

# Hazardous noise

## in the workplace



Excessive noise in the workplace causes

**16% of hearing loss<sup>1</sup>.**

If you need to raise your voice to talk to someone 1 metre away, the noise level is likely to be hazardous to your hearing.



in 2015-2020

**23,693**  
**workers'**  
**compensation claims**

were made in Australia for hearing loss

Of these claims:



**80%**  
came from trades, labourers, and machinery operators<sup>2</sup>



**97%**  
caused by long term exposure to hazardous noise<sup>2</sup>

Hearing loss is preventable by eliminating or reducing your exposure to hazardous noise levels<sup>3</sup>.

Some examples include:



**eliminate** the noise completely



**substitute**  
equipment to eliminate/reduce noise  
change work practices to reduce the noise level at the source



**isolate**  
the noise using barriers



**engineering controls**  
modify plant and processes to reduce the noise<sup>4</sup>



**administrative controls**  
limiting the time a worker spends near a noise source



**PPE**  
such as earmuffs or earplugs

<sup>1</sup>World Health Organisation

<sup>2</sup>Safe Work Australia (includes 2019-20 preliminary data which may change in future revisions)

<sup>3</sup>Workers must not be exposed to hazardous noise above 85 decibels (as an average) over eight hours. A noise level above 140 decibels can instantly damage hearing

<sup>4</sup>Appendix F of Model Code of Practice: Managing noise and preventing hearing loss at work