

# Winter Newsletter 2022

We are currently in the thick of winter but we're looking forward to longer days ahead. The year is half way through, and what a year it has been so far. It has flown by. I hope this newsletter finds you and your loved ones safe, warm, well and happy.

## News

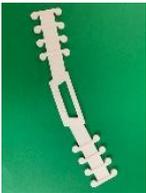
We celebrated our 8<sup>th</sup> birthday in May which we were very proud of. We had some goodie bags that we gave away as part of our celebrations.

We have continued to remain busy, throughout all the uncertainty of COVID changes, which we are very grateful for. Thank you for your ongoing support and loyalty! We are continually 'challenged' by the illnesses in the community and the effect it has on businesses (cancellations due to illness or isolating due to household members being sick). Please continue to wear a mask when you visit the clinic. We are a health care provider.

Audiologists have recently been allowed to initiate ACC claims for gradual hearing loss due to occupational noise exposure. Until now clients have had to make ACC claims for hearing loss through their GP. If you feel as though your hearing loss is due to occupational noise exposure and want to make a claim through us, please contact the clinic. ACC claims for hearing loss due to trauma still have to go through your GP.

We continue to be proudly independent and locally owned and operated (not owned by a manufacturer) and are proud to be able to offer a wide range of hearing aid devices to our clients.

## Mask troubles



We have had several clients have trouble with their ears doing double and sometimes triple duty with masks, hearing aids and glasses. In some cases, people have lost their hearing aids while taking off their mask. We have some solutions in the way of 'mask extenders' in clinic. One is a plastic device and one is knitted (by me 😊 and some kindly knitted by clients). The mask extender loops the ear loops from the mask behind your neck/head and away from your ears so there is no risk of your mask being caught up with your hearing aids. Let us know if you would be interested in these.

## Don't get your hearing aid charger confiscated when you travel 😊

With the growth in the popularity of rechargeable hearing aids we advise that if you travel by air with your hearing aids and recharger, you should have these in your **carry-on baggage**, not in your checked in luggage. If you pack these in your checked in baggage you may find they have been confiscated when you get to your destination 😞. Also, remember to check your travel insurance policy in relation to hearing aids, as contents insurance cover for your aids does not normally cover if you go overseas if your aids come to grief or get lost.



## Keeping your hearing aids working well

Remember to keep your hearing aids dry and clean. The most common failure of hearing aids is due to moisture or wax getting into their outlets (microphones, receivers/speakers and battery drawers). Generally changing wax guards at least monthly and using a dry box is great (for non-rechargeable hearing aids). Some hearing aid chargers also incorporate a drying system. Contact us for more information.

## Updates from manufacturers

Rechargeable aids are becoming more popular but battery-operated aids are still available. I am finding people are either wanting aids that are fully automatic (where they don't have to adjust anything) or wanting lots of control over them via an app. I spend quite a lot of time (like other audiologists) working with people's phones to ensure they work well with their hearing aids.



There has been some increase in clients wanting hearing aids that fit inside the ear (sometimes to minimise issues related to masks). There are a small range of rechargeable in-the-ear hearing aids, but most aids this style use disposable batteries. There are pros and cons to this style of aid (as with any aid style) and they are not suitable for everyone.

**Quote for the month: "Whatever you do, always give 100%. Unless you're donating blood" Bill Murray**

Regards

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