

16 April 2010



Mr Brian Whitchurch

Committee Secretary  
Senate Community Affairs  
Hearing Health in Australia  
P O Box 6100  
Parliament House  
Canberra ACT 2600

Dear Sir/ Madam,

I wish to lodge a submission with the above Senate Committee.

At present there is no funding for many people like myself who need a replacement "speech processor" to be used with The Cochlear Implant.

After many years of excellent service the existing "speech processor" needs to be replaced. And what is a major concern is that parts for my existing "speech processor" are no longer available, and the while the Cochlear Implant Clinic will help where ever possible to maintain this unit, but there will come a time when service and maintenance is not possible at all. Then I will be left with no hearing at all.

There is always some maintenance required to keep these processors in good working order, and consideration should be given for this to be available.

I would also bring to the attention of the Committee the importance of safety, let alone the communication and quality of life that these processors do give to the user.

I would urge that the Government make funding available for **new** "speech processors" and the on going service that is required.

The expense of this replacement is beyond the means of people like my self, as I am only receiving a pension, as lack of hearing has been part of my life for many years now.

We are also aware that as technology is advancing so quickly, and by what I have been told the new "speech processor" which is now available, would give me a far superior quality of hearing, this would be huge benefit for myself and others who find themselves in similar circumstances..

Thank you for giving consideration to this submission, and looking forward to a favourable reply.

Yours sincerely.

**Mr Brian Whitchurch**