

From: [REDACTED]
To: [WorkCover WA New Act Consultation](#)
Subject: Consultation Paper 20; Noise Inducted Hearing Loss
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Consultation Paper 20 Noise Inducted Hearing Loss

WorkCover's WA plans to stop educating and providing baseline hearing testing for workers exposed to loud and noisily work environments, is short sighted in the provision of safe work conditions for Western Australian workers. Loud work environments are still there having a detrimental effect on health of workers and families' lives. This fact has been well studied and documented over countless research studies by people studying the health of the working population. Please do not ignore the need to provide a safer work environment for Western Australian workers.

The introduction of hearing testing during 1980-90's was good result to provide a better long-term outcome for families to reduce suffering from close to deaf family members returning from lifelong work.

WorkCover WA need to put in a sensible and targeted and detailed hearing loss education protocol in place and only conduct Baseline and retirement tests, so that all the workers in heavy and loud industry still have hearing level assessments conducted at each end of their working life so compensation can be assessed at retirement. Better knowledge about constant and loud noise and personal hearing loss needs to be shared with workers exposed to noise in the workplace.

WorkCover's WA decision to suddenly stop recording baseline audio tests will remove the 2 key steps of, firstly recording a baseline threshold level for each individual worker, allowing true assessment of hearing loss suffered due to industry noise, and more importantly testing and explaining the results to educate young workers of the hearing damage caused by loud work environments.

WorkCover WA needs to be proactive to guide industry to a healthy workplace environment and mandatory education of the affects of loud noise needs to be shared with working people, If done correctly by the registered audiometric officers educating and conducting baseline and retirement hearing tests, totalling 2 only for each worker. Removing the subsequent tests will be a cheaper and sensible win for industry than what is currently in place.

Most Companies have Health & Safety Officers supported by onsite committees driving the process of all thing's health and safety relevant to each enterprise. To cancel the requirement of Audio Testing on all noisily sites is a slap the face of tradespeople hoping to retire gracefully without losing human communication connections with family and friends because of industrial deafness.

Regards

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