



Roadmap for Hearing Health

The Australian Government is investing \$21.2 million over the next five years to implement key initiatives from the [Roadmap for Hearing Health](#). This substantial investment will increase public awareness of hearing health, generate scientific evidence through research, and support Australians who are most in need.

What is the investment?

From 6 October 2020, the Government will implement a range of initiatives to strengthen hearing health. This substantial investment will increase public awareness of hearing health, generate scientific evidence through research, and support vulnerable Australians who are most likely to need hearing loss support.

- The \$21.2 million Roadmap for Hearing Health package comprises:
- \$5 million for a national hearing health awareness and prevention campaign.
- \$7.3 million for a program of research to develop a sound evidence base for effective treatment, service delivery and prevention of hearing loss.
- \$5 million for improvements in and early identification of hearing and speech difficulties for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander children.
- \$2 million for initiatives in the aged care sector to improve the capability of the aged care workforce to support people with hearing loss.
- \$350,000 for development and adoption of new tele audiology standards for hearing services.
- \$200,000 to support rural service delivery through a workforce audit and a rural hearing workforce summit.
- \$1.4 million for Government to implement this package.

Why is this investment being made?

Spanning this decade, there have been technological advances in hearing devices, several parliamentary inquiries or reviews with recommendations for improvement on how Australia assists people with hearing loss.

These Roadmap initiatives focus on improving access to high quality services for vulnerable Australians into the future, an objective that the Government and the sector all aspire to.

What does this mean for consumers?

Any Australian in need of hearing health support will benefit from this package of investment, including the 3.6 million Australians currently living with hearing impairment, and the millions who will develop one in the future.

Targeted support for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Island people, those living in rural and remote areas, and older Australians will help ensure they receive the care they need, when and where they need it.

What does this mean for providers?

These changes promote the importance of hearing health to all Australians, especially at-risk groups.