

# What you need to know

## Hearing loss in the workplace



**Hearing loss, also known as *industrial deafness*, is a genuine condition that affects many workers in construction, manufacturing, industrial, aviation and transport industries. Once someone has permanent hearing loss, there is no cure.**

Our members often ask “Why do I need a lawyer to assist with my claim for industrial deafness?”, and while there is no legal obligation to engage a lawyer, there are plenty of benefits in doing so. Below are the most commonly asked questions about starting a claim for hearing loss.

### 1 Is it a waste of money to engage a lawyer in a hearing loss claim?

No. Many members obtain a much better financial outcome from the claims process by having a lawyer assist them with their claim. Maurice Blackburn’s specialist lawyers know which factors can increase a member’s offer of compensation and can guide our members in the process.

### 2 What benefits do members receive?

Members receive a free initial consultation with a hearing loss expert to explain all the advice and information needed for a successful claim for industrial deafness.

**Maurice Blackburn can arrange a referral to a hearing partner who can provide a pre-claim audiologist hearing assessment.**

The hearing test will determine the level of hearing loss, so that members know if they meet the required criteria before starting a claim, and so that they are accurately compensated.

### 3 What medical evidence is needed?

Once the hearing test results are received, Maurice Blackburn will work with members to obtain all the medical evidence needed, and they won’t need to obtain anything independently.

Maurice Blackburn will provide expert advice and interpretation of all medical reports required for the claim, and can provide guidance and advice in relation to these assessments to ensure that any additional testing carried out by the insurer is fair and reasonable.

### 4 Will the claim take longer if a lawyer is involved?

No, and in fact, having a lawyer may make the claim quicker. Once a lump sum claim is lodged, the Insurer has 120 days to determine whether a claim should be accepted and the determination of impairment.

Maurice Blackburn can ensure there are no lengthy delays caused by insufficient evidence or information. Maurice Blackburn will ensure that medical appointments and re-assessments are carried out as quickly as possible.

### 5 How much compensation could members be eligible for?

This depends on the level of hearing loss, but it can be anywhere from \$19,000. Maurice Blackburn will help estimate the likely amount of compensation for members at the beginning of their claim.

Maurice Blackburn can also assist with helping workers access hearing aids or specialised protective equipment.

## 6 What if the employer says a lawyer isn't required?

Always seek legal advice, because it doesn't cost members a cent to find out their legal rights. Most people are unaware that they have not been properly compensated for their hearing loss.

**The experience and expertise of Maurice Blackburn's lawyers is what is so important in ensuring our members get the best possible outcome.**

Maurice Blackburn can liaise directly with the insurer, meaning members won't be misled into taking a lesser amount than they deserve.

## 7 A member has tried submitting their own claim, and it's been unsuccessful. Can Maurice Blackburn help?

In most cases, yes. If a member has tried submitting their own claim, and has been unsuccessful in having the claim accepted by the insurer, Maurice Blackburn can help with alternative legal options and pathways, or by appealing the decision on their behalf.

If a member believes that they have not been fairly compensated for their hearing loss, Maurice Blackburn can provide advice and guidance in relation to their options for reassessment and the best ways to obtain a fair and favourable outcome.

<b>Our Victorian offices</b>	<b>Melbourne</b>	03 9605 2700	<b>Mildura</b>	03 5018 4000	<b>Visiting offices</b>  Visit our website or call 1800 810 812 to find your nearest office.  We also offer online consultations and in most cases we can come to you.
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