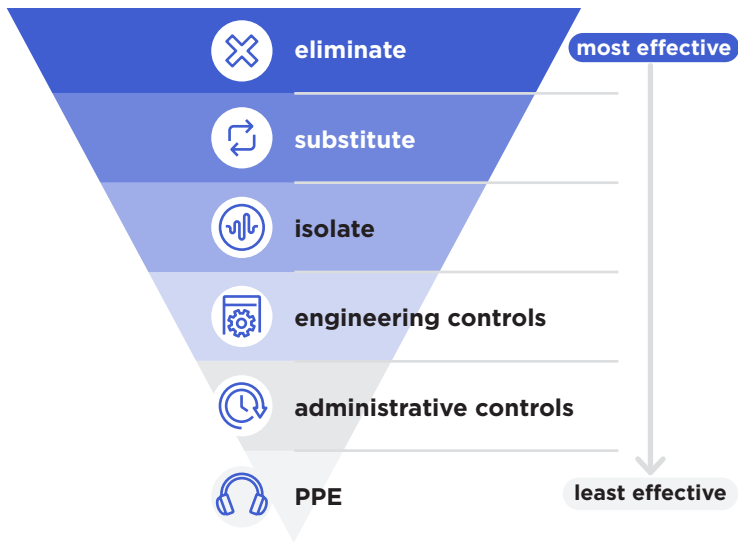




# Keep the noise down!

As a PCBU, you have a duty to eliminate or minimise the risks of noise-induced hearing loss using the hierarchy of controls.

## Hierarchy of controls



### Ask yourself:



#### Elimination

Does the task need to be done?



#### Substitution

Is there another way to do the task which makes less noise?

Can you substitute noisy machinery with quieter options?



#### Isolation

Can you create separated space/s for, enclose, or move noisy equipment away from workers?

Can you automate noisy machinery, or operate it remotely so workers are not exposed to the noise?



#### Engineering Controls

If the noise source cannot be separated from workers, can you soundproof work areas or use insulation to reduce noise?

Can you check and maintain machinery to make sure it is not making unnecessary noise?

Can the equipment or its parts be made from materials that make less noise?



#### Administrative Controls

Can you reduce the number of workers who may be exposed to noise?

Can you minimise the time workers spend in noisy spaces?

Can you provide advance notice when noisy tasks are scheduled so workers can limit exposure?

Can you provide quiet areas for rest breaks for workers exposed to noise?



#### PPE

After applying all other controls, consider if workers need to wear personal hearing protection.

What hearing protection do people need to work safely?

- It must be fit for purpose and protect the worker from noise
- It must be a suitable size and fit and reasonably comfortable for the worker
- It must be maintained, repaired or replaced so that it remains effective
- Workers must be trained in how to effectively use it
- It must be worn correctly.



#### Scan the QR code

Find out more on the Safe Work Australia website:  
[swa.gov.au/safety-topic/hazards/noise](https://swa.gov.au/safety-topic/hazards/noise)