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Study: Behavioural and Attitudinal Responses to Cochlear Implantation in Australia and the UK

You are invited to join a discussion about hearing loss and access to cochlear implant services for people with a hearing loss

What is the study about?

You are invited to participate in a study about people's experiences of hearing loss, and how access to cochlear implant services is provided by healthcare professionals. This study aims to provide results that will improve services for patients with hearing loss and enhance patients' quality of life.

To participate in this study, you must:

- Be over the age of 50 years
- Have severe-to-profound sensorineural hearing loss, which occurred after 5 years of age
- Be a hearing aid user, a cochlear implant user or a cochlear implant candidate (in the process of being evaluated for implantation)

Be proficient in English

What does the study involve?

If you decide to participate, you will be asked to:

1. Participate in a 1.5-hour focus group discussion, and allow a researcher with an observer present, facilitate, take notes and audio-record the focus group discussion. If you are unable to attend the focus group, you may be interviewed over the phone/skype or email. You will not be identified following the focus group and none of the data collected, as a result of the focus group, will include your name. Your data will be anonymised.
2. Provide some information about yourself, like your age, and your experience of hearing loss in a form that you will be asked to complete, just before or immediately following, the focus group.
3. Complete a brief survey, at a later date after the focus group is completed, about your hearing loss and treatments.

Communication support in the form of real-time captioning and written notes will be available. Participants will be provided with a stipend to support travel to the focus group and participation in this study as a gesture of our appreciation for participants' time and involvement in the study.

Who is carrying out the study?

The study is being led by Professor Frances Rapport from Macquarie University (T: 02 9850 2320, E: frances.rapport@mq.edu.au). This study is supported by Cochlear Ltd.

Want to be involved? Please contact Mia Bierbaum, the study researcher, (T: 02 9850 2445, E: mia.bierbaum@mq.edu.au) if you would like to express an interest in participating in the study, or for more information about the study.