



PARLIAMENT of AUSTRALIA

MEDIA RELEASE

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES STANDING COMMITTEE ON HEALTH, AGED CARE AND SPORT
Inquiry into the Hearing Health and Wellbeing of Australia

Monday, 3 April 2017

Hearing Health Specialists to Meet with Health Committee

On Thursday, 6 April 2017, hearing health specialists will meet with the Australian Parliament's Health, Aged Care and Sport Committee in Sydney as part of its *Inquiry into the Hearing Health and Wellbeing of Australia*.

In 2005, an estimated 3.55 million Australians experienced some degree of hearing loss, making it a more common health condition than cardiovascular disease, asthma, or diabetes. Due to Australia's ageing population the number of people experiencing hearing loss is also rising and is expected to reach one in every four Australians by 2050.

The Committee will be meeting with specialists involved in all aspects of hearing health, from screening for hearing loss to undertaking cochlear implant surgery. Professions that will be represented include: audiologists; audiometrists; audiology nurses; rehabilitation counsellors; and ear, nose and throat surgeons.

The Committee Chair, Mr Trent Zimmerman MP, stated that 'hearing loss already affects one in six Australians and, with an ageing population, its prevalence is increasing. The Committee will discuss with hearing specialists how to ensure that Australia's hearing care system continues to seek improvements and, where appropriate, deploy new technologies to meet the current, and future, demand for high quality hearing care services.'

Further information about the Committee's inquiry, including the public hearing program is available at http://www.aph.gov.au/Parliamentary_Business/Committees/House/Health_Aged_Care_and_Sport/HearingHealth/Public_Hearings

PUBLIC HEARING DETAILS:

**Thursday, 6 April 2017, 8.30 am to 4.20 pm,
Macquarie Room, Parliament of NSW, SYDNEY.**

Live Remote Captioning is available for this hearing. For more details please see:

http://www.aph.gov.au/Parliamentary_Business/Committees/House/Health_Aged_Care_and_Sport/HearingHealth/Public_Hearings

Media enquiries:

Please contact Luke Barnes, Media Advisor from the office of Mr Trent Zimmerman MP, Chair, on 0422 726 621. Luke.Barnes@aph.gov.au

Background:

House of Representatives Standing Committee on Health, Aged Care and Sport, (02) 6277 4145, health.reps@aph.gov.au, <http://www.aph.gov.au/health>