HMA Year-In-Review 2026 Update

HEARING MATTERS AUSTRALIA

Support from real life experience

About HMA

- Founded as Self Help Hard of Hearing (**SHHH**) in **1983**, by **Mary Sparke**, as a consumer-led self-help group
- Changed the name to ***Hearing Matters Australia*** in 2018
- A voluntary, self-funded, and not-for-profit organisation incorporated in NSW

Mission

To provide support based on lived experience to help people living with hearing loss.

HMA's Core Services

Publishing quarterly journals – ***Hearing Matters*** (1983 till current)

Publishing digital magazines – ***Hearing Research Matters***

Hearing Aid Bank (1988 till current)

Community Outreach program

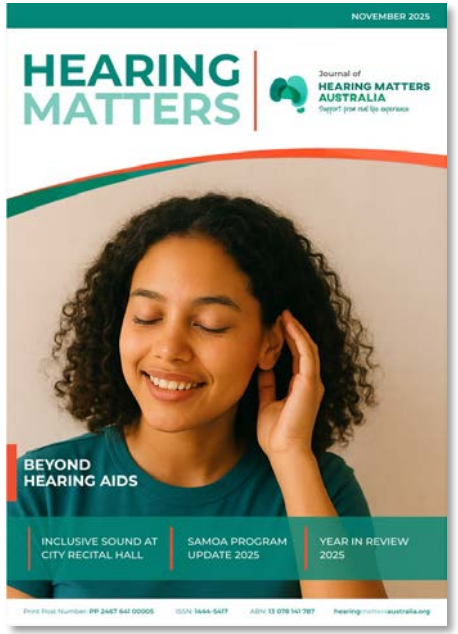
Hearing Loss Support Videos (Lived experience, assistive technology, communication tips)

Other support activities:

- Information centre
- Face-to-face Café and Chat
- Peer support sessions
- Opportunities to join hearing research studies

Advocacy for deaf and hard of hearing people

Aug 2025 Edition:
Understanding Hearing Loss



Nov 2025 Edition:
Beyond Hearing Aids

Feb|Mar 2026 Edition:
Sharing with Confidence

May|Jun 2026 Edition:
Cochlear Implant

Aug|Sept 2026 Edition:
Connection and Inclusion

Hearing Matters Magazines

HMA continues to publish quarterly magazine featuring impactful articles on hearing loss awareness, advancements in hearing services and technology, and community support initiatives, fostering education and engagement within the hearing health community.

Scan this QR Code
to **Subscribe** our magazines
& to **Join** the HMA
community

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HMA continues to publish quarterly magazine featuring impactful articles on hearing loss awareness, advancements in hearing services and technology, and community support initiatives, fostering education and engagement within the hearing health community.

Special Edition of Hearing Matters,

Libby Harricks Achievement Award

1999–2023,

to honor past awardees and celebrate their remarkable contributions and accomplishments within HMA.

Scan the **QR Code** to read ***Inspiring Stories***.

HMA Hearing Aid Bank Program

HEARING AID BANK

HEARING MATTERS AUSTRALIA

Since 1988, HMA and MQ Health Speech and Hearing Clinic have helped people who are ineligible for government Hearing Services Program or the NDIS, as well as those on low incomes, access:

- free refurbished hearing aids
- affordable hearing services
- ongoing support

Hear to help

Supporting people with hearing loss to live connected and confident lives.

You're not alone | We understand | We can help

Learn more

Scan this QR code or **Visit** our website

Since 2024, our Hearing Aid Bank program is not only supporting Asylum Seekers/Refugees and eligible individuals with low income **in NSW** but also helping children and adults with hearing loss **in Samoa and the Philippines**, in collaboration with **Professor Philip Newall AM and Cristy Newall**.

Our HAB volunteers are from MQ Uni Bachelor of Speech and Hearing Science course, Master of Clinical Audiology, HMA members, and corporate skilled volunteers.

Professor Philip Newall AM provides regular training to our HAB volunteers on how to refurbish donated hearing aids.

Scan this QR code to watch the video about the **Hearing Aid Service in Samoa**.

Philip and Cristy Newall in Samoa 2026, their 27th visit since 2008.

Community Outreach Program

HMA outreach presenters and volunteers participate in events to raise awareness about hearing loss and share experiences and tips for managing it.

11th March 2026

Everything for Seniors Day

by Ku-ring-gai Council

Lived Experience Talks with Macquarie Community

College Students in Aged Care & Disability Support

Cert III & IV

- 26 March 2026
- 11 May 2026
- 14 May 2026
- 20 May 2026

(Zoom and Face-to-Face)

10th June 2026

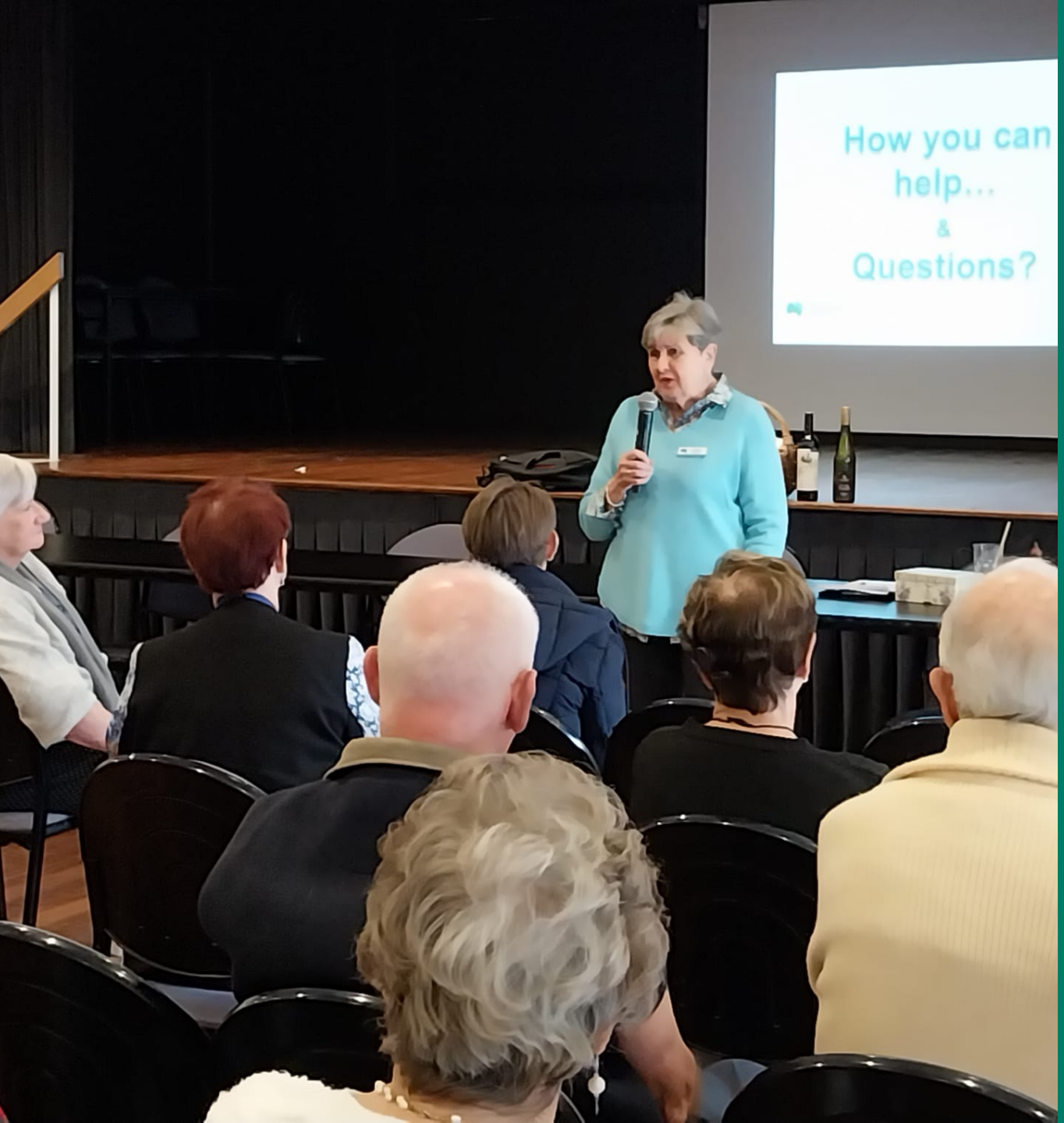
Mark Moran
Retirement Living in Vaucluse

Two separate talks to
Aged care residents &
Independent living members

18th June 2026

Hearing Matters Workshop in Mandarin to a Chinese Seniors Group

Organised by
NSW Police Hornsby
& TAFE Hornsby



23rd June 2026

Knightsbridge Probus Club

with the attendance in excess of 100 people

27th July 2026

Presentation to

Group home facility staff at Northcott Auburn

2nd September 2026

City of Sydney Council – Ron Williams Community Centre

AI in Communication Sciences: Necessity, Opportunity or Threat?

Facilitated by
Nicky Chong-White

John Hansen
Distinguished Chair
University of Texas Dallas
ISCA Fellow

Emma Power
Professor, University of Technology Sydney
President, Speech Pathology Australia

Visar Berisha
Professor, Arizona State University

Karen Hirschhausen
Principal Audiologist
Hearing Australia

Brendan Lonergan
President of Hearing Matters Australia Inc

30th September 2026

Panel Discussion, Interspeech 2026, ICC

Student Projects Supporting HMA

HMA partners with Macquarie University's PACE Media Communication students & Master of Clinical Audiology students to create impactful content on hearing loss awareness and support.

More new HMA videos were produced by collaborating with MQ Uni Media Communication undergraduate students to support the deaf and hard of hearing community.

Scan to watch

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Scan to watch

HMA YouTube Channel
@HearingMattersAustralia

Scan the QR Code

Hearing Loss Support Videos

Lived experience interviews, assistive technology, communication tips, café and chat information sessions

HMA video – ***Different Frequency*** with captions in multi-languages are available to raise awareness of HMA's work to support individuals with hearing loss and to help them reconnect what matter most.

Scan to Watch in English

French Subtitles

Korean Subtitles

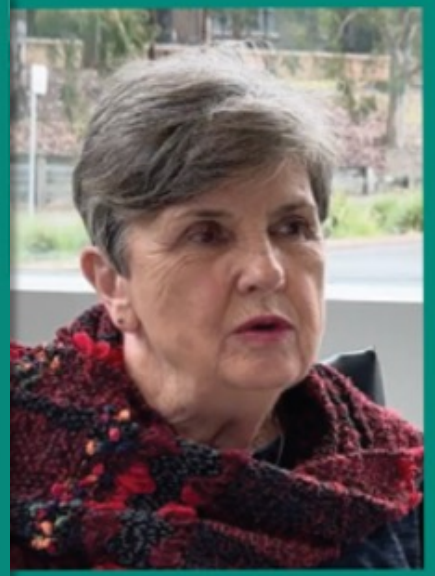
Simplified Chinese

Traditional Chinese

HEARING MATTERS

CAFÉ & CHAT PRESENTATIONS

YouTube Videos Playlist



Lived Experience of Hearing Loss Interview Series

Scan this QR code to hear inspiring stories

HEARING Research TALKS

Bridge the gap between **hearing research** and **public awareness & understanding**.

Hearing Research Talks
YouTube Video Playlist

Recognising Hearing Loss

Choosing an Audiologist

The First Hearing Appointment

Hearing Assessments

Confirmed Hearing Loss What's Next?

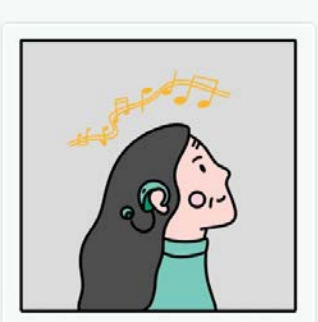
Dymystifying Hearing Devices

Accessing Hearing Devices & Services in Australia

Understanding the Cost of Hearing Devices

How much will my Private Health Insurance Cover

Bluetooth Compatible Hearing Aids



Communication Tips: For Individuals

Communication Tips: For Family & Friends

Support Guides

Available on HMA's website for free downloads in assisting with individuals' journey of managing hearing loss.

Scan to download

Support Our Work

Hearing Matters Australia is an independent not-for-profit charity dedicated to supporting people living with hearing loss, their families, and friends.

We receive no government funding.

Your support will help us continue to provide support for the deaf and hard of hearing community.

HEARING MATTERS AUSTRALIA
Support from real life experience

REGISTERED CHARITY
acnc.gov.au/charityregister

Thank you for your support!

- Email: admin@hearingmattersaustralia.org
- Phone / SMS: 0477 785 525
- Website: www.hearingmattersaustralia.com