



**Services at Falls of Sound:**

- Hearing assessments
- Hearing aids & repairs
- Counselling related to hearing impairment and tinnitus
- Noise plugs
- Swimming plugs
- Musician plugs
- Assistive listening devices

**Trading hours:**

**Mon-Thurs**

**9:00am-5:30 pm**

**Friday: 9:00am-4:30 pm**

**by appointment only**

**Thursdays after**

**5.30 pm and**

**Saturday**

Dear readers,

It is with great pride and pleasure that I am announcing the birth of my little daughter, Bo, born on the 27th of August 2006. Our audiologist, Rachel, will take care of your hearing needs while I'm attending to the developing needs of my little miracle. Hearing Awareness week in August was again, a very busy event.... It is great to see new people coming in for hearing screenings. This is the first step to better hearing and some adults with hearing losses often wait about 7 years before seeking help! For those of you who are wearing hearing aids.... Remember summer is on its way even during the spring we have to be aware of humidity, so make sure your hearing aids are dry!



**Katia Peeters**

**What are the different types of hearing aids?**

There are several types of hearing aids. Each type offers different advantages, depending on its design, levels of amplification, and size. All hearing aids in our range are digital hearing aids. Digital hearing aids contain computer chips that convert the continuous electronic signals into numeric coded signals. In this form, the digital hearing aid can perform complex processing of the sounds, such as reducing the intensity of loud background noises at an extremely fast rate and with a high degree of precision. This type of hearing aid, programmed via a computer, offers the greatest flexibility in its ability to match the hearing aid response to the hearing loss. Similar to the digital technology used in CD players, cameras and cell phones, digital hearing aids offer advanced sound quality and sophisticated features.

As there is a wide variety of digital hearing aids available, at Falls of Sound we have categorised them using star ratings, from a 1-star (basic technology) to 5-stars (premium technology). All hearing aids benefit speech understanding and are comfortable to wear in noisy environments. They can all be easily adjusted by our computer. You may also be able to switch between different settings suitable for different listening conditions. The advanced hearing aids, have more features available: improved sound quality, customization to your lifestyle, and greater listening performance in background noise. Many digital aids adjust themselves automatically to suit different sound environments. These hearing aids are in the 3-star to 5-star range. Our audiologist will help you to choose the best hearing device to match your hearing needs and lifestyle. The enclosed table will give you an overview of the ratings and an explanation of the features in our digital hearing aid range.



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**Get ready for summer!**

Prevent swimmer's ears, surfer's ears, eardrum rupture, ear infections.

Helps divers equalise

The ultimate ear protection for all ages.

Only:



**How to tell when is it time to buy a hearing aid.....**



**Nice delivery, John. But I asked you to "say grace," not to "spray mace."**

## Humidity in hearing aids

People who use drying systems experience fewer repairs to their hearing aids, and enjoy better hearing from them. When moisture and cerumen (wax) accumulate in hearing aids, microphones and receivers, the result is often intermittency, increased distortion, reduction in gain (especially high frequency), and an overall deterioration in performance. The reduction in gain causes speech to be less clear and reduces word understanding. Eliminating or greatly reducing the moisture in hearing aids allows the instruments to provide high-frequency amplification.

**Where the moisture comes from:** Apart from the high humidity levels in Queensland, the human body is composed primarily of water. We excrete large amounts of moisture through our skin each day. In addition, many people exacerbate the problem by letting water enter and become trapped deep in the ear canal when taking a bath or shower. The humidity in and around the ear is high, in the 85%-88% range, and this moisture collects inside the components of the hearing aid as well as in the battery compartments. When the moist, warm air in the ear canal moves outward toward the cooler metal parts of the hearing aids, microscopic droplets of water are deposited, which accumulates over time. Constant exposure to moisture destroys the integrity of the transducers, causing corrosion or rust in the battery compartment leading to intermittency or shorts in the amplifier. Moisture and debris also penetrate into the volume control, causing further damage. This debris is composed of dead skin flakes, lint from clothing, contamination from hair and skin products, and other miscellaneous material. The debris absorbs moisture like a sponge. When a wearer removes his or her hearing aids for the night, a sufficient amount of the moisture in the debris usually evaporates enabling the hearing aids to work the following morning. As soon as the aids are placed in (or on) the ears the next morning, the debris at the entrance or exit parts of the hearing aid begins absorbing moisture again, resulting either in gain being reduced or amplification stopping altogether. When hearing aids are sent in for repair, the damaged and moisture-laden transducers are usually replaced. Often feedback (whistling) occurs when the aids are refitted on the patient. This is because the repaired instruments are providing considerably more amplification in the higher frequencies due to the fact that the internal components are working properly. We have found that using drying systems offers many benefits, including:

- 🌀 greater gain, especially in the crucial high frequencies
- 🌀 clearer sound quality
- 🌀 improved word understanding, including in noise
- 🌀 better localization of sound
- 🌀 reduced need for repairs
- 🌀 a 5%-10% increase in battery life

The following economical drying products are available at Falls of Sound:

Both the **Super Dri-Aid™** and the **Mini Super Dri-Aid™** protect all types of hearing aids from moisture. Before retiring for the evening, after removing the batteries, place hearing aid/s inside jar on top of foam pad and close cover securely. Pellets start working immediately to remove harmful moisture from hearing aid. Remove aid next day when ready to use. Utilizing special molecular sieve pellets which are physically and chemically different from silica gel based products, Super Dri-Aid™ pellets have an enormous capacity to hold moisture and based upon regional moisture conditions, can last for months before requiring rejuvenation.

**Super Dri-Aid™ : \$31.00      Mini Super Dri-Aid™ : \$22.00**

**The Dri-Aid™ Kit** removes daily accumulation of moisture in the hearing aid, ear-mould and tubing. While the user sleeps, overnight, the crystals adsorb moisture leaving the hearing aid and accessories fresh and dry for the next morning. Before retiring for the evening, after removing the batteries, place hearing aid/s inside the heavy-duty sealable pouch with the drying agent and close the pouch securely. Crystals start working immediately to remove harmful moisture from hearing aid/s. Remove aid/s the following day and they are ready to use.

**Dri-Aid™ Kit : \$16.00**

**The Care Kit** is for cleaning and drying of all types of hearing aids and ear-moulds. Very easy to use. Before retiring for the evening, after removing the batteries, wipe ear-mould with tissues provided. Remove capsule from blister pack and place in drying beaker under drying basket. Place aid/s and ear-moulds into basket, close lid securely and leave overnight. Remove next morning and close beaker to prolong durability of drying capsule. Capsules may be re-used until yellow colour changes to white after which they should be replaced with another capsule.

**Care Kit: \$39.00**

**Drying Beaker: \$11.00**

**Capsule refills: \$17.00**

