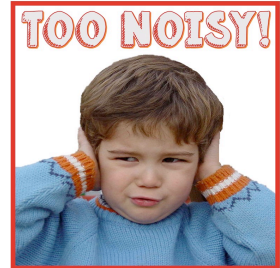




## NSW DIVISION TECHNICAL MEETING

### AN ASSESSMENT OF THE ACOUSTIC CONDITIONS OF DIFFERENT SIZED OPEN PLAN AND ENCLOSED KINDERGARTEN CLASSROOMS



**Date:** Thursday, 5 May 2016

**Venue:** The Australian Hearing Hub, Macquarie University, North Ryde  
16 University Avenue (See Map at: <http://hearinghub.edu.au/contact-us/>)

**Time:** 6:00 pm for 6:30 pm start (refreshments prior to talk)

**Speaker:** Kiri Mealings of National Acoustic Laboratories

**RSVP:** Thursday, 27 April to Mattia Tabacchi by email  
[mattia.tabacchi@gmail.com](mailto:mattia.tabacchi@gmail.com)  
AAS members (and guests upon request) are welcome to attend.

Open plan classrooms, where several class bases share the same space, have recently re-emerged in Australian primary schools. This talk derives the acoustic limits needed for children to rate they can hear their teacher 'well', and compares these to the acoustic parameters measured in an enclosed classroom with 25 students, a double classroom with 44 students, an untreated linear fully open plan triple classroom with 91 students, and a purpose-built semi-open plan K-6 classroom with 205 students.

Dr Kiri Mealings recently completed her PhD in Linguistics entitled "An Investigation into How the Acoustics of Open Plan and Enclosed Classrooms Affects Speech Perception for Kindergarten Children" at Macquarie University. Kiri is keen to use multidisciplinary research to inform teachers and schools about more effective ways to enhance communication in the classroom, and help clinicians to develop effective intervention strategies to ensure that children with hearing difficulties have the listening skills needed to make a smooth transition to school. Kiri is currently working at the National Acoustic Laboratories investigating the role of auditory neural oscillations in children with reading and listening difficulties.