



**Australian Government**

**Department of Health**

## Hearing Industry Roundtable

### Communique 22 March 2018

---

The Hon Ken Wyatt AM MP, Minister for Aged Care and Minister for Indigenous Health, met with hearing industry representative groups on Thursday, 22 March 2018 to listen to their views on recent reviews and parliamentary inquiries into hearing health and discuss their concerns on challenges faced by the hearing sector.

Roundtable discussion included the PricewaterhouseCoopers review of services and assistive hearing technology in the Australian Government Hearing Services Program and the House of Representatives Standing Committee on Health, Aged Care and Sport inquiry into the hearing health and wellbeing of Australia. Key issues discussed included:

- the importance of maintaining world class paediatric hearing services in Australia;
- the role of rehabilitation in the treatment and management of hearing loss;
- the impact of hearing loss on cognitive functions;
- the need for careful consideration of any changes to the Hearing Services Program; and
- the current uncertainty about the implementation of the National Disability Insurance Scheme for hearing services.

The roundtable followed on from the earlier Consumer Representative Forum hosted by Minister Wyatt on 10 February 2018, at which time the Minister called for the hearing sector to work with Government to develop a roadmap for hearing health that will lead to improvements in hearing health for all Australians. The roadmap will be co-designed and developed by the hearing sector and will set out the short, medium and long-term actions to address issues that have been identified.

Minister Wyatt advised roundtable participants that a hearing sector committee will be established to design and develop the roadmap for hearing health. The committee will comprise an appropriate and equitable range of stakeholder representatives, including from consumer and industry groups.

Minister Wyatt thanked participants for their valuable contributions on the day. The Department of Health will progress the establishment of the hearing sector committee to develop the hearing health roadmap.