

Dear Hearing Life

As a baby I was diagnosed with Haemolytic Uraemic Syndrome (HUS), which eventually led to my hearing loss and renal failure. I received my first set of hearing aids at age 4, and they were almost bigger than my head. These hearing aids I had to learn to live with, much like all the others over the years. They got me through school, having a kidney transplant, university, meeting my wife, and other important situations in life. Whilst I still enjoyed life, there were many situations I was missing out on. I was missing speeches at parties, not hearing lyrics in songs and dialogue in films.

When I got my new hearing aids from Hearing Life, the staff discussed my lifestyle in order to determine the best hearing aids for me. In my work as a forensic scientist, I regularly attend meetings which have important outcomes that I need to understand. Before being fitted with the new hearing aids, this was difficult, and required all my time and effort to focus on listening. Sometimes my attention wandered off because I couldn't understand what was being said. Now I am able to share ideas and collaborate with others more effectively. Another benefit to the new aids is that, in loud social situations, I am able to change setting to 'party mode'. This cuts down on the background noise, enabling me to hear conversations and speeches more clearly. I now get involved in the party, rather than sitting by the sidelines and watching.

A week after I received my hearing aids, the 9th Australian Transplant Games were held in Adelaide. I competed as well as organised various events. There were competitors from several different countries, and the new aids were very helpful in hearing all the wonderful tales. I got to experience new sounds and the accents of the international visitors, which had all sounded the same before!

Now I am off to London, Canada in July 2005 for the World Transplant Games to represent Australia in cycling- my passion. Thanks to Hearing Life I will be able to have a great adventure, exploring the sounds of other worlds, and I won't miss a thing!

*Scott Miller
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PS: (Here I am) with my two gold medals in the 1km and 5km time trials.

