



Media Release

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Locals encouraged to proactively detect hearing loss

Australian Hearing is urging not just GPs, but all Australians to be more proactive in detecting age-related hearing loss by using the free telephone hearing check, Telscreen.

This week, medical researchers called on GPs to more actively identify hearing loss in patients.

According to Dr John D'Arcy, Telscreen offers an easy way for anyone to check whether they have a hearing loss via a free over the phone test.

"GPs are an important gatekeeper for health services, but there is a simple and quick way for all Australians to be proactive and check for hearing loss from home," he said. "Telscreen is an automated service that will let you know whether you need further help for your hearing."

Telscreen was developed in Australia by Australian Hearing's research division, the National Acoustic Laboratories. It is considered the world's most sophisticated telephone hearing check. It works by asking callers to respond to beeps which are played over increasingly loud background noise.

Julie Sutcliffe, Area Manager at Australian Hearing in Sydney, said that callers who fail the hearing test and are eligible under the federal government's hearing service's scheme, are offered the option of talking to an Australian Hearing clinician. This includes age pensioners and veterans.

"Australian Hearing offers free and subsidised hearing services, including a great new range of Siemens hearing devices," she said. "If you have a hearing loss, a hearing aid will help you communicate better and enjoy socialising more."

In a survey conducted on behalf of Australian Hearing last year, more than half of those who wear a hearing aid all the time have seen a large improvement their social life.

Check your hearing using Telscreen on 1800 826 500 or contact Australian Hearing on 131 797.

Australian Hearing Sydney is located at Suite 5.01, Level 5, 131 York Street Sydney 2000 and clinicians also regularly visit Eastgardens, Strathfield, Maroubra Junction, Bondi Junction and Burwood to provide services.

Contact: Kate Dorrell, Australian Hearing, on 02 9412 6968

Images available upon request