



Compensation
Law Experts

Industrial Deafness Claims



**Industrial Deafness Claims with
WorkCover Queensland**

- Basic Requirements/Eligibility
- Time Limits
- Audiology Assessments
- WorkCover Claims Process
- Lump Sum Offers
- Hearing Aids & Devices
- Legal Costs
- The vbr Lawyers Team & Difference
- No Win - No Fee Guarantee

Basic Requirements/ Entitlements

To be able to make a claim for industrial deafness in Queensland, you need to satisfy the following requirements.

- You need to be employed, temporarily unemployed or within 12 months of your formal retirement from the workforce,
- You need to have hearing loss of at least 5%,
- You need to have a history of significant workplace noise exposure in Queensland as a worker for wages; and
- Further or additional claims for industrial deafness are possible after the first claim has been accepted and after the expiration of three years.

Time Limits

There are no particular time limits for being able to make a claim other than within one year of your formal retirement from the workforce.

If you have previously made a successful claim for industrial deafness with WorkCover, you are not able to make a further claim for 3 years. Further or additional claims are possible if you have suffered more than 1% of additional hearing loss.

Audiology Assessments

To determine whether or not you have a viable claim, we will refer you to an audiologist with whom we have confidence for an audiology assessment.

When we receive the audiology assessment, we will then be able to advise you if you have a viable claim to pursue.

WorkCover Claims Process

Once we have established that you have a viable claim, we will then offer to act for you on a speculative or “No Win - No Fee” basis.

We need to then prepare a comprehensive statutory declaration on your behalf to explain your past work history, your past exposure to noisy workplace environments, complete the necessary claim form to WorkCover, and a workers compensation medical certificate.

Lump Sum Offers

If your claim is accepted by WorkCover and if your hearing loss is more than 5%, you will be entitled to receive an offer of lump compensation.

The WorkCover legislation requires WorkCover to deduct the first 5% of your hearing loss from the value of your claim. For example, if your hearing loss is 20%, you will be compensated on the basis of a 15% hearing loss which will equate to a lump sum offer of approximately \$21,000.00

Hearing Aids & Devices

If you are suffering from industrial deafness/hearing loss, you may require hearing aids. Unfortunately, WorkCover does not fund hearing aids. The funding of any hearing aids will need to be paid from your lump sum award. With our preferred audiology service provider, affordable hearing aids can be purchased for between \$5,000.00 to \$10,000.00. Our preferred service provider can also help our clients to maintain and service their hearing aids so that they can last for a long time.

Legal Costs

Consistent with our reputation of providing high quality legal service at very reasonable rates, we offer our clients a very competitive and an industry leading 25% cap on professional fees.

Our approach to legal costs ensures that no matter what the outcome is, our clients will always receive the bulk or the majority of any lump sum compensation outcome.

If we agree to act for you and to pursue your claim, we will also agree to act on a speculative or “No Win - No Fee” basis.

The vbr Lawyers Team

Greg Black, John Vandeleur and Zach Samuels are the senior practitioners at vbr Lawyers who handle all of our clients' industrial deafness claims.

Greg and John are two of the founding legal practitioner directors of vbr Lawyers and Zach Samuels is a Senior Associate of the firm.

John, Greg and Zach have been working together for many years and have experience and expertise in industrial deafness claims which have made them experts and market leaders in this area of workers' compensation.

vbr Lawyers “No Win - No Fee” Guarantee

After investigating the claim and at no obligation, if vbr Lawyers are optimistic about prospects of success and that the claim is economically viable to pursue, vbr Lawyers will agree to take on the matter on a speculative or “No Win - No Fee” basis which simply means that vbr Lawyers will be paid a reasonable fee at the end and only at the end of the claim and only if it is successful.



■ Brisbane

a. 6/661 Oxley Road
Corinda QLD 4075
t. (07) 3379 2513 f. (07) 3278 4103

■ Gold Coast

a. 56/1 Arbour Avenue
Robina QLD 4225
t. (07) 5593 2122 f. (07) 5593 8445

■ Ipswich

a. 16 East Street
Ipswich QLD 4305
t. (07) 3379 2513 f. (07) 3278 4103

