

# Hearing Health Sector Committee Roadmap for Hearing Health Communiqué 15 February 2019

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The Hearing Health Sector Committee hosted a second stakeholder forum in Sydney on 15 February 2019 to inform the finalisation of the Roadmap for Hearing Health. This second Forum followed an initial Forum held in Sydney on 27 September 2018.

The objectives for the February forum were to:

- brief attendees on the Roadmap,
- discuss the parties best placed to take the Roadmap forward,
- identify the highest priority actions within the Roadmap,
- assist the Committee in presenting the Roadmap to the Minister for Senior Australians and Aged Care and Minister for Indigenous Health, Mr Ken Wyatt MP AO, and through him to the COAG Health Council ahead of its meeting on 8 March 2019.

Invitees and their organisations were provided with the penultimate draft of the Roadmap which had been developed over a series of meetings of the Hearing Health Sector Committee. The Forum considered many of the issues the Committee had also considered, including appropriate terminology, the roles of research and legislation, and strategy and tactics for the sector in collaboratively advancing implementation of the Roadmap.

Committee members led separate, robust discussions on each of the six domains identified in the Roadmap. Some new actions were identified by the Forum and incorporated with the agreement of the Committee, including calling for the extension of captioning to all broadcast television, incorporation of hearing health as part of general health and screening programs, drawing greater attention to balance disorders, and seeking modelling for bulk-billed audiological testing without a general practitioner referral.

The Hearing Health Sector Committee is made up of representative stakeholders and was established in July 2018 to progress the development of a Roadmap for Hearing Health. The Roadmap proposes future reform directions and priorities for improvements to hearing health for all Australians. Previous communiques on hearing health detailing the Committee's Terms of Reference and membership are available online at:

<http://www.health.gov.au/internet/main/publishing.nsf/Content/publications-Hearing>