



Media Release

10 November 2010

World Diabetes Day – 14 November 2010

Hearing loss linked to Diabetes

With World Diabetes Day just around the corner, Australian Hearing is raising awareness about the link between hearing loss and diabetes.

According to Janette Thorburn, Principal Audiologist at Australian Hearing, a study conducted in the United States found a higher prevalence of hearing impairment among adults with diabetes than in those without¹.

“The Bainbridge study warns us that hearing loss is very common in people with diabetes,” Ms Thorburn said. “It’s important that people with diabetes have their hearing checked regularly.”

“At Australian Hearing we encourage people to have their hearing checked every two years and to make a hearing screening part of their regular health check,” Ms Thorburn added.

Hearing loss is gradual and can be hard to detect, with many people reluctant to seek help. However, healthy hearing is important for staying socially connected and maintaining relationships with family and friends.

“The simple step of checking your hearing or using a hearing aid can make a big difference in enjoying life,” Ms Thorburn said. “A simple screening test like the confidential over-the-phone hearing test Telscreen can be useful in showing if you have a hearing loss.”

To check your hearing over the phone call Telscreen™ on 1800 826 500. The service is free and available in Arabic, Cantonese, English, Greek, Italian, Macedonian, Mandarin, Serbian, Spanish, Turkish and Vietnamese.

Australian Hearing provides subsidised hearing care to pensioner concession cardholders and most veterans. Contact us on 131 797 or visit www.hearing.com.au to find out if you’re eligible for free hearing services.

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¹ Bainbridge, KE, Hoffman, HJ, & Cowle, CC 2008, ‘Diabetes and Hearing Impairment in the United States: Audiometric Evidence from the National Health and Nutrition Examination Survey, 1999 to 2004’, *Annals of Internal Medicine*, vol. 149, no. 1.