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Legendary Australian actor, Garry McDonald talks to AudioClinic about hearing loss

Legendary Australian actor, [Garry McDonald](#), has played many roles on television, in the movies and on the stage - all to wide acclaim. But it was in real life, though that he may have encountered his greatest acting challenge — pretending he could hear what was going on around him! Garry talks to AudioClinic about his life before hearing aids, and the improvements since being fitted with them.

“I started to realise that I was avoiding dinner parties, or anywhere where there were a lot of people,” said Mr McDonald, “and I started to realise that when I was going to dinner, I just had a fixed smile on my face for most of the night because I didn’t know what was being said!”

In fact, it started getting embarrassing for Mr McDonald in both work and social situations.

“If someone's saying something and you're involved in the conversation, you might try and top them with some joke. Well, I started wondering why instead of getting the laughs that I expected, I was getting strange looks, until someone politely tapped me on the shoulder and told me, ‘Oh, Bob said the same thing a couple of minutes ago’. So then I realised I wasn’t hearing much at all,” said Mr McDonald.

“And I remember doing a mini-series a couple of years ago,” added Mr McDonald. “I had to come on set when Sam Neill said something or other and I just stood there, and in the end they all turned around and looked at me, because I hadn’t come on. I didn’t even hear the director yell ‘cut’. That’s obviously not real good. Looking back, Mr McDonald believes he had hearing loss for a couple of years before he realised it was a problem - but it was probably another two years after that before he did anything about it.

“I’m not sure why I put off seeing someone about it really,” said Mr McDonald. “I guess you don’t want to confront these things, and I think I was worried about having to wear



some big, ugly hearing aid or something. Luckily my wife nagged me a bit and said, 'why don't you do something about it, stop talking about it and do something about it'."

Around the same time, Mr McDonald met a woman who had a [hearing aid](#) and it was so tiny and unobtrusive, it made him realise how good the latest hearing aids were. So he talked to his GP, who recommended he go to his [local AudioClinic](#) for a [hearing test](#).

"I was a bit shocked when the Clinician said, 'Oh, you're really quite bad,' because, you know, I thought I was just sort of mildly hard of hearing!

But the people at AudioClinic were really good, very helpful. I'm very happy with my hearing aids. In fact, I've recommended AudioClinic to friends of mine," said Mr McDonald.

"Life's just so much easier now. Social situations are much easier and it's easier with work. You know, I don't have to keep on asking people to repeat themselves all the time. And going to the cinema is easier; going to the theatre is easier, much easier.

"Really, I can't believe I put it off for so long," said Mr McDonald. "I'd say to anyone struggling with their hearing, get your hearing checked — it's really annoying to people when you're so deaf!

"So if you want your marriage to be a bit smoother, get your hearing checked!"

To hear the full Garry McDonald story, visit www.audioclinic.com.au/garry

For further information on hearing health or to book a free hearing test visit www.audioclinic.com.au or freecall 1800 057 220.

About AudioClinic

[AudioClinic](#) is the leading private provider of hearing health solutions for Australian adults – with over 180 clinics across Australia.

Its success is founded on providing highly-professional service and the most technologically advanced solutions – including the very latest digital hearing aids, and advanced Bluetooth® (wireless) connectivity to mobile and fixed-line phones, TVs, MP3 Players, PCs and laptops

AudioClinic is accredited by the Federal Government's Office of [Hearing Services](#), to provide subsidised services to eligible Pensioners and Veterans.