

INDIVIDUAL SUBMISSION into the state of Hearing Health in Australia.

- **Currently there are one-in-6 Australians who have a hearing loss. This tragic figure is projected to become one-in-4 by 2050.**
- To prevent this alarming prediction becoming a reality, the Government has to **ACT NOW!** There needs to be a nation-wide campaign about Noise Injury
- Noise Injury contributes to 37% of all hearing loss and this is PREVENTABLE!
- ACT NOW to prevent this happening with a nation-wide noise injury campaign!

- People with a hearing loss are undervalued, under-appreciated and are unnoticed! Hearing loss is the worst disability to have because it is NOT VISUAL and therefore is extremely difficult to understand.

- People who are life-long members of Australian Hearing need support after they turn 21 years of age. These people are in the working age group and many cannot afford to purchase new hearing-aids for themselves.

- It makes ECONOMIC SENSE to keep people in the workforce. People who cannot afford to purchase new hearing-aids for themselves have no hope of attaining a good paying job and end up being dependent on Government assistance. This is NOT living. This is a LIFE WASTED!

- Babies and Children with a hearing loss or deafness must be supported with hearing-aids and Cochlear implants. This gives them the best chance of acquiring skills for successful living. The Government must continue to support this measure.

- Deafness is NOT a life to be proud of. People who are part of the Signing Deaf community completely rely on having interpreters ALL their life! This is not living. This is a life of dependence. This is NOT empowerment, this is terribly disabling!

- Signing Deaf people are the most disadvantaged people group in our Country.

- Deafness must be avoided at all costs.

- **Media** Access is an issue for people who can't hear. Everyone deserves equality to all forms of Media

- This includes captioning access to all entertainment, public events, DVDs/videos, ALL television programs (whether FTA or PayTV) and captioning access to internet media.

- Standards Australia MUST make mandatory requirement for induction audio loops in ALL premises. For FAR TOO LONG hearing-impaired people have been excluded in many public events held in public venues and this needs to change NOW!
- The Government needs to be aware that people with a hearing loss **are** people WORTH investing in. They contribute greatly to society in many ways. Many of them have jobs, have families and children, play sport, are creative, travel, and contribute in numerous voluntary roles to the benefit of making Australia a better place to live in.
- **It's time for the Australian Government to recognise the rights of people with a hearing loss and DO SOMETHING ABOUT IT!**