Bionic Ear Institute
Music and Pitch Project

Invitation to participate.

Thanks for your interest in our research. In this pack you will find a description of the project and all the information you need to take part. We are currently looking for people with normal hearing, with or without musical training, to participate in a study at the Bionic Ear Institute.

Introduction

The cochlear implant is a neural implant that provides auditory sensation to those who are profoundly deaf. The cochlear implant has been remarkably successful in restoring the perception of speech, however music perception and appreciation are still problematic for most implant users. For instance, with current devices, implant users have difficulty distinguishing between notes of different pitches, or notes played by different instruments.

The Music and Pitch project aims to understand how hearing aids and cochlear implants affect the perception of music, so that we can propose new training methods and devices to help the deaf and hearing-impaired enjoy music. This experiment aims to understand how different aspects of musical sounds contribute to the ability to perceive melodies. The experiment involves listening to some sounds and making a simple response depending on what you hear. The experiment is conducted at the Bionic Ear Institute in East Melbourne. It is run in two sessions, each about 90 minutes long. These sessions can be run in a single day, in which case we book one session in the morning, and the other session after a lunch break. You can also choose to come on two separate days.

We will reimburse you $20 for your travel expenses each time you visit. If you choose to book both sessions on the same day, we will also provide you with $20 to reimburse you for lunch costs.

Testing Procedures

The testing sessions are quite simple. You will be seated in a comfortable chair in front of a computer screen, a speaker, and a response box. Sounds will be played through the speaker and images will sometimes be displayed on the screen. Depending on the experiment, you will be asked to respond to the sound and images in various different ways. More detailed instructions will be given on the day. A staff member will control the experiment from an adjacent room. The testing session is broken into several blocks of no more than 5 minutes each. You will be able to rest as long as you like between blocks, and can stop the experiment at any time.

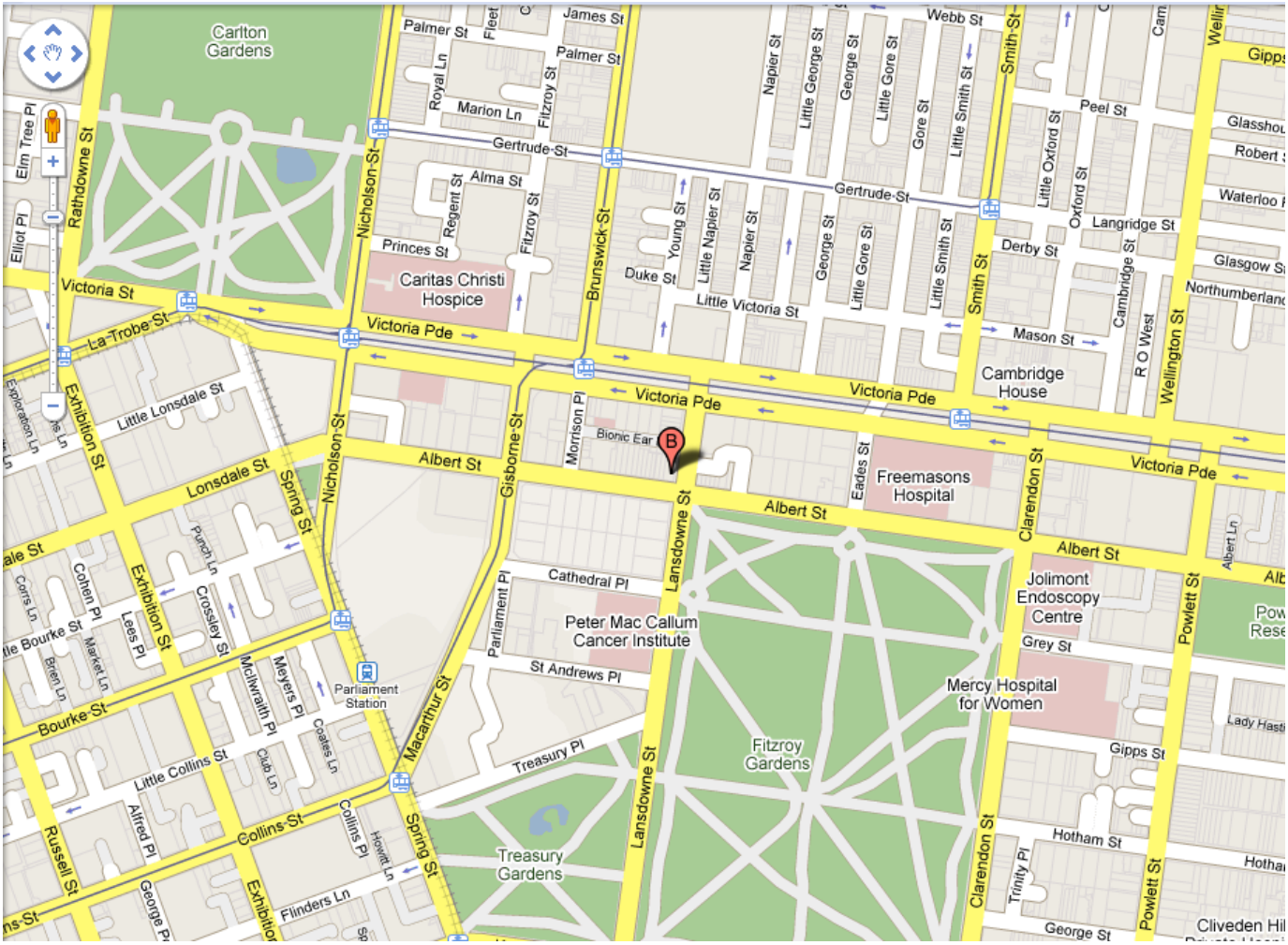
How to participate

If you're interested in taking part, please reply to hinnes-brown@bionicear.org or call 9667 7529, and we'll arrange an appointment.

The Bionic Ear Institute

Eye & Ear Hospital
caring in every sense

Where we are.



Address: 384-388 Albert Street
East Melbourne
VIC 3002

The Bionic Ear Institute is located in East Melbourne, on the corner of Lansdowne and Albert Streets. We are easily accessible by tram (Routes 86, 96, 109, 112, and city circle), bus and train (Parliament Station). Parking is available at the Institute, but must be arranged beforehand, please let us know if you wish to park here while the testing is being conducted.