



# HEARING AWARENESS WEEK

at work

ONE IN SIX AUSTRALIANS have a hearing impairment

23 - 29 AUGUST 2009

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One in six Australians has some form of hearing impairment. 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>

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

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[www.hearingawarenessweek.org.au](http://www.hearingawarenessweek.org.au)

## at work

Wear hearing protection in noisy work areas, even if the noise only lasts for a short time. Talk with your OH&S Officer about making your workplace quieter. Your employer must provide you with a safe working environment and this means noise injury as well.

Consider noise levels when purchasing plant or equipment.

Have your hearing tested regularly.

prevention



## at work

The National Relay Service (NRS) is a phone service for people who are Deaf or have a hearing impairment. You can also use Internet Relay on your computer.

Assistive listening systems such as hearing loops, infrared and FM systems are now fitted into many venues and businesses. Always ask if the meeting room has one. A portable loop could be purchased by your employer.

Hearing aids, cochlear implants and Auslan (Australian sign language) are all ways you can improve communication if you are Deaf or have a hearing impairment.

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

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

access

