THE PROBLEM

Hearing loss affects one in six Australians, and is projected to affect one quarter of the Australian population by 2050. It reduces people’s ability to communicate and in turn impacts on education, employment and relationships.

OUR SOLUTION

The HEARing Cooperative Research Centre (HEARing CRC) focuses an internationally unique, interdisciplinary consortium of research, clinical, industry and educational organisations on the twin challenges of more effective prevention and improved remediation of hearing loss.

Building on over two decades of internationally-competitive research and innovation, our work is driven by the end-user, for the end-user. Research is carried out across four core themes, supported by integrated Education and Commercialisation Programs. Outcomes delivered as innovative technologies, treatments and training are put into practice by our Members and the broader sector.

The Listening Brain
Focused on developing tools to address specific hearing and/or auditory processing deficits and remediation strategies to address these deficits – based on our novel insights into the brain’s processing of sound.

The Intelligent Interface
Focused on improving hearing in noisy environments and overcoming the need for manual adjustment of device settings. Developing next-generation hearing aids and cochlear implants to improve take-up and use, and deliver hearing solutions for developed and developing countries.

Individualised Solutions
Focused on fostering a patient-centric approach to hearing healthcare to meet individual needs, from candidature through to fitting and rehabilitation.

Enhanced Service Capacity
Focused on delivering new models of hearing e-healthcare to improve access for non-urban client populations, online training for professionals as well as active promotion of lifelong healthy hearing habits to at-risk groups.
Commercialising research outcomes enables CRC innovations to be delivered to people who need them most – this includes tools for clinicians as well as devices for clients. Each CRC research project is aimed at developing solutions to identified end-user needs, and is tested through our Commercialisation Program. This Program has access to specialised imaging and laboratory testing facilities, and a large clinical trial network from across our Members.

The HEARing CRC has identified groups who are at the greatest risk of developing noise-induced hearing loss. Our HEARsmart initiative is developing tools, activities and campaigns that target at-risk groups in order to increase understanding and awareness of the risks associated with prolonged noise exposure. HEARsmart aims to encourage individual and organisational behavioural change to reduce and prevent noise-induced hearing loss.

Communicating our research outcomes to the public enables better understanding of the latest developments in hearing healthcare and approaches to managing hearing loss. Our HEARnet Online website delivers this information in the broader context of hearing health and available technologies, providing easily digestible, impartial information with links to authoritative and well respected organisations in the field. The searchable HEARnet Library and the Interactive Ear animation provides valuable resources for the public, medical professionals and researchers.

Our online training enables CRC research findings to be communicated effectively to clinical and professional groups working in the hearing healthcare field. This flexible and growing resource attracts Continuing Professional Development accreditation from a number of professional bodies, and in the future may also provide face-to-face training. In addition, we are dedicated to developing the next generation of leaders in the field, with a program that offers development and mentoring opportunities to MSc and PhD students whose study is embedded in our research programs.

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