**AUDIOLOGISTS and AUDIOMETRISTS – WHAT’S THE DIFFERENCE?**

**What does an audiologist do?**

Audiologists have broad responsibilities and expertise in all non-medical areas of hearing services.

They have training in anatomy and physiology, acoustics, psychophysics, neurology, counselling and sign language.

**What qualifications?**

Qualified audiologists have a 3 to 4 year full time undergraduate university degree with a 2 year Master’s postgraduate qualification in audiology and a minimum 12 months supervised graduate clinical internship in the workplace.

**What does an audiometrist do?**

Audiometrists are hearing care professionals who specialise in the non-medical assessment and management of communication difficulties caused by hearing loss.

This includes hearing aids, hearing protection (custom noise, musician and swim plugs), alternative listening devices, counselling and rehabilitation.

They conduct hearing tests to determine if a hearing loss is present, the nature and degree of any loss and how this may be impeding communication ability and quality of life. Rehabilitation often includes prescription of hearing aids.

**What qualifications?**

The minimum requirement to practice as an audiometrist is a 2 year TAFE Certificate 1V (4) in Audiometry (pre 2008) or the more recent Diploma of Hearing Device Prescription and Evaluation, plus a further 2 years training and supervision with a qualified practitioner.

They may then be considered fully qualified, provided they can prove they meet the highest industry standards of best practise and undertake continuing professional education over a set period of time.

(Extract from HQ -0 Aug-Nov 13.)