

Fact Sheet

Noise – Indoor Venues

Noise from indoor venues (e.g. church halls, community halls) can cause a nuisance to neighbours, disrupts 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 and gymnasiums. 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 1994* includes noise limits for indoor venues and Redland City Council is legally required to enforce these limits. If issues between neighbours cannot be resolved and complaints continue, an investigation will be carried out.

Noise limits

If noise from an indoor venue exceeds the following levels when measured at a neighbouring premises, the owner may be liable to enforcement action.

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

**Background noise level* is the ambient noise measurement obtained in the absence of the source noise being investigated.

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 noise level or 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 on 07 3829 8999.