

10 November 2021

Mr Simon Cotterell
First Assistant Secretary, Primary Care Division
Australian Government Department of Health
GPO Box 9848
Canberra ACT 2601

Email: primaryhealthcarereform@health.gov.au

Dear Mr Cotterell

Re: Australia's Primary Health Care 10 Year Plan 2022-2032 Consultation Draft

Audiology Australia (AudA) welcomes the opportunity to provide a submission response on the Australian Government's Primary Health Care 10 Year Plan 2022-2032 Consultation Draft (the Consultation Draft).

AudA is the peak professional body for the health profession of audiology, representing over 3,000 audiologists across Australia and 95% of all practising audiologists in the country. Audiologists are primary hearing health practitioners who provide hearing services and supports to people across their lifespan in order to help them preserve, manage and improve their hearing and balance, and their ability to process and understand sounds.

Key points in AudA's submission response to the Government include the following:

- AudA considers that the Consultation Draft lacks many of the proposed recommendations and details provided in the Primary Health Reform Steering Group's Report *Recommendations on the Australian Government's Primary Health Care 10 Year Plan*
- AudA strongly recommends that the Government extend and make permanent allied health Medicare Benefits Schedule (MBS) telehealth items
- AudA considers more detail is required in the Government's Primary Health Care 10 Year Plan on innovative funding reform for allied health and on expanding the full scope of role of allied health
- AudA notes that it is currently unclear how actions in the Primary Health Care 10 Year Plan are/will be aligned with the National Preventive Health Strategy.

We would welcome the opportunity to discuss any aspect of our submission with you further. I can be contacted via Elissa Campbell, Advocacy and Policy Manager on (03) 9940 3900 or elissa.campbell@audiology.asn.au.

Yours sincerely



Dr Barbra Timmer
President