

## Purchasing Hearing Aids

It's easy to be confused about what hearing aids can do for you and what questions to ask-**buyer beware and take care!**

### General Hints

Be clear about your lifestyle-what do you do every day?

Be realistic-hearing aids will **not** restore normal hearing

Be prepared to spend time learning to use your aids

If you receive a pensioner or are you a **Veteran** with the Department of Veteran Affairs and hold a gold or white card you are entitled to assistance through the **Office of Hearing Services**

### Who are Hearing aid providers?

When selecting a hearing aid provider ask are they an **audiologist** (university trained) or an **audiometrist** (technically trained) and insist on an appropriately qualified person.

### What happens next?

Once you have decided to purchase hearing aids and selected a hearing aid provider you will receive a full hearing assessment. This will show the type and degree of hearing loss that you have and help work out what sort of hearing aids are going to be most appropriate for you. Then you will be shown a variety of aids that may assist you-this should come before fitting an aid or taking a mould.

The most important question to solve with your service provider is:

### What do you need a hearing aid to help you with?

- Do you lead an active life style that involves talking to people in a variety of different settings, go to dinner parties, attend meetings, study or rely on the telephone for work for example?  
OR
- Do you have a relatively quiet life with most conversations occurring face to face?

### Cost

Hearing aids use digital technology and a general rule of thumb is, the more functions that are possible and the more automatic they are in your hearing aid, the more expensive the aids will be. Hence the more active your lifestyle the more useful a greater capacity to program the aid will be. Basic aids will provide: 2 programs and a directional microphone, with manual adjustments

### Questions to ask?

Before purchasing your aid these questions, among others, are useful to have answered.

- What is the trial period-the more expensive the aids the more you should insist (about 2-3 months is normal)
- What is the warranty period, options and costs
- How many follow up sessions are normal for you to adjust to your aids and what are the normal follow up procedures
- What is the maintenance agreement
- Where are batteries provided

More information? Contact [info@hearinglink.com.au](mailto:info@hearinglink.com.au)

Useful links:

[www.shhhaust.org](http://www.shhhaust.org)

[www.hearing.com.au](http://www.hearing.com.au)