

I would like to make a short submission to the Community Affairs References Committee for the Hearing Health Inquiry.

My daughter Sonnet is six and has a unilateral hearing loss. We just missed the universal hearing check for babies and her hearing loss was diagnosed two years ago when she was four.

We were extremely pleased to discover the support and services of Australian Hearing who have guided us through the process of dealing with the hearing loss, and also accessing and learning how to use a hearing aid. The service is very stretched however and it is difficult for them to offer ongoing support as we transitioned to school and faced issues of struggling to hear in the classroom.

However my main concern is that Sonnet will be unable to access support from Australian Hearing when she turns 21. Hearing support is costly and obviously essential.

Couldn't we extend hearing support to all Australians who require it and increase funding for this essential service? Living life in our society with a hearing loss is a constant struggle for people of all ages.

Sincerely  
Monique Choy