

Work Well Speaker Series 2023



Controlling noise in the workplace

Marion Burgess AM

Abstract

In this presentation Marion discussed the effects of high noise exposure and why it is essential to manage and protect workers from excessive noise. As noise induced hearing loss is a preventable injury, Marion also outlined the advances in noise control measures that can be implemented in workplaces.

Key takeaways

Over a period of time high noise exposure will lead to hearing damage which is not reversible – it occurs gradually and is not noticed until it's too late.

Employers have an obligation to identify high-risk noise areas and take actions to reduce noise exposure. Hearing damage is preventable with an effective noise management program. Employers can implement the program by using the hierarchy of control where you would:

1. Reduce the noise at the source first.
2. Reduce the noise reaching the worker – distance, enclosures etc. – and the time of exposure.
3. Use personal hearing protection (last resort).
4. Implement education and hearing checks as part of overall noise management.

Recommended resources

- [Managing noise and preventing hearing loss at work Code of Practice \(Workplace Health and Safety, Queensland\)](#)
- [Noise fact sheets \(Workplace Health and Safety Queensland\)](#)
- [Audio and video demonstration of noise induced hearing loss](#)

Visit [WorkSafe.qld.gov.au](https://www.worksafe.qld.gov.au) for resources, tools and support.



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