Hang onto your hearing

It is a common misconception that hearing loss is an issue that is usually only faced by older people. However, hearing loss is certainly a huge issue for younger people.

The World Health Organisation reported that half of 12-35 year olds on the planet – over a billion people – are at risk of hearing loss because of over-exposure to loud sounds.

In Australia, there were about 3.6 million young people with hearing loss in 2017. According to Deloitte Access Economics, this figure will double in 40 years.

Many people included in this startling figure are going to be today's kids, teens and young adults who spend extended time on headphones, listening to loud music or playing games.

Once hearing is gone, it's really gone. However, steps can be taken to prevent hearing from getting worse.

To give context to just how loud we can unwittingly turn up a device's volume when they're already in a noisy environment such as a train, construction site, or loud crowd, try listening to the same volume level in a quiet room.

It's very, very loud, and that noise is literally hurting your ears.

Try to limit the volume that you and your kids listen to music, watch television or play games at, whether it be through headphones or speakers.

Reducing background noise will make it easier for you to hear the audio you wish to listen to without needing to crank up the volume.

Noise-induced hearing loss is accumulative, so it can creep up on someone before they either notice or acknowledge it.

People around will notice a young person's 'deafness', often attributing it to inattention or just a quirk.

But it's very real and it may be happening right now. Check your own volume or have a chat with kids and friends, otherwise they might wind up with hearing aids long before their senior years.

For more information, visit www.hearing.com.au.

Steps can be taken to prevent hearing loss in young people. Picture: ISTOCK

The Victorian government backs our future farmers

The Victorian government is backing secondary schools across the state to support more students with ambitions to embark on a career in agriculture.

Agriculture Minister Mary-Anne Thomas says the government is supporting educators to deliver new programs for students through the $5.5 million Secondary Schools Agriculture Fund.

The program is part of the government's $30 million Future Agriculture Skills Capacity Fund, delivered by Agriculture Victoria in partnership with the Department of Education and Training, to support TAFEs and other education and training providers to develop students' skills and carve pathways into agriculture.

The Secondary Schools Agriculture Fund will help Victoria meet the demands of its growing farm, food and fibre sector, which needs more workers with digital, IT, business and marketing skills, plus food and fibre entrepreneurs who can take products to international markets.

Some $4.5 million will go towards investing in programs and resources that will boost pathways into agricultural careers, meeting the needs of communities and Victoria's agricultural industries.

Funding will be available for a range of agriculture education activities that could include designing programs, engagement with local industry, purchasing equipment and other identified school needs.

The Secondary Schools Agriculture Fund will also allocate $1 million in funding for tech schools to invest in state-of-the art resources and new technology to deliver online and outreach agricultural technology programs that meet the needs of industry as farming practices evolve.

The Future Agriculture Skills Capacity Fund is part of the government's $50 million Agricultural College Modernisation Program supporting more Victorians to pursue exciting careers in agriculture.

The fund also supports the government's broader reforms to vocational education, to help every Victorian student to get the skills they need for the job they want, no matter their future goals.

The Future of Agriculture Training in Victoria Review was also launched in June to examine how the TAFE system can continue to meet the changing needs of Victoria's growing agricultural industry.

Expressions of interest for the Secondary Schools Agriculture Fund opened for tech schools in late 2021.

Expressions of interest will open for secondary schools by mid-2022.

For more information visit agriculture.vic.gov.au

St Francis Xavier College
Berwick, Officer and Beaconsfield

OPEN DAY

Berwick & Officer Campuses

Saturday 5 March 2022 10.00am – 2.00pm

Register your interest for both events at www.sfx.vic.edu.au

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