

Industrial Deafness
is the most common
injury suffered by
workers in Australia.

**Turner
Freeman**
LAWYERS

I felt comfortable
right from the very start.
I never had to ring up to
ask “what’s happening?”
In fact, it was a fairly easy,
progressive thing. It was
a painless exercise.

Neville

People are often exposed to loud noise at work from machinery and other equipment. There are many different occupations which can expose workers to noise levels loud enough to cause hearing loss. Hearing protection, such as earmuffs and earplugs, are not always effective in protecting people against loud noise, often over a long period of time.

Industrial deafness causes problems for people communicating and hearing in their day-to-day lives. People often have difficulty hearing when there is a lot of background noise. Many people also suffer from tinnitus, which presents as a high-pitch ringing in the ears. Unfortunately, the damage caused by loud noise is permanent and irreversible. The only 'treatment' available is hearing aids.

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Types of compensation

A worker may be eligible for the following types of compensation, depending on the degree of their industrial deafness:

- Lump sum compensation – which is calculated by reference to the level of hearing loss.
- Digital hearing aids – which are recommended by trained Audiologists taking into account the specific type of hearing loss and your personal circumstances.

How to claim

The claims process can be very technical and tricky to navigate. The process involves determining the causes of the hearing loss from the employment history and identifying the last noisy employer. The claim will also need to be supported by a specialist doctor. We will arrange for your hearing to be tested by an ear, nose and throat specialist.

What are the costs involved?

Because industrial deafness claims are a workers compensation claim, many injured workers are entitled to have their legal costs funded by the Workers Compensation Independent Review Office (WIRO). Once this funding is received, there are no costs payable by you.

In any other claims where funding is not available, Turner Freeman will act on a "no win, no fee" basis.

