



**MEDICAL AND
HEALTH SCIENCES**
SCHOOL OF POPULATION HEALTH

Section of Audiology
Level 2, Building 507
22-30 Park Ave
Grafton
Auckland, New Zealand
T+64 9 373 7599
W auckland.ac.nz audiology@auckland.ac.nz

The University of Auckland
Private Bag 92019
Auckland 1142
New Zealand

PARTICIPANT INFORMATION SHEET

Project title:

Assessment of Musicians Earplugs

Research team:

- Dr David Welch (Supervisor, Associate Professor, Faculty of Health and Medical Sciences, Audiology – University of Auckland)
- Gavin Coad (Co-supervisor, Professional Teaching Fellow, Faculty of Health and Medical Sciences, Audiology – University of Auckland)
- Joshua Nightingale (Student – Master of Audiology, Faculty of Health and Medical Sciences - University of Auckland)

What does the study involve?

- This study aims to assess how different forms of hearing protection influence an individual's appreciation of music. As a participant, you need to be 18 years or older, love listening to music and not be a musician.
- As a participant, you will be asked to come into the Audiology clinics at the University of Auckland. In a sound-proof room you will listen to 8 of your favourite songs. You will wear 4 different types of hearing protection and listen to 2 songs with each. Between songs, you will answer a quick questionnaire asking about your appreciation towards the music. All questions will be answerable by choosing a number from 1-10.
- You will be required to send us a list of your favourite songs in advance of your participation day.

- We will look in your ears prior to using any hearing protection to ensure they are free of large amounts of wax or anything else which could cause discomfort. If you have too much wax, an ear infection, discharging ears or other foreign bodies in your ear canals which will make it unsafe to insert hearing protection, you will not be able to participate in this study and we will refer you to the appropriate medical practitioner if needed. We will ask for your consent verbally before performing Otoscopy.
- Before you wear any hearing protection, we will assess your hearing ability by playing “beeping” sounds to you. You will have to respond when you hear the beeps by pressing a button provided to you. We will assess your hearing while you wear each form of hearing protection as well.
- We will require up to 2 hours of your time to complete the data collection.
- The researchers will demonstrate how to correctly insert each type of hearing protection.
- Only researchers will be able to access the data provided by this research. All data will not be linked to an individual, names will not be linked to the data gathered.
- No health information will be required from you in this research.
- This study involves questions around your appreciation of music you are listening to, its loudness, and its clarity.

Benefits and risks

- This study will help in understanding how people perceive and appreciate music differently with various forms of hearing protection. Knowing this information can help generate increased use of hearing protection in the public.
- As a participant, you will be able to keep the hearing protection we give you for the research (Valued at \$30).
- There are no major risks involved in this study, however, wearing some forms of hearing protection can be slightly uncomfortable for some individuals. If you do experience any discomfort at any point, please inform the researchers and testing will stop – you will in no way experience any consequences and still be able to keep the hearing protection.

Who pays for the study?

- Participants will not need to pay for anything related to this study.
- Funding for this study has been provided by the School of Population Health research fund scheme.

Rights of the participant(s)

- Participation in this study is highly appreciated, however, it is entirely voluntary and there will be no consequences if an individual decides they no longer want to participate.
- Participants can withdraw from the study at any point without any consequences. Please contact a researcher as soon as possible if you have decided to no longer participate.
- Participants can deny Otoscopy, and are able to withdraw from the study without any consequences.
- You can withdraw the data you have provided in the study by emailing one of the researchers.
- The information you provide to us via the questionnaire is confidential. When we are collecting the data, any identifiable information will not be on any of the questionnaires. The consent form you sign will be stored safely and separately to the data we collect.

What will happen after the study

- The data we obtain from your participation will be stored without your name on them. Your answers to the questions can never be linked to any identifiable information.
- Data are stored on password-protected computers and will be kept indefinitely to allow future reanalyses.
- If you wish to receive a summary of the findings of this research, please add your contact details to the corresponding area in the consent form.
- A summary of results can be expected to be sent out by mid - 2024.

Contact Details, additional Māori support wording and Approval Wording

Researchers contact details:

- Dr David Welch (Supervisor) ○ d.welch@auckland.ac.nz
- Joshua Nightingale (Student) ○ jnig463@aucklanduni.ac.nz ○ 021 040 2751
- Gavin Coad (Co – Supervisor) ○ g.coad@auckland.ac.nz

Head of Section – Audiology contact details

- Prof. Grant Searchfield ○ g.searchfield@auckland.ac.nz

For concerns of an ethical nature, you can contact the Chair of the Auckland Health Research Ethics Committee at ahrec@auckland.ac.nz or at 373 7599 x 83711, or at Auckland Health Research Ethics Committee, The University of Auckland, Private Bag 92019, Auckland 1142.

Approved by the Auckland Health Research Ethics Committee on 30/05/2023 for three years. Reference number **AH25984**