



Preventive Health – implementation of Roadmap for Hearing Health

The Australian Government will implement key initiatives from the Roadmap for Hearing Health and adjust Hearing Services Program settings to ensure Australians who are hard of hearing have access to the services and support they need.

Hearing health priorities will be progressed under the Roadmap package, including: education and awareness-raising activities; improved aged care support; expanded screening and research; and enhanced workforce capability. Initiatives will focus on improving access to services for vulnerable Australians.

Voucher duration under the Hearing Services Program will be extended from three to five years to align with improvements in technology. Maintenance payments will be updated to better reflect manufacturer warranties.

The Australian Government is delivering the Roadmap with state and territory governments and aligning program settings with contemporary standards to ensure Australians who are hard of hearing can access modern, fit-for-purpose services.

Why is this important?

Early awareness and intervention can help prevent further hearing loss. Having access to quality screening and support services, supported by best practice evidence, is integral to ensuring such prevention is possible.

As Australia's population ages, the number of people with a hearing impairment is expected to double to an estimated 7.8 million people in 2060. Ensuring these Australians are able to access necessary services and support will be vital to their future livelihoods and national productivity.

Who will benefit?

Any Australian in need of hearing services support will benefit from this package of investment. The 3.6 million Australians who currently live with a hearing impairment – and the millions who will develop one in the future – will benefit from this measure.

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

How much will this cost?

This will cost \$21.2 million from 2020–21 to 2024–25.