

AUSTRALASIAN FACULTY OF OCCUPATIONAL MEDICINE

**NOTICE OF HUNTER REGION
OCCUPATIONAL PHYSICIAN
TRAINEE MEETING**

DATE: 28th October 2004

**VENUE: Health Services Australia
13 Darby Street
Newcastle**

TIME: 4.30 pm – 5.45 pm

CHAIR: Dr. Paul Niall

**TOPIC: *Hearing and Work*
(see attached trainee questions)**

To be followed by the Hunter Region Occupational Health Scientific Meeting at the Case Study Theatre David Maddison Building - All disciplines welcome

Enquiries: email Dr. Harden on huntim@bigpond.com or tel: 0407388292

MOPS/CME points

Attended by:.....

Confirmed By:.....

Date:..... **Category:**..... **Points:**.....

Questions for Trainee A

What is the Decibel?

Why is it used in hearing science?

What do these suffixes mean: dB_{SPL} , dB_{HL} , dB_{SL} , dB (A) , dB_{apple} ?

A worker's hearing threshold at 3 kHz is worse in the left ear compared with the right. Is it strictly correct to say the threshold is worse by 30 dB, $30 \text{ dB}_{\text{SPL}}$, $30 \text{ dB}_{\text{HL}}$, $30 \text{ dB}_{\text{SL}}$, 30 dB(A) , or $30 \text{ dB}_{\text{apple}}$?

or more than one of the above?;

or none of the above?;

Why?

Two identical radios sit immediately next to each other. One is putting out Radio National at an intensity of 60 dB(C) according to the sound level meter. The other is switched on to 2WS at the same volume setting. What does the sound level meter now read?

Why?

Questions for Trainee B

Give reasons why the "real-world" attenuation of hearing protectors (muffs/plugs) may be less than the quoted laboratory test values.

What is better to use - ear muffs or ear plugs?

Why?

What is overprotection? Does it matter?

Briefly explain the single number rating which appears on the ear plug wrapper.