearing impaired people.
- Is a **life member** of Deafness Forum of Australia.
- Has won **numerous awards** for service in advocating for the needs of deaf and hearing impaired people.

Legal

This document is not a legal interpretation of the NCC. It is the opinion of the principal of this company and is based on more than 30 years of experience with hearing augmentation. He himself is hearing impaired. The information provided is general advice only and does not take into account your building site objectives, building site design and or building materials used or other relevant factors and cannot be relied upon for your specific needs.

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