Occupational Health & Safety Policy: Headset & Microphone Hygiene

Ethel Tory Centre – Baldessin Precinct Building

The University is committed to providing a safe study and work environment for its students and staff in compliance with the Occupational Health and Safety Act 1991. Hence, the purpose of this document is to outline principles to protect the health of students using headsets and microphones in the Ethel Tory Centre – Baldessin Precinct Building.

Principles

1. Background
   1.1 The Ethel Tory Centre in the Baldessin Precinct Building (110) facilitates technology-enhanced teaching and learning through the inclusion of laptop computers and audio/visual software and equipment.
   
   1.2 As determined by the Program and/or Course Coordinators, students may need to individually listen to and/or record audio in this centre to engage with teaching and learning content and activities.

2. Health Risk
   2.1 The health risk to students identified involves the sharing of headsets and microphones in the Centre. The risks identified include:

   2.1a - The possibility of spreading lice and infections (such as tropical ear or respiratory infections) from student to student by sharing a headset or microphone due to the close proximity of headsets and microphone to users’ hair, ears, noses and mouths; and

   2.1b - Allergic reactions to chemicals and oils triggered in users with allergies (e.g. anaphylactic shock from peanut allergies by sharing a microphone with a user who recently consumed peanut products) due to the close proximity of microphones to users’ mouths.

3. Minimisation of Health Risk
   3.1 If a course requires students to listen to and/or record audio, students will be asked to purchase their own headset and/or microphones.

   3.2 In order to be compatible with the equipment in the Ethel Tory Centre, the University recommends that students purchase the Logitech USB Headset H330 (or equivalent product). This headset features a microphone for audio recording. The ‘plug and play’ feature of this headset further allows students use this headset without requiring installation of software and can be used on any computer platform.

   3.3 The Logitech USB Headset H330 is available for purchase at a student price from:

   ANU Co-op Bookshop, 
   Building 17, Union Court 
   Canberra ACT 0200 
   Ph: (02) 6249 6244 Fax: (02) 6248 8949 
   Email: anu@coop-bookshop.com.au

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