# Background

The Learning Hub’s MOSH Noise team aims to encourage mining companies to actively learn from the pockets of excellence that exist in the industry. The process involves identifying, documenting, testing and facilitating widespread adoption of leading practices with the greatest potential to address the risk of Noise-induced Hearing Loss (NIHL).

To this end mining companies submit practices that are being used in the industry as potential leading practices that could improve mine Hearing Conservation Programmes (HCPs). The MOSH Noise team then conducts a process of verifying the validity of the proposed leading practices and where applicable facilitates widespread adoption in the mining industry of the new leading practice.

Some of the challenges that the MOSH Noise Team face in the process of identifying and verifying new leading practices include:

* there is very little or no evidence of the effect of leading practices due to them being recently implemented or a lack of baseline information;
* the practices are commercially available and there is very little or no independent scientific evidence of the value added for the mine; and
* the MOSH Noise team have strong technical expertise in Engineering and Occupational Hygiene but lack the technical expertise from the Health discipline in order to evaluate the impact of a leading practice on worker hearing health.

In order to ensure evidence-based verification, as well as identifying any necessary steps to improving the leading practices as well as to facilitate the widespread adoption of the newly identified leading practices, consultation with a CSIR, Centre for Mining Innovation hearing loss prevention expert is proposed.

It is proposed that in order to provide evidence-based guidelines for the each phase of adoption of a new leading practice, Dr Anita Edwards assists the MOSH Noise team with the verification exercises for any proposed leading practices submitted by the mines in the next 12 months and where necessary assists in documenting, testing and facilitation of widespread adoption of new leading practices.

The objectives of the proposed consultancy are to:

* + Assist the MOSH Noise Team with verification exercises of proposed leading practices during the next 12 months;
  + Assist the MOSH Noise Team and proposing mines with gap/needs analysis of proposed leading practices in order to improve the leading practice where necessary
  + Assist the MOSH Noise Team with the development of guidelines for mines who want to adopt newly identified leading practices.
  + Assist the MOSH Noise Team with the process of widespread adoption of the newly identified leading practices.

# Enabling outputs of the consultancy

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| ***1*** |  | ***Assist the MOSH Noise Team with verification exercises of proposed leading practices during the next 12 months*** |
|  | 1.1 | In consultation with the MOSH Noise team and any necessary technical consultants or product suppliers, visit the proposing mine or company. |
|  | 1.2 | Observe and indentify the availability of information at the mine that will assist in the verification exercise for the proposed leading practice. |
|  | 1.3 | Analyse all the necessary information identified to evaluate the validity of the proposed leading practice |
|  | 1.4 | Assist the MOSH Noise team to verify if the proposed leading practice should become a new leading practice for widespread adoption by the industry. |
|  | 1.5 | Draft a report for the MOSH Noise team as evidence of the verification process for each proposed leading practice. |
| ***2*** |  | ***Assist the MOSH Noise Team and proposing mines with gap/needs analysis of proposed leading practices in order to obtain maximum value from the leading practice where necessary*** |
|  | 2.1 | During verification exercises on proposed leading practices the consultant will ensure that the necessary observations and investigations are conducted to provide information to facilitate a gap analysis of the requirements for improved value from the leading practice. |
|  | 2.2 | A report to MOSH and the proposing mine containing recommendations for increasing the value added to the company Hearing Conservation Programme by the proposed leading practice. |
| ***3*** |  | ***Assist the MOSH Noise Team with the development of guidelines for mines who want to adopt newly identified leading practices.*** |
|  | 3.1 | Based on the findings of each verification exercise conducted in the next 12 months develop practical guidelines for mines who want to adopt the new leading practice. |
|  | 3.2 | Present these guidelines to a MOSH Noise team industry meeting |
| ***4*** |  | ***Assist the MOSH Noise Team with the process of widespread adoption of the newly identified leading practices*** |
|  | 4.1 | Based on the findings of each verification exercise for proposed leading indicators in the next 12 months assist the MOSH Noise Team in developing a strategic plan for widespread adoption of the newly identified practices. |
|  | 4.2 | Assist the MOSH Noise Team with the process of implementing the strategic plan for widespread adoption of the newly identified leading practices. |