

Independent audiologist Steve Grayson-Riley discusses the Australia Hears hearing aids

Steve is an audiologist and hearing aid wearer – who uses and sells Australia Hears devices but not exclusively.

Why don't people use hearing aids?

Steve says it's a combination of stigma, cost and a perception built up over the years that they don't work very well.

Steve understands that perception. He got his first hearing aid at the age of five. "It was a hideous two inch long banana. I was always getting in trouble for not wearing it."

At 26 years of age he lost his hearing aid playing Australia Rules Football. When he went to get a replacement he ended up not just with a new hearing aid, but also with a new job with the Australian Government hearing services provider Australian Hearing. That led, in due course to Steve completing a Masters in audiology at the University of Queensland when he decided to train as an audiologist to learn more about his own hearing and how to improve it.

Steve graduated from University six years ago and now operates as an independent audiologist in the Brisbane suburb of Holland Park.

He has trialled and now sells the Australia Hears hearing aids. When he first tried one he was surprised how easy it was to use and tune. "They are just as good as some hearing aids costing much more," he says. "And they give control back to the wearer. For many people that's important, and it was what I was looking for when I studied audiology.

He wears one himself – but not exclusively, he routinely swaps aids.

Steve says, "For me, the benefits of the Australia Hears hearing aids are:

Good sound quality – particularly good for musicians

A great alternative for time-poor or remote users who can't easily visit an audiologist

Empowering – the hearing aid and its software allows the users to take control of their own hearing.

Low cost – the Australia Hears devices deliver the same quality of sound of many more expensive hearing aids.

It's designed and developed in Australia."

He says they're not for everyone – there's always going to be people who will want and need to see an audiologist and have everything done for them.

But only one out of every five people who could benefit from hearing aids actually has one. Price and stigma tend to keep people away.

"For the user, the Australia Hears technology and business model dramatically reduce the investment in time and money needed to get a high quality hearing aid. It also offers a challenge, and an opportunity for audiologists to bring their skills to bear to reach the millions of Australians whose quality of life would be improved overnight if they used a hearing aid.

You can read about Steve's hearing journey at his website at

<http://www.graysonrileyaudiology.com.au/site/misc/steves-story>.

Steve is available for interview on 0403 550297 or email steve@graysonrileyaudiology.com.au.