

Hi

Sorry its late but this consultation has not got out to people that have a hearing loss. I have had to go and look for it.

If I had known I could have put it out to our networks across the state.

**It annoys me because my whole life is affected, ALL the time. Information, relationships, social interaction/work and me how I view myself and how I feel.**

- ✘ What annoys me about others view of hearing loss is that its MY fault
- ✘ What annoys me about my hearing loss is that others don't know about it, when they do they assume because I have a hearing aid they don't need to do anything to assist communication at all.
- ✘ Having a hearing loss has meant that I can't work in my trained and experienced field therefore I have a lower paid job.
- ✘ It means that I don't get information that others do and this affects my work. I am seen of as dumb, someone who others must clearly explain things to but only when I ask. I am seen as a liability as I take up too much time asking questions, ( to get the information)
- ✘ If I complain I am seen as one of those people with a disability who has a chip on their shoulder.
- ✘ It annoys me as I don't enjoy things as much . music is dull, going out is too much noise, eating and communicating / socializing in cafes is difficult, I miss the birds and the sound of the sea
- ✘ Hearing loss effects my relationships and puts strains on family ones.
- ✘ Hearing loss annoys me because I have come to like my own company, like having stress free days where I don't have to wear my aids, like having days where I don't have to talk to people or interact and I know that this is not good for my wellbeing . My family and others don't understand that sometimes thiis is what I need especially after concentrating and communicating all day at work.

**What really annoys me in working in the area is that so many people with a hearing loss don't know about it ,don't do anything about it and therefore don't push for any change.** One in six is the stategistic but I can only get twelve people to support groups out of a population of Warrnambool Hamilton and Portland. 60,000 -70,000 people

I try to work with organizations to change but when they do no one uses the services. The hearing impaired don't know what a loop is and what it can do for them, people accept hearing loss as inevitable and then just let it take over. They become withdrawn and socially isolated but just accept it. They become hard to connect with due to their hearing loss but also as they don't see they have an issue.... It is just what happens to you when you get older. They become hard to connect with and don't become advocates for themselves or work towards change.

I could write a whole paper on this issue.

Regards erica

Could you please contact me or send a copy of what the outlines of the submissions and recommendations. I would also be happy to provide either further written feedback or verbal

*Erica Smith*