

OUR VOICES OUR IMPACT YOUNG ADULTS WITH CI

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Cochlear Implant International Day 2025

SUMMARY:

The evidence from this large global group of young people with CI in the survey, and from the focused conversations with them about the issues facing this pioneering group clearly points to the huge changes and new opportunities that cochlear implantation has brought to deaf children and young people. However, cochlear implantation has also raised new issues – the tensions of recognising deafness while functioning in a hearing society, and the ongoing task of challenging society's view of deafness to including a more diverse and inclusive view. This agenda highlights the changes that are still needed so that young people can make the most of the opportunities brought by this life changing technology.

Cochlear implantation involves the surgical placement of an internal receiver and wearing an external processor, which requires individual programming and maintenance, and has been proven effective and cost-effective (WHO, 2021).

FURTHER READING

Young People with CI Matter: Report (2024): clicanet.org/our-stories/young-adults-with-ci-matter-clicanet-new-report-to-share/
Young People with CI Matter: Briefing (2024): clicanet.org/our-stories/young-adults-with-ci-matter-clicanet-new-report-to-share/
For the conversations go to clicanet.org/our-stories/summaries-of-cica-conversations-young-adults/
Long-term study of the benefits of cochlear implants for young people;
Cejaz I, Barker DH, Petruzzello E, Saragoulis CM, Quinlan AL. Cochlear Implantation and Educational and Quality-of-Life Outcomes in Adolescents. JAMA Otolaryngol Head Neck Surg. 2023;149(8):708-715. doi:10.1001/jamaoto.2023.1327
Gordon KA, Papsin BC, Cushing SL. Long-term Language, Educational, and Quality-of-Life Outcomes in Adolescents After Childhood Cochlear Implantation. JAMA Otolaryngol Head Neck Surg. 2023;149(8):715-716. doi:10.1001/jamaoto.2023.1329
World Report on Hearing. WHO (2021). [who.int/publications/item/9789240020481](https://www.who.int/publications/item/9789240020481)

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YOUNG ADULTS WITH COCHLEAR IMPLANTS Our Agenda

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

YOUNG ADULTS WITH COCHLEAR IMPLANTS: A NEW CI STAKEHOLDER GROUP

Deafness from birth has a huge impact on the development of spoken language; over the past 30 years, cochlear implantation has, for the first time, enabled deaf infants and children to develop spoken language through hearing. Young deaf people are now able to access educational and employment opportunities which may not have been possible in the past.

Many who have received cochlear implants as children are now young adults - entering higher education, society and the world of work. They are a diverse group of young people, like any other group, but connected by common experiences:

"As part of a new generation of deaf people working and thriving in the hearing world this agenda exists to connect us to a wider community across the world."

However, the success of CI can hide the important adjustments and support that are still necessary to address their challenges communicating in noisy environments and large groups, managing their technology and the continuing lack of understanding of deafness in society.

Cochlear implantation has raised new issues – the tensions of recognising deafness while functioning in a hearing society, and challenging society's view of deafness to include a more diverse and inclusive view of deafness.

"CI has surely modernized the concept of hearing loss. CI give us life that we can't take for granted though you can forget you're even hard of hearing at first and you become more reliant with it."



We therefore need to:

- raise awareness of the unrecognised impact of deafness and hearing loss so that all can have the services they need
- promote the benefits of cochlear implantation for those who could benefit
- broaden the concept of deafness with greater representation of those with cochlear implants and spoken language in the media.

See the recommendations from young adults about CI services, accessibility and improving public awareness.



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.

“

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:

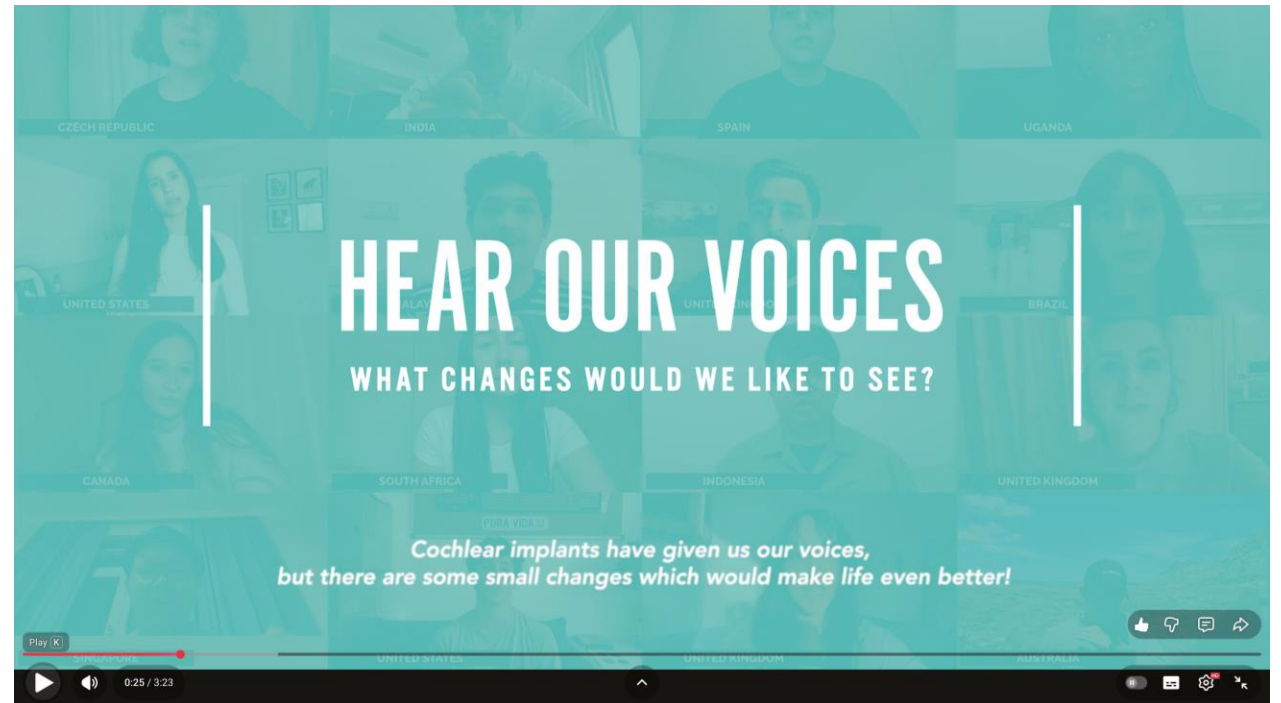
- Implementation of legislation for equal employment opportunities
- Ensuring the accessibility needs of young people are met by both employers and colleagues
- Provision of accessible meeting and work spaces
- Opportunities for the young people to develop confident self advocacy skills

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.







"The report was a really helpful tool when I started a new job this year, mainly in educating my colleagues in better understanding the kind of barriers I face and the reality of living with cochlear implants."

Holly, UK



"The CIICA agenda was a brilliant resource that helped me communicate my needs clearly and confidently with my university." **Gargi, UK**



"The work that CIICA does is valuable. With their video and briefing about International Cochlear Implant Day, I think the awareness of CI users and what they face is growing within the global hearing health industry and I hope it won't be too long before that awareness can enter the public consciousness too."

John, Australia



"My friends and friends of friends have shared on my behalf and have liked the posts and checked out the website and video! My former teacher who is a teacher for deaf kids saw my post and have shared."

Raquel, Canada



Marie promoted the briefing via the SUKI Instagram account, where doctors and other professionals follow their updates.

Marie, Czech Republic



Jana shared the Agenda For Change at the AICCV assembly in Spain.

Jana, Spain

Nehir – Education



I am a Youth Member of the Cochlear Implant Association Türkiye.

My name is Nehir Özdemir, I am 16 years old and I am both CI and ABI user.

Cochlear implantation changed my world.

My early years were filled with intensive education, rehabilitation, and of course my family's support.



I am 10th grade student. I attend a mainstream school.

I go to Bahçeşehir College Science High School and because of my success I have a scholarship.

- Good listening conditions,
- daily CI technology(fm system),
- individual education programs supported by specialist teachers, rehabilitation services, and also the valuable support of audiologists help me for my education life.
- And the best support from my family is very important and valuable for me.

I always studied very hard and it goes on.

I never give up.

I regularly review what I have learned. I can hardly hear for my daily life but with fm system at school I hear my teachers more clearly and also at noisy places such as park,outside,shopping mall when I use this technology.

Sometimes I have some difficulties for listening activities but with the help of captioning I can get over it.

Question from Qais



EDUCATION

COLLEGE/UNIVERSITY

WHAT CHANGES DO WE WANT TO SEE IN:

HEALTH

WORKPLACE

PUBLIC SPACES



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