



PARLIAMENT of AUSTRALIA

MEDIA RELEASE

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES STANDING COMMITTEE ON HEALTH, AGED CARE AND SPORT
Inquiry into the Hearing Health and Wellbeing of Australia

Friday, 28 April 2017

Hearing Health Focus in Victoria and South Australia

From Monday, 1 May to Wednesday, 3 May, the Australian Parliament's Health, Aged Care and Sport Committee will be holding public hearings in Melbourne, Shepparton, and Adelaide as part of its *Inquiry into the Hearing Health and Wellbeing of Australia*.

In Melbourne, the Committee will discuss the impacts of balance disorders with the Whirled Foundation. Approximately 5 per cent of Australians experience balance disorders, which are chronic conditions that can cause dizziness and vertigo.

Hearing Health in rural and regional areas will be a focus of the Committee's visit to Shepparton. Research in Victoria has found that over 40 per cent of farmers experience hearing loss in at least one ear. The National Centre for Farmer Health will meet with the Committee to discuss the impact of noise-induced hearing loss in farming communities.

Organisations providing services to deaf and hearing impaired children will be a focus in Adelaide, with the Committee meeting: the Cora Barclay Centre, which helps children improve their listening and speaking skills; the Can:Do Group, which provides services such as teaching Auslan; and the Centre for Deaf Education at Brighton Primary School.

The Committee Chair, Mr Trent Zimmerman MP, stated that 'hearing loss and balance disorders affect many Australians and the Committee's program in Victoria and South Australia will focus on how to ensure that Australians, from birth, and regardless of location, have access to high quality support and treatment for these common conditions.'

PUBLIC HEARING DETAILS:

MELBOURNE: Monday, 1 May 2017, 8.30 am to 3.55 pm

Committee Room G4, Parliament of Victoria, 55 St Andrews Place, EAST MELBOURNE

SHEPPARTON: Tuesday, 2 May 2017, 9.00 am to 11.20 am

Function Room 2, Eastbank Centre, 70 Welsford St, SHEPPARTON

ADELAIDE: Wednesday, 3 May 2017, 9.00 am to 1.20 pm

Balcony Room, Parliament of South Australia, ADELAIDE

Live Remote Captioning is available for these hearings. For more details please see:

http://www.aph.gov.au/Parliamentary_Business/Committees/House/Health_Aged_Care_and_Sport/HearingHealth/Public_Hearings

Media enquiries:

Please contact Luke Barnes, Media Advisor from the office of Mr Trent Zimmerman MP, Chair, on 0422 726 621. Luke.Barnes@aph.gov.au

Background: House of Representatives Standing Committee on Health, Aged Care and Sport, (02) 6277 4145, health.reps@aph.gov.au. More information about the inquiry, including the public hearing program is available at <http://www.aph.gov.au/health>