

## Update- Budget 2017-18

### News about ownership of Australian Hearing

10 May 2017

On pages 45 and 98 of the ['Budget Measures Budget Paper No.2 2017-18 Part 2: Expense Measures'](#), the Australian Government reports Nil expense measures since the 2016-17 MYEFO under the Department of Finance item 'Australian Hearing Services – ownership arrangements'. This statement is also made on page 98 under this Department of Finance item:

*"Following consideration of the future ownership of Australian Hearing Services, the Government has decided to retain full ownership and control of the entity."*

Under the heading 'Australian Hearing' on page 4 of the [Portfolio Budget Statements 2017-18: Budget Related Paper No. 1.15B Social Services Portfolio \(Department of Human Services\)](#), it is stated that:

*"Australian Hearing is a non-General Government Sector entity established under the Australian Hearing Services Act 1991. As such, Australian Hearing is not consolidated into the Commonwealth General Government Sector fiscal estimates. Accordingly, Australian Hearing is not reported in Portfolio Budget Statements or Portfolio Additional Estimates Statements. Australian Hearing is a corporate Commonwealth entity under the PGPA Act and is governed by a board that is appointed by the Minister for Human Services."*

We note that the Department of Finance has not updated its page on the ['Future of Australian Hearing and contestability of hearing services under the National Disability Insurance Scheme'](#) since 4 May 2016 where it still states that "The Government has not made any decision to sell or transfer the ownership of Australian Hearing."

In the interests of members, Audiology Australia will continue to stay abreast of any news regarding the ownership of Australian Hearing and the Government's objectives with respect to any potential change of ownership, which include:

- *"[...] optimising client choice and service outcomes are optimised (including services provided under the Community Service Obligations (CSO), and continuing world class public research in this area) [...];*
- *supporting a viable hearing services industry, and;*
- *having regard to the key principles under the NDIS to promote choice and control for clients." (see here under heading 'Is the Government conducting a sale process to transfer Australian Hearing into non-Government ownership')."*