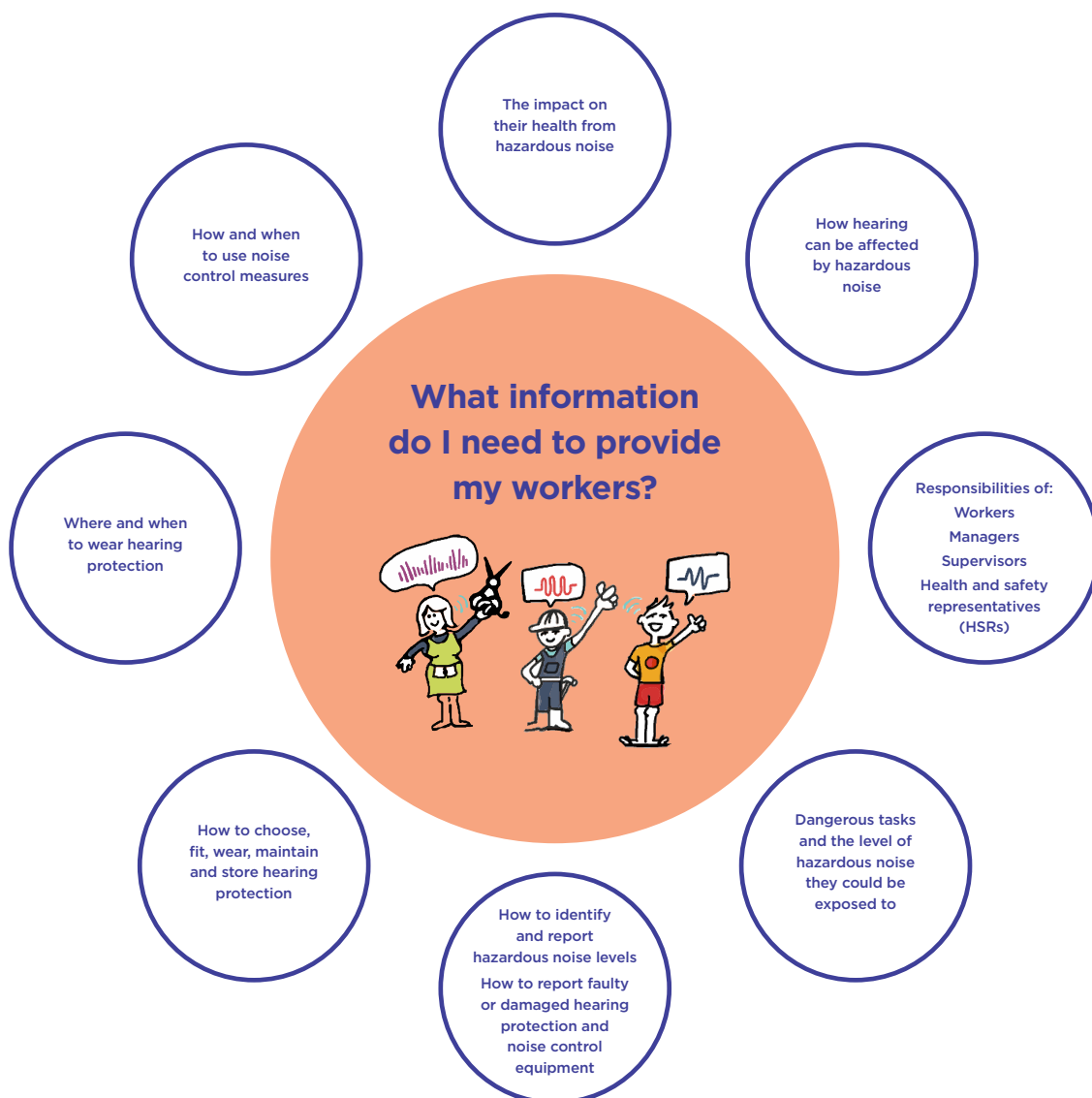


TRAINING

You must make sure that workers receive the information, training, instruction or supervision they need to protect themselves from hazardous noise. Workers must be able to understand what you are telling them.

What information do you need to provide your workers?



Who needs training?

Training should be provided to:

- workers who may be exposed to hazardous noise or ototoxic substances (chemicals that could damage their hearing)
- workers who supervise others working in noisy areas
- HSRs (if you have them)
- the people responsible for buying equipment or machinery which may create hazardous noise, and for the design, organisation and layout of the workplace.

How much do your workers already know about noise induced hearing loss?

Training should be tailored and fit for purpose.

Think about:

- if your workers have previous experience working in environments where they were exposed to hazardous noise
- if your workers have received any training in the proper use and maintenance of hearing protection, or whether they are new/inexperienced
- your workers' age, their first language, current disabilities and any cultural differences
- how you will support your workers to demonstrate using and wearing hearing protection correctly
- how you could provide daily reminders of safe work practices (eg posters, toolbox meetings, signs).

Why is training important?

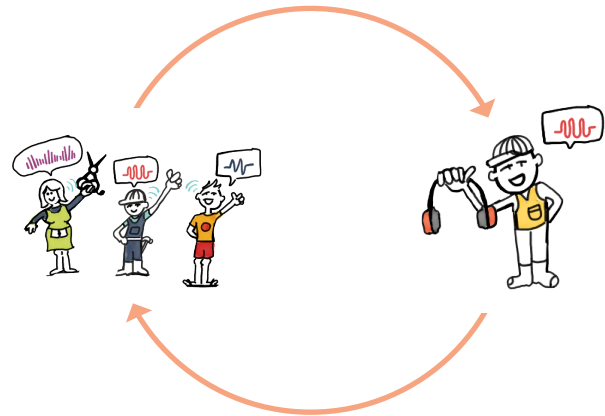
Regular and ongoing education for workers can help to support their understanding on the importance of looking after their hearing. If workers understand how noise can be harmful, and how to manage the risks of noise, they are more likely to protect their hearing in and out of work.

You can help your workers to protect their hearing at work by:

- providing ongoing health and safety training
- checking how much your workers already know about looking after their hearing
- making sure your workers are not exposed to noise levels equivalent to 85 dB(A) over 8 hours, or sudden 'impact' noises, such as heavy loads being dropped
- making sure noise is always on the safe site or hazard board

- having a health and safety agenda item in your weekly team meetings or stand ups. This will give workers the chance to bring up any issues regarding harmful noise levels, or concerns about their own hearing
- providing information on how to look after their hearing
- making sure your workers know how to make suggestions to improve noise control measures, ask questions, or raise concerns.

Remember, training is most effective when it addresses workers' attitudes and behaviours.



How can you set up good hearing practices in your work?

The best way to prevent noise induced hearing loss is to create a work environment that promotes good hearing. Engage and involve your workers to describe and set up safe noise practices at work. This means you and your workers will:

- know how to identify potential hazardous noises and how to report them
- understand that hearing loss is permanent
- describe and share any issues, and receive feedback on managing and addressing noise related hazards
- plan together to control noise on site before a project starts. Consider how you will reduce noise at your work over the long term (eg by replacing noisy equipment with quieter equipment).

For more information on how to do this, see the [Managing noise risks](#) section of our website.