Indoor venues

Noise from indoor venues (e.g. church halls, community halls) can cause a nuisance to neighbours, disrupt their sleep and interfere with daily activities. If loud enough, noise can also affect their health. This fact sheet may help you to reduce noise and meet legal requirements.

An indoor venue is a building used for musical, sporting or for other entertainment including cultural or religious activities. Examples may include 10 pin bowling, concert facilities, indoor cricket or squash courts. They are not a building being used for an open-air event.

Be a good neighbour

Talk to neighbours. Find out what concerns they have and ask them for suggestions about solving problems. Solutions can often be found that satisfy everyone.

The law

Queensland’s Environmental Protection Act includes noise limits for indoor venues and Council of the City of Gold Coast (Council) is legally required to enforce these limits. If issues between neighbours cannot be resolved and complaints continue, an investigation will be carried out.

If the indoor venue exceeds noise limits, Council may issue an on-the-spot fine to the value of 15 penalty units (for an individual) or 75 penalty units (for a corporation). See the City website for information about penalty unit values.

Allowable noise limits

On the spot fines may be issued if noise exceeds the following levels between:

- 7am to 10pm – where the noise is more than 5 decibels above the background noise level.
- 10pm to Midnight – where the noise is more than 3 decibels above the background noise level.
- Midnight to 7am – if there is an audible noise.

The background noise level is the ambient noise measurement obtained in the absence of the source noise being investigated. It can vary throughout the day and night.

Note: These noise levels are not applicable to an educational institution, the use of an indoor venue by an educational institution or a licensed premises.

Ways you can reduce noise

A range of measures can be used to reduce the noise impact of an indoor venue. These include:

Select quieter equipment or use alternatives

When buying equipment, consider the quietest option. Manufacturers often label equipment with the quietest option. Manufacturers can provide this information.

Limiting hours of use

Talk to neighbours to find out if there are particular times when the noise disturbs them. People are often concerned about noise at night or early morning, when they are trying to sleep.

Activities at the location

The activities at an indoor venue may be incompatible with certain locations, especially if residential properties are close by. It may be better to find a more suitable location to hold noisy activities.

Fences or barriers

A solid fence with no gaps may help to reduce noise levels.

Think of alternatives

Alternative activities or equipment may be effective in reducing noise. Consider carrying out the activity inside a building structure or at another location; or even engaging an acoustic consultant in designing an acoustic barrier.

Community venues

For issues associated with Council operated indoor venues please contact Council’s Community Venues Section on 07 5667 5986.

For more information

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