

Hearing Health Sector Committee Roadmap for Hearing Health Communiqué 31 January 2019

The Hearing Health Sector Committee met in Sydney on 31 January 2019 to progress the development of the Roadmap for Hearing Health.

Minister for Senior Australians and Aged Care and Minister for Indigenous Health, the Hon Ken Wyatt AM, MP, joined the meeting via telephone. Minister Wyatt acknowledged the insights he'd gained by attending Hear for You's Youth Forum on the Roadmap on 21 January 2019. He encouraged the Committee to continue to incorporate the Deaf community's needs into the Roadmap.

In particular, the Minister also agreed to the Committee's suggestion to include a set of overarching principles and key priorities in the front pages of the Roadmap. The Committee commenced drafting these during the meeting.

The primary focus of the meeting was on the draft Roadmap, with the Committee providing extensive feedback across all six domains. The Committee recognised that the time remaining for completion of the Roadmap was short if it wanted to support the Minister in circulating the Roadmap to his State and Territory colleagues ahead of consideration at the COAG Health Council meeting in Melbourne on Friday 8 March.

The Committee also discussed next steps, with its presentation of the Roadmap to a second Stakeholder Forum in Sydney on 15 February 2019 being the final milestone before submission of the Roadmap to the Minister. The Committee agreed to call on the Government to set up a broad-based, government-supported body to steer and monitor progress in implementing the various actions contained in the Roadmap.

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 will set out 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>