

6 March 2019

Hon Jenny Mikakos  
Minister for Health  
Level 22  
50 Lonsdale Street  
Melbourne VIC 3000

By email: [minister.health@health.vic.gov.au](mailto:minister.health@health.vic.gov.au)

Dear Minister

***Re: Roadmap for Hearing Health***

We are the peak bodies in the hearing health sector representing the health professions of audiology and audiometry, hearing health care providers and businesses. Together we represent 3,500 Audiologists and Audiometrists and small, medium and large businesses that provide hearing health care services from more than 500 locations across Australia.

We are writing to you to express our strong support for the *Roadmap for Hearing Health* (the Roadmap) and its recommendations that set out future directions and priorities that will lead to short, medium and long-term improvements for the hearing healthcare needs of all Australians. We understand that the Roadmap is to be tabled at the Council of Australian Governments Health Council meeting this coming Friday 8 March by the Hon Ken Wyatt AM MP, Minister for Indigenous Health and Minister for Senior Australians and Aged Care.

Importantly, the Roadmap and its recommendations are unique. They are the product of a development process, which involved representative stakeholders from across the hearing health sector working cooperatively together through a Hearing Health Sector Committee.

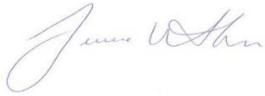
Such an initiative has not occurred before and, in our view, highlights the maturity of the sector coming together to consider and respond to the impact that hearing loss can have on a person's health, quality of life and ability to participate and engage with their family, friends and the broader Australian community.

On this basis, we consider the Roadmap to be a significant and substantive step forward in addressing the challenges and opportunities of the estimated 3.6 million or one in six Australians who currently experience difficulties with their hearing and the 7.8 million or one in five Australians who are projected to have hearing loss by 2060.

Accordingly, we urge all State and Territory Governments to fully endorse the Roadmap at this Friday's COAG meeting and commit to its implementation to ensure that the Australian community benefits from the very best hearing healthcare now and in the future.

We look forward to working with you to implement the Roadmap and to ensure a lasting legacy for the hearing health and wellbeing of all Australians.

Yours sincerely



Dr Jessica Vitkovic  
President  
**Audiology Australia**



Mr Michael Smith  
President  
**Australian College  
of Audiology**



Mr Don MacDonald  
Chairman  
**Hearing Business  
Alliance**



Mr Ashley Wilson AM  
Chairman  
**Hearing Care Industry  
Association**