

VICTORIAN COCHLEAR IMPLANT PROGRAM REFERRAL GUIDELINES FOR COCHLEAR IMPLANT EVALUATION

Functional indications:

Any person can be referred for cochlear implant evaluation if they are experiencing moderately severe or worse hearing loss in either ear, *AND*:

The individual (and/or a significant other) expresses difficulties understanding speech in their everyday environment despite using hearing aids. This may include:

- Not getting enough benefit from hearing aids
- Missing half or more of what is being said in conversation
- Having difficulty hearing on the mobile or landline phone
- Relying on looking at people to understand what they are saying

Individuals meeting the above criteria can benefit from referral to a cochlear implant specialist for a comprehensive, multidisciplinary cochlear implant evaluation and preoperative assessment.

Audiological indications:

Any individual with sensorineural or mixed* hearing loss should be offered referral for cochlear implant evaluation if they meet the following audiological criteria:

- Three-frequency (500, 1000, 2000 Hz) unaided pure tone average (PTA) in any ear equal to or greater than 60 dB HL (decibels hearing level)
AND
- Unaided phoneme score (on AB words) of 70% or less in any ear.

Individuals meeting the above criteria should be offered referral to a cochlear implant specialist for a comprehensive, multidisciplinary cochlear implant evaluation and preoperative assessment.

** Mixed hearing loss warrants further otological evaluation to exclude middle ear pathology*

In your referral, please include details about degree and duration of hearing loss (copy of current and/or previous audiograms), use of hearing aids, any medical issues, and your contact details and provider number if applicable (this is a Medicare billed clinic with no out of pocket cost to Medicare eligible patients)

Please address referrals to:

Mr Robert Briggs
Cochlear Implant Clinic
Royal Victorian Eye and Ear Hospital
Locked Bag 8, East Melbourne 8002

For enquiries, please contact the clinic directly on:

Phone: (03) 9929 8624
Fax: (03) 9929 8625
e-mail: vcip@eyeandear.org.au

Alternately, please use our editable referral form: [Victorian Cochlear Implant Program Referral](#)

References:

1. ANZ Hearing Health Collaborative. ANZ HHC: Living Guidelines for Cochlear Implantation in Adults MAGICapp2025 [Available from: <https://app.magicapp.org/#/guideline/10161>].
2. Sucher C, Fraser M, Zwolan T, Eikelboom R. Reviewing the 60/60 referral criteria for cochlear implant candidacy evaluation in the Australian context. *International Journal of Audiology*. 2026;1-14.
3. Leigh et al (submitted) Australian and New Zealand Living Guidelines for Cochlear Implantation in Adults: A Consensus-Based and Evidence-Informed Guideline Adaptation Process.