

Hearing Conservation Program

Education Queensland has reviewed the noise management procedures and the strategies used to reduce the exposure of staff to excessive levels of noise. As a result of this review a Hearing Conservation Program in line with workplace health and safety guidelines for our most at risk employees was instituted.

The program involves:

- A hearing test conducted every 5 years for all Manual Arts/ITD Teachers;
- A hearing test conducted every 5 years for all Manual Arts/ITD Teacher Aides; and
- A hearing test conducted every 2 years and the provision of specialised Musician's Earplugs for all Instrumental Music Teachers.

Schools were provided with funding through a Gaps Payment in April 2009 to cover the cost of the hearing assessment for their staff in these three groups. Where applicable, regional areas were provided funds to cover costs associated with travelling to the hearing clinic.

Staff in these three employee groups were advised to have their hearing assessment completed by the end of the 2009 school year.

There are still staff that have not had this mandatory test undertaken.

Actions:

- **Please ensure your eligible staff have this mandatory hearing test ASAP (by the end of Term 3, 2010). Staff need to contact Connect Hearing (ph: 3832 4541) to organise their hearing test.**
- **If you have *new* staff that are in these three employee groups who have not received their hearing assessment, please contact Bronwyn Goopy via email (see below) from the Organisational Health Unit to arrange their hearing assessment.**
- **If you were allocated funds for a staff member that has since left your school these funds will be recouped by the Organisational Health Unit.**

For further information regarding the Education Queensland Hearing Conservation Program please contact Bronwyn Goopy: bronwyn.goopy@deta.qld.gov.au