



**HEARING MATTERS  
AUSTRALIA**

*Support from real life experience*

Ground Floor, Suite 600, The Australian Hearing Hub

16 University Ave, Macquarie University NSW 2109

(02) 9878 6089

[admin@hearingmattersaustralia.org](mailto:admin@hearingmattersaustralia.org)

## **WHAT IS A T-SWITCH?**

- Do you have difficulty adjusting the volume of TV or radio to a level which is comfortable for you... and for others in the room?
- Have you ever been in some churches or public halls and noticed that other hearing aid wearers seem to manage better than you do?
- Have you ever tried to make a phone call from a public telephone on a noisy street, or in an underground station... and given up?
- A hearing aid with a T-Switch may have solved your problems in these difficult listening situations

## **SO WHAT IS THIS T-SWITCH PEOPLE TALK ABOUT?**

The 'T' stands for Telecoil. It indicated that the aid has the capacity to pick up sound directly from the magnetic field created by feeding sound into a coil or loop of wire - an audio induction loop.

In an induction loop system, sound from a microphone, public address system, home TV or radio- or other sound source - is fed through an amplifier and then to a loop of wire placed around the perimeter of a room or public hall. The total area or part only of the room or hall may be looped. Smaller areas, such as a bank teller booth or ticket office, can also be treated. An individual loop worn around the neck, or an induction plate worn next to the aid are other alternatives. The small coil in the earpiece of modern telephones also serves the same purpose.

When switched to the 'T' position, the hearing aid responds only to those sounds coming through the loop. The microphone of the aid is not operating, so unwanted and distracting background noise is not picked up. This can often be distinct advantage.

Most behind-the-ear type aids will have this facility. Some in-ear aid can also have a Telecoil - in some cases this may only be accessed by the use of a remote control unit. If you already wear an aid which does not include a Telecoil, it may be possible to have one added - ask your hearing aid supplier.

## **WHEN WOULD I USE A T-SWITCH?**

People often buy an aid because they have difficulty in conversation. Buying an aid is seen as solving a one-to-one communication problem.

When that hurdle is behind you, with a new aid, you will begin to think of communication in the wider world - at the dinner table, at work, at meetings, and at social gatherings. If you have a T-Switch there are many options for use of assistive listening devices, which give extra help in these more difficult listening conditions. If you want to continue to enjoy television or radio; if you use the telephone; if you go to church, the cinema or theatre; or if you attend social gatherings or meetings, you will appreciate the advantages that a T-Switch offers.