

YOUNG ADULTS WITH COCHLEAR IMPLANTS: OUR AGENDA FOR CHANGE



Provision of Lifelong services

Young adults with CI may need lifelong services for another 80 years:

- Young people should be involved in decision making about their care, development of technology and support
- Young adults must have information necessary to make informed decisions and advocate for their needs
- Young adults with CI should have the opportunity to meet others and to develop confident and informed advocacy skills
- Funding must be provided for regular technical support, including programming the system, spares, repairs, upgrades and replacements
- Cochlear implant services should provide support for young people moving from children's services to adult services
- Training of audiologists should include CI programming to the individualized needs of those with CIs, involving the young adult
- Young adults should have ongoing rehabilitation, developing effective communication skills and the ability to manage their own technology, including troubleshooting.
- Educators and others working with young people should be informed about the potential of the technology and its daily management.

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We are the first deaf young people with CI who are stepping into the hearing world... everyone here, united across the globe.



RECOMMENDATIONS FOR POLICY AND PRACTICE

Improved accessibility to increase inclusion of young people with CI in society

In Education, there must be training of professionals to provide:

- Good listening conditions
- Daily functioning of the CI technology
- Assistive listening devices
- Specialized individual educational programmes, supported by specialist teachers
- In Higher Education, communication aids such as captioning or note taking
- Peer group and family support

In the Workplace, there must be:

- Implementation of legislation for equal employment opportunities
- Ensuring the accessibility needs of young people are met by both employers and colleagues
- Provision of accessible meeting and work spaces
- Opportunities for the young people to develop confident self advocacy skills

In Public spaces there must be:

- The delivery of accessibility standards including provision of hearing loops, captioning services, assistive listening devices and visual communication in public venues, including sports and transport systems
- Attention to the listening environment, including improving acoustics and managing noise levels.

Public education campaigns to increase awareness of deafness and of cochlear implantation

- Develop and implement comprehensive educational campaigns to inform the public, professionals, government and policymakers about the benefits of cochlear implantation
- Promote the full integration and participation of people with cochlear implants
- Work with media to advocate and promote an accurate and positive portrayal of young adults with cochlear implants.