



**WIRO WIRE**

## **ILARS HEARING AID CLAIMS POLICY**

SIRA conducted a review into services to support people with hearing loss arising out of employment (work-related hearing loss) in the New South Wales workers compensation system to focus on:

- the current pathways by which a worker could claim and receive a hearing aid,
- access to legal funding to make a work-related hearing loss claim,
- the methodology used to assess work-related hearing loss and to determine if hearing loss was not caused by work,
- the provision of appropriate hearing aids and supports to meet an individual worker's needs and
- cost effective support for people with work-related hearing loss.

The review commenced on 28 August 2019 and closed in January 2020.

SIRA recently approached WIRO to collaborate and assist in the review and to provide data collected from ILARS funding. In conjunction with the SIRA review, WIRO reviewed the ILARS Hearing Aids Claims Policy (amended with effect 1 January 2019 [further revised 2 September 2019]) ("Hearing Claims Policy").

WIRO has concluded that the Hearing Claims Policy is not consistent with either the workers compensation system objectives or the WIRO Funding Policy for ILARS.

WIRO has therefore **withdrawn** the ILARS Hearing Aids and Hearing Loss Claims Policy with effect **from 1 July 2020**. This means that WIRO will provide funding to pursue a claim for hearing aids for eligible injured workers regardless of whether the claim is accompanied by a claim for lump sum compensation.

Regards

**Phil Jedlin**

**(Acting) Workers Compensation Independent Review Officer**

**15 July 2020**