

Hearing Aid Buyers Guide

Hearing aids have come a long way in the last few years and now have more features than ever. Finding the right hearing aid can be confusing and difficult given there are so many different brands, styles and technology levels available.

Hearing Choices only works with the leading hearing aid manufacturers and are at the forefront of the latest hearing aid technology. The hearing aids listed on this guide have been tried and tested by our customers with excellent feedback.

Get your hearing back on track and start enjoying life as you should.

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This guide is general in nature and is not to be taken as medical advice.

If you are suffering from hearing loss or experience any changes to your hearing, we recommend to see a qualified medical professional.

A LETTER FROM OUR **CHIEF AUDIOLOGIST**

Hi and thank you for downloading the Hearing Choices Buyers Guide!

The pace of change in the hearing care industry is accelerating which makes it harder and harder to get up to date advice about the latest hearing devices on the market.

There have been some amazing advancements in technology over the last few years including Bluetooth streaming, long lasting rechargeable batteries and amazing noise reduction algorithms.

Before you continue with this guide which focuses on the devices themselves, it's important to remember that the hearing aid is only one piece in the puzzle when it comes to getting a successful outcome. It's the work that clinicians like myself put in diagnosing your hearing loss, selecting the right device and working on a proper rehabilitation plan that can be the difference between you loving your hearing aids to you putting them away never to wear them again!

To give you an idea of how we help, I've created this buyer's guide as a brief introduction to help consumers get an idea of what's involved in choosing a hearing aid as well as showing you some of the latest hearing aid technology available on the market.

If you have any questions about any of these products or want to learn more about our services, please give us a call on **1300 848 335.**

I look forward to helping you on your path to better Hearing

Lachlan Smith

Chief Audiologist

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FOR FREE CONSULTATION AND ADVICE

ABOUT HEARING CHOICES

Hearing Choices is a Hearing Aid Advisory website. We've become the leading online hearing aid selection and support service in Australia. Hearing Choices was created when the founders parents were sold hearing aids and they realised there was no reliable information available online! There had a to be a better way for people with hearing loss to find out about hearing aids and buy just what they want, and need, at a reasonable price. Hearing Choices puts the customer in control of their hearing device selection.

We have partnered with Hearing Clinics and their clinicians across the country. Any clinic we refer you to will have Audiologists or Audiometrists with Australian-recognised qualifications in hearing healthcare. This means that once you've selected your device from Hearing Choices, you'll be referred to an appropriate professional in your local area to get your hearing aid fitted.

Hearing Choices offers you exclusively:

- **FREE phone consultation**
- **Hearing aid trials**
- **100% satisfaction or your money back**
- **Competitive pricing and exclusive offers**
- **Support throughout your hearing aid fitting and follow-up appointments**

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We are Australia's most trustworthy hearing aid experts. Our customers have given us a 5-star rating on Trustpilot – a review platform open for everyone to share their experiences. See what Hearing Choices customers have to say on [Trustpilot](#).

**“Great customer service.
With great choices of
hearing aids.”**

 by Harry Newman

Rated 4.8 / 5 | 384 reviews

 Trustpilot

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WHAT MAKES THESE HEARING AIDS SO SPECIAL?

1

Performance in noise (directional microphones and/or Noise Cancellation)

Why: Noisy environments are generally the most difficult for the hearing impaired and the most difficult environment for hearing aids.

2

Automatic Programs (At least 3 different environments)

Why: Hearing aids can now automatically adjust their settings based on your listening environment. No need for manual adjustments.

3

Rugged Design (IP68 dust and moisture resistant)

Why: Hearing aids are exposed to dust, sweat and the elements. It's important your hearing aids are rugged so you can enjoy them outside.

4

Bluetooth and Wireless

Why: The latest Bluetooth hearing aids can now be adjusted and controlled from your mobile phone. You can also stream audio directly.

5

Rechargeable

Why: Simply pop them in the charger overnight.



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INVISIBLE HEARING AIDS OR NOT?

There are two main styles of hearing aids, either one that sits behind your ear or a small hearing aid which is inserted in the ear.

The advantage of the hearing aids in your ear is that they are more discreet and less visible to others. The advantage of the hearing aids that sit behind your ear are that they are more powerful and generally perform better in background noise. 80 – 90% of the hearing aids sold are receiver in the canal, which are tiny devices that sit behind the ear. They are a good compromise between performance and size and are suitable for a wide range of hearing loss.

INVISIBLE:

PROS:

- ❖ Tiny discreet devices that can be invisible to others.
- ❖ Generally easier to use on the telephone

CONS:

- ❖ Less powerful hearing aids due to smaller size
- ❖ Can cause a "blocked" feeling in the ear

SUITABLE FOR:

- ❖ People with mild to moderate/severe hearing loss who require discreet design.

RECEIVER IN THE CANAL:

PROS:

- ❖ Suitable for a wider range and types of hearing loss
- ❖ Dual microphones give better performance in noise
- ❖ Wireless and Bluetooth enabled options.

CONS:

- ❖ More visible than invisible hearing aid options.

SUITABLE FOR:

- ❖ People with Mild to severe hearing loss.

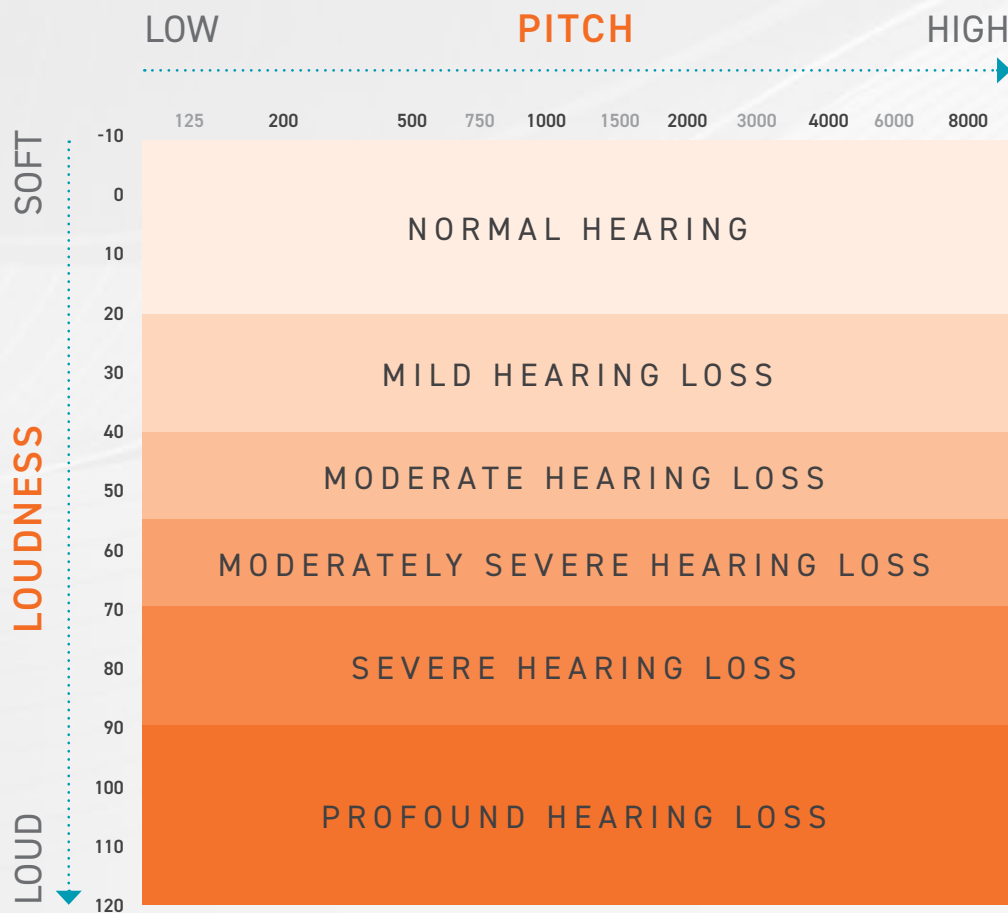


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HOW TO CHOOSE A HEARING AID



Mild hearing loss:

- ❖ **Symptoms:** Ok in one on one conversation but have some difficulty in background noise.
- ❖ **Hearing Threshold Level:** 26 - 40 dB
- ❖ **Hearing Aids:** May be of assistance

Moderate hearing loss:

- ❖ **Symptoms:** Asking people to repeat themselves during conversations, especially bad with background noise.
- ❖ **Hearing Threshold:** 41 - 55 dB
- ❖ **Hearing Aids:** Very helpful and strongly recommended.

Severe Hearing Loss:

- ❖ **Symptoms:** Can't hear conversation without hearing aids. .
- ❖ **Hearing Threshold:** 70 - 90 dB
- ❖ **Hearing Aids:** May require a super-powered hearing aid to get benefit.

Profound Hearing Loss:

- ❖ **Symptoms:** Will have trouble even with hearing aids.
- ❖ **Hearing Threshold:** 71 - 90 dB
- ❖ **Hearing Aids:** May require a cochlear implant.

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NEED MORE HELP?

USE OUR HEARING AID FINDER TOOL

Hearing aids can be a significant investment both in time and money so it's important that you get the right help to ensure a good outcome.

We have helped thousands of clients find the perfect hearing aid over the last few years and have refined our processes to ensure that you only commit to the devices once you are 100% satisfied and happy with the quality of the device and the service provided.

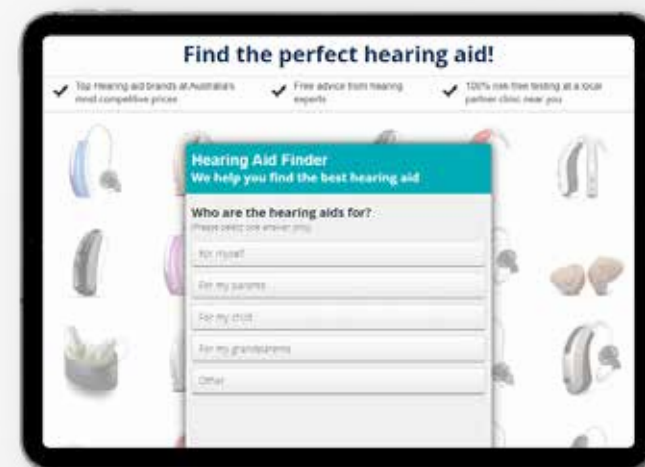
We have developed a quick quiz that will enable us to get the right information needed to help you choose the right device and provider.

It only takes 2 – 3 minutes to complete and we will be in touch once we have reviewed your results with some free advice on how we can help and what are your options

You can take the quiz now by clicking the button below

HEARING AID FINDER

Or click here www.hearingchoices.com.au/hearing-aid-finder



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HOW TO CHOOSE **A HEARING AID**
































Any of the hearing aids in this guide are suitable for a wide range of hearing loss. Your level and type of hearing loss will determine the most appropriate hearing aid style. Your lifestyle and budget will determine which will be the best technology level for your needs.

Level of hearing loss - Style of Hearing Aid

- ❖ **Mild to Moderate Hearing Loss** - IIC or a RIC hearing aid
- ❖ **Moderate to Severe Hearing Loss** - RIC Hearing Aid
- ❖ **Severe Hearing Loss** - RIC or Super Powered BTE
- ❖ **Profound Hearing loss** - Super Powered BTE or Cochlear Implant

Lifestyle and Budget - Technology level

- ❖ **Quite Lifestyle** - Essential or Standard technology levels
- ❖ **Casual Lifestyle** - Advanced Technology
- ❖ **Active Lifestyle** - Premium Technology

	HOME	PRIVATE CONVERSATION	MOISTURE, SWEAT, DIRT	TV/MOVIES	RESTAURANT	MEETINGS/ CONFERENCES	RELIGIOUS SERVICES/ MUSIC, THEATRE	CAR	CROWDS/ SOCIAL EVENTS	COCKTAIL PARTY	WIND
PREMIUM TECHNOLOGY ACTIVE LIFESTYLE											
ADVANCED TECHNOLOGY CASUAL LIFESTYLE											
STANDARD TECHNOLOGY QUIET LIFESTYLE											
ESSENTIAL TECHNOLOGY VERY QUIET LIFESTYLE											

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HOW MUCH DO HEARING AIDS COST?

The cost of the hearing aids varies on several factors including the brand of the device, the technology selected, the amount of service or aftercare included, and any accessories bundled with the purchase. There are also subsidies available for eligible clients which is detailed on the next page.

This can make comparing prices between suppliers extremely difficult as it's important to make sure you're comparing like with like. Some suppliers bundle unlimited aftercare service into the price while others may offer a more limited amount with clients electing to pay as required.

As a guide, you can expect to pay the following prices per hearing aid.

ESSENTIAL \$1,000 - \$2,000

STANDARD - \$2,000 - \$3000

ADVANCED - \$3,000 - \$3,500

PREMIUM - \$3,500 - \$5000

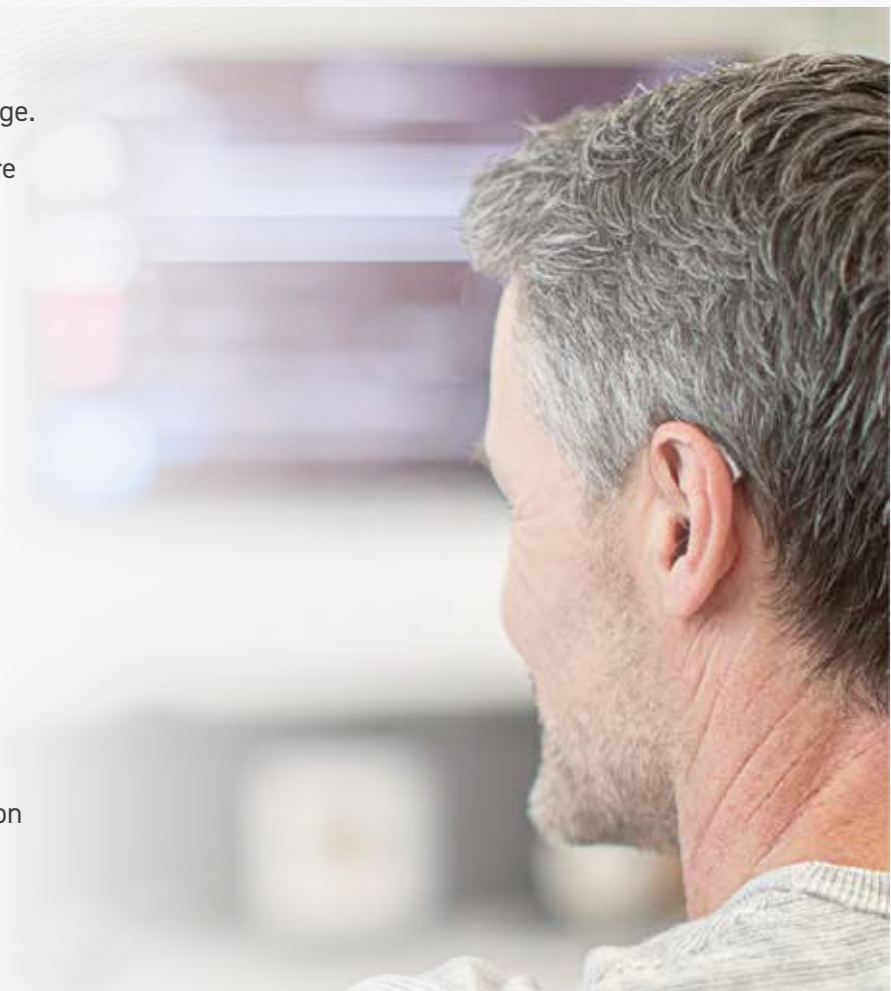
It's important when purchasing a hearing aid to clarify with your supplier exactly what model and aftercare is included with your purchase so there are no nasty surprises in the future. If you would like us to provide a quote, review your quote or arrange for a second opinion, please give us a call on 1300 848 335.

Hearing Choices includes at a minimum: 3 years manufacturer warranty, a year worth of clinical service and ongoing phone or internet support with every hearing aid purchase.

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AVAILABLE SUBSIDIES FOR PENSIONERS AND DVA CLIENTS



Hearing Services Program

If you are a pensioner or returned serviceman you may be eligible to receive fully-subsidised hearing devices and services under the Hearing Services Program. This program is run by the Australian Government.

Eligibility categories in this program include:

- Senior Australian holding a Pensioner Concession card
- Receiving a Sickness Allowance from Centrelink
- Department of Veteran's Affairs
 - Gold card holder
 - White card holder
- Dependent person of either above category
- Australian Defence Force member
- Referred by Disability Employment Services Program
- Participant in the National Disability Insurance Scheme (NDIS)

If you fall into one of these categories, let us know when you contact Hearing Choices so we ensure you get the benefits you're eligible for*. **There are fully subsidised options available.**

As applicable under the Hearing Services Program, the pictures in this guide may not be available under the full subsidised device list, please see the programs website for [full details](#)

5 TIPS & TRICKS TO GET THE BEST HEARING AID FOR YOUR NEEDS

There's so much to consider when selecting a hearing aid – brand, model, style and technological features. You may have talked to friends with hearing aids or your family may want you to have a brand they're familiar with. Or perhaps you've seen a lot of advertising around a certain style of hearing device. So how do you choose? Below are five tips & tricks to help you in your choice of not only your hearing aid, but the hearing professional you decide to go with.

If you follow these tips and tricks and you're sure to get well-fitted hearing aids that are just right for your hearing needs.

1

Choose a hearing aid that will suit your lifestyle needs. This means buying a device that has the right level of technology. If you're active and attend a lot of meetings, or are involved in complex listening situations, you'll need a high-end hearing aid. If you have less complex needs with your hearing, then look for a hearing aid with simplified technology.

2

If you're not sure what type of hearing aid you'd like, talk to the experts (Hearing Choices offer a free phone consultation). Also, listen to your Audiologist or Audiometrist once you've had a hearing test. Discuss your hearing requirements with them. You might want a hearing aid that sits deep in your ear canal but if you don't have the right ear anatomy or you suffer from excess wax, this may not be a good choice of device for you.

3

Get a hearing aid that has a trial period. At Hearing Choices you get a trial to ensure you're happy with your hearing aid selection.

4

Find a hearing healthcare clinician you can trust. You want to make sure your Audiologist or Audiometrist has Australian-recognised qualifications and follows a high standard of fitting and aftercare service. This includes having Real Ear Measurements carried out when your hearing aids are fitted – to ensure your devices are working to factory specifications and your personal hearing prescriptive requirements. Hearing Choices has a network of highly-qualified clinicians they will refer you to.

5

Ensure your hearing aids come with a full warranty, including service and repairs. All hearing aids should have a minimum of a three-year manufacturer's warranty

TELE-AUDIOLOGY AND REMOTE HEARING CARE



Hearing Choices now offers remote hearing care and assistance thanks to new technology now available.

This means you can access the very latest hearing aid technology from the comfort of your home. Remote care allows you to connect via a smartphone app to your clinician. This means the clinician can make adjustments to your hearing aids and provide ongoing counselling without you needing to attend the clinic for a face to face appointment. So convenient!

What services are available via tele-audiology and telecare?

New Hearing aid fittings and adjustments.

Replacement hearing aid fittings and new technology upgrades.

Troubleshooting and fine tunings.

Hearing tests and screenings.

Please be in touch with us on **1300 848 335** if you'd like to learn more about this new service.

CLICK HERE FOR REMOTE CARE

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LATEST HEARING AIDS LIST

RECEIVER IN THE CANAL:

1. Starkey Evolv AI
2. Widex Moment Sheer
3. Resound One
4. Unitron Vivante
5. Oticon More
6. Phonak Lumity
7. Hansaton Excite Pro

INVISIBLE:

1. Starkey Evolv AI ITE R
2. Signia Silk X



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STARKEY EVOLV AI

Why we like it:

The Starkey Evolv AI is Starkey's latest hearing aid which means exceptional sound quality no matter the environment. The Evolv AI makes up to 55 million personalised adjustments every hour and provides up to 40% additional reduction in noise energy to reduce listening effort.

SUITABLE FOR: Mild to severe hearing loss

CHANNELS: 16 - 24

TECHNOLOGY LEVELS: 4

REMOTE CARE ENABLED: Yes

Optional Features:

RECHARGEABLE: Yes

WIRELESS STREAMING: Yes



[CLICK HERE TO TRIAL DEVICE](#)

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WIDEX MOMENT SHEER

Why we like it:

The Widex Moment Sheer is an innovative hearing aid that incorporates the latest advancements. Its unique PureSound™ technology preserves the natural sound of speech and reduces noise, resulting in an unparalleled listening experience.

SUITABLE FOR: Mild to severe hearing loss

CHANNELS: 6 - 15

TECHNOLOGY LEVELS: 4

REMOTE CARE ENABLED: Yes

Optional Features:

RECHARGEABLE: Yes

WIRELESS STREAMING: Yes



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RESOUND ONE

Why we like it:

The Resound One is the first hearing aid with a Receiver-In-Ear which means one of the microphones of the hearing aid sits within the ear itself and not on the hearing aid. This means great sound quality and a more natural sound as it uses your natural ear shape to collect sound the way nature intended.

SUITABLE FOR: Mild to severe hearing loss

CHANNELS: 12 - 17

TECHNOLOGY LEVELS: 3

REMOTE CARE ENABLED: Yes

Optional Features:

RECHARGEABLE: Yes

WIRELESS STREAMING: Yes



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UNITRON VIVANTE

Why we like it:

The Unitron Vivante is a hearing aid platform that features a range of advanced technologies designed to improve speech understanding and sound quality. It uses the SoundCore processing platform to analyze and adapt to different listening environments, while its Speech Enhancement system helps users to better understand speech in noisy situations.

SUITABLE FOR: Mild to severe hearing loss

CHANNELS: 8 - 20

TECHNOLOGY LEVELS: 4

REMOTE CARE ENABLED: No

Optional Features:

RECHARGEABLE: Yes

WIRELESS STREAMING: Yes

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OTICON REAL

Why we like it:

The Oticon real uses BrainHearing which gives you access to the full sound scene around unlike traditional hearing aids which mainly focus on the sound in front of you. The platform uses a revolutionary technology called Deep Neural Network to analyze and prioritize sounds.

SUITABLE FOR: Mild to severe hearing loss

CHANNELS: 48 - 64

TECHNOLOGY LEVELS: 3

REMOTE CARE ENABLED: Yes

Optional Features:

RECHARGEABLE: Yes

WIRELESS STREAMING: Yes

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PHONAK LUMITY

Why we like it:

The Phonak lumity includes Autosense OS 4.0 which identifies over 200 sound situations. Better sound quality is only one of the benefits of these devices, you can also tap on your ear for access to Bluetooth functionality, connect more devices to the hearing aids and get access to better smartphone apps and control.

SUITABLE FOR: Mild to severe hearing loss

CHANNELS: 8 - 20

TECHNOLOGY LEVELS: 4

REMOTE CARE ENABLED: Yes

Optional Features:

RECHARGEABLE: YES

WIRELESS STREAMING: Yes



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HANSATON EXCITE PRO

Why we like it:

The HearIntelligence™ in the **EXCITE PRO** hearing aids has advanced signal processing to detect, automate, focus, localise and optimise your listening environment. Imbedded sensors evaluate your surroundings 700 times per second. Connects to almost any smartphone for direct audio and music streaming and hands free calls.

SUITABLE FOR: Mild to severe hearing loss

CHANNELS: 12 - 20

TECHNOLOGY LEVELS: 4

REMOTE CARE ENABLED: No

Optional Features:

RECHARGEABLE: Yes

WIRELESS STREAMING: Yes

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STARKEY EVOLV AI ITE R

The Starkey Evolv AI ITE R is the only In the Ear hearing aid that is also rechargeable. Built on the brand new Evolv Platform the ITE R is not only discreet but also powerful and can also connect with your smartphone with amazing connectivity. .

SUITABLE FOR: Mild to Moderate hearing loss

CHANNELS: 16 - 20

TECHNOLOGY LEVELS: 2

Optional Features:

WIRELESS STREAMING: Yes*

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SIGNIA SILK X

Why we like it:

The Signia Silk X is the only instant fit invisible hearing aid which means you don't need custom moulds and the device can be fit at your first clinic visit. The device has 4 different sleeve sizes to suit a variety of ear canals. The Silk X use a Binaural OneMic directionality to improve speech perception and for better performance in background noise.

SUITABLE FOR: Mild to Moderate hearing loss

CHANNELS: 24 - 48

TECHNOLOGY LEVELS: 3

REMOTE CARE ENABLED: Yes

Optional Features:

WIRELESS STREAMING: Yes

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IF YOU'RE SERIOUS ABOUT HEARING AIDS, **THEN TRY THIS...**

We believe the best way to determine whether the hearing aids are right are to wear them for a period of time in your natural noise environments. Everyone has different hearing preferences and requirements, and therefore we offer an extended trial period for every hearing aid we sell. We have convenient locations Australia wide where you can get fitted with hearing aids and try them completely risk free for 45 days completely risk free.

Follow the link below and try them completely risk free.

SIGN UP NOW



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