

# Mining Industry

Client: Gold Fields – St Ives Gold Mine – Australia  
(<http://www.goldfields.co.za/>)  
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## Case Study



Sensear   
*Hear Speech Stay Protected*



### Interview with Kylie Hooker - Occupational Hygienist - Gold Fields - St Ives Gold Mine

Sensear interviewed Kylie Hooker - Occupational Hygienist - Gold Fields - St Ives Gold Mine about their unique working environments and the use of Sensear devices. Goldfields is one of the worlds largest unhedged producers of gold with eight operating mines around the globe.

**Sensear:** Kylie, what is your role at Gold Fields - St Ives Gold Mine?

**Kylie:** I am the sites Occupational Hygienist and deal with preservation of employee health and protection from disease. This includes protecting workers from NIHL and educating them about noise and its effects.

**Sensear:** What is unique about the environments at Gold Fields - St Ives Gold Mine that require special hearing protection?

**Kylie:** I would not say that St Ives is a unique environment when it comes to noise and the need for special hearing protection. We have similar noise hazards that many businesses have in Australia including heavy machinery and fixed plant and we also have similar issues with the need to provide hearing protection and communication for our employees in these environments. What is unique is the way that Sensear can assist us addressing these issues.

**Sensear:** What was it about Sensear that motivated Gold Fields - St Ives Gold Mine consideration?

**Kylie:** The main motivation behind using Sensear initially was the ability to provide speech enhancement allowing for communication in noisy environments while providing protection from noise, especially for persons suffering from a hearing loss. The benefits for using this technology with persons suffering from hearing loss were to reduce their frustration with communication issues and feelings of isolation. Since then many other areas have been identified which would benefit from the use of Sensear.

**Sensear:** Why is Sensear right for Gold Fields - St Ives Gold Mine specific needs?

**Kylie:** The successful combination of hearing protection and speech enhancement for communication makes Sensear a good choice for St Ives Gold Mines needs.

**Sensear:** Since introducing Sensear, what have been the highlights with regard to end user acceptance and compliance and have you seen any productivity improvements?

**Kylie:** Compliance is easy as personnel are required to wear hearing protection anyway but Sensear increases acceptance of wearing hearing protection and ownership of the hearing protection once the user has spent time wearing the Sensear and sees, or in this case hears the benefits of it first hand.

I personally have not seen any productivity improvements but do not doubt that it is occurring as communication is becoming more frequent and easier. The risks associated with noise are also being reduced as people are not removing hearing protection to try and hear instruction over the loud background noise. If I were to note one highlight of using Sensear for me, it is the look on the end user's face when he realises that he can hear.



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