



# 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

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Wednesday, 8 February 2017

## Emerging Treatments for Hearing Health

On Tuesday, 14 February 2017, a geneticist and an ear, nose, and throat surgeon will appear before the Parliament's Committee on Health, Aged Care and Sport as part of its *Inquiry into the Hearing Health and Wellbeing of Australia*.

Recent genetic research suggests that the use of gene therapy to repair hair cells in the inner ear may offer a new method of treating hearing impairment. The Human Genetics Society of Australasia will discuss this and other potential applications of genetic research in the field of hearing health.

An ear, nose and throat surgeon will also appear before the Committee to discuss surgical options for treating hearing impairment. The surgeon will discuss when surgery is an appropriate treatment option and the cost and availability of surgical treatment.

The Committee Chair, Mr Trent Zimmerman MP, stated that 'our Inquiry is examining the cost of, and access to, treatment for hearing impairment in Australia. We will be investigating the availability of surgical treatments such as cochlear implants, as well as examining research into new treatment options. Gene therapy, while still an emerging field, could potentially form the basis of the next generation of hearing treatments'.

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](http://www.aph.gov.au/Parliamentary_Business/Committees/House/Health_Aged_Care_and_Sport).

### **PUBLIC HEARING DETAILS:**

**11.45 am to 12.45 pm**

**Tuesday 14 February 2017**

**Committee Room 1R3**

**Parliament House, CANBERRA.**

### **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](mailto:Luke.Barnes@aph.gov.au)

### **Background:**

House of Representatives Standing Committee on Health, Aged Care and Sport  
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