



Coordinated nationally by Deafness Forum

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MEDIA RELEASE

218 Northbourne Avenue
BRADDON ACT 2612
Tel: 02 6262 7808
TTY: 02 6262 7809
Fax: 02 6262 7810

E-mail: info@deafnessforum.org.au
Website: www.deafnessforum.org.au

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Hearing Awareness Week 23-29 August 2009

At Home, At Work, At Play

Hearing loss affects one in six Australians

And the number keeps growing through people continuing to put their hearing at risk **At Home, At Work** and **At Play**. Hearing loss caused by noise injury is still the most common form of preventable hearing loss.

At Home

Avoid giving excessively noisy toys to children – their hearing is precious.
Make sure you use proper ear protection when using noisy gardening tools for any length of time.

At Work

Use protective ear wear provided in noisy workplaces.
Arrange a hearing test as a part of your regular health check.

At Play

Get better ear buds for your MP3 player so the volume doesn't need to be all the way up to 11.

3.55 million Australians live with some form of hearing loss. Hearing Awareness Week aims to raise awareness, so that people who are Deaf or hearing impaired or with a chronic disorder of the ear experience greater acceptance and better access.

During the week, around the country there will be many opportunities to find out how well you are hearing.

Visit the Hearing Awareness Week website www.hearingawarenessweek.org.au for more events.

Hearing Awareness Week 2009 is made possible through the generous sponsorship of

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Quick Facts about deafness

1. One in six Australians has some form of hearing impairment – that's 3.55 million people
Deafness is one of the most common disabilities worldwide.
2. Treat your hearing with care.
Noise injury is the single most common cause of hearing loss. 37% of hearing loss is due to noise injury¹. That means it could have been prevented.
3. Captions help people who are Deaf or have hearing loss to understand and follow the soundtrack.
Captioning ensures that everyone has the ability to access broadcast messages. Captions differ from subtitles, which translate from one language to another.
4. Tinnitus is a constant ringing or other noise in your ears, when no such sound physically exists.

About Deafness Forum of Australia

Deafness Forum is a national peak body for people who are Deaf, have a hearing impairment or chronic disorder of the ear. Deafness Forum is the national coordinating body for Hearing Awareness Week.

For an interview or further comment please send an email to info@deafnessforum.org.au

¹ "The economic cost and impact of hearing loss in Australia" Access Economics 2006