



**HEARING  
AWARENESS  
WEEK  
23-29 AUGUST**

**ACCESS  
At work**

Proudly brought to you by  
AudioClinic – our Platinum Sponsor



[www.audioclinic.com.au](http://www.audioclinic.com.au)

In Australia, hearing loss is more prevalent than all national health priorities except musculoskeletal conditions. This means hearing loss is more common than cardiovascular disease, diabetes mellitus, asthma, cancer and mental health. <sup>1</sup>

**ONE IN SIX AUSTRALIANS have a hearing impairment**

There are many ways you can continue to participate in the workplace when you have a hearing impairment.

Often others won't realise that you can't hear them. Explain to them that you are hard of hearing, hearing impaired, deaf, - whatever terminology you prefer personally – and ask work colleagues or clients to face you and speak clearly.

Some hearing aids are so tiny that other people may not even notice them.

Cochlear implants might not be noticed – they may be covered by hair, or a hat.

Sometimes people think you are “not listening” when in fact you haven't heard them.

People might think you are “rude” or uncommunicative.

Australian businesses are installing more and more assistive listening systems (ALS) in public areas.

Ask whether the room you are in has a hearing loop, and use the T-switch on your hearing aid to assist you to hear better.

Special telephone, door and smoke alerts are available through Workplace Modifications Scheme which can be accessed by your employer.

Ask your employer to provide an Auslan interpreter for meetings and events if you need one. Your employer may be able to get government assistance with this.

Poorly managed hearing loss can lead to early retirement, social isolation

If you think you have a hearing loss, see your doctor. They may refer you to a specialist in diseases of the ear nose and throat, or to an audiologist who will perform a hearing test to assess the type and degree of your loss

During Hearing Awareness Week, many audiology clinics will be offering free hearing checks.

Visit the Event calendar at [www.hearingawarenessweek.org.au](http://www.hearingawarenessweek.org.au) to find out what is happening near you.





# HEARING AWARENESS WEEK 23-29 AUGUST

**ACCESS  
At work**

## Gold Sponsors



[www.aceinfo.net.au](http://www.aceinfo.net.au)



[www.hcia.com.au](http://www.hcia.com.au)

## Proud Supporters



[www.cochlear.com.au](http://www.cochlear.com.au)



[www.widex.com.au](http://www.widex.com.au)



[www.hearing.com.au](http://www.hearing.com.au)

## Background information

If someone can't hear you because of their deafness, then shouting won't make any difference.

Some people use lip reading, and shouting distorts the lips and makes it harder for the person to understand you.

Shouting can also be a breach of privacy

Make sure you face the person when you are speaking, don't hold your hand over your mouth, or look away.

In 2005 it was estimated that 3.55 million Australians had some form of hearing loss.

- Children (0-14 years) – 10,268
- Adults (15 years and over) - 3,534,963 of that 49.5% were of working age (15-64 years) and 64% of people were over 60 years with 37% aged 70 years or more.<sup>1</sup>

People often wait 7-10 years before they seek help for their hearing (from when they first notice).

Men have a higher incidence of hearing loss than women, particularly older men, mainly due to noise exposure in the workplace and war service.

The number of Australians with a hearing loss is increasing because of noise injury; accidents; the environment; the ageing of the Australian population. Family history and other factors can also lead to hearing impairment, e.g. being male, having diabetes, and being a smoker.

Visit your local consumer organisation to get information and practical assistance to learn how to cope with your hearing loss. Organisations such as Better Hearing Australia, Self-help for Hard of Hearing (SHHH) and Deaf Societies are all places where you can get assistance, and there are many more. For further details see

<http://www.deafnessforum.org.au/links.htm#consumer>

<sup>1</sup> Access Economics 2006 Listen Hear! The economic cost and impact of hearing loss in Australia