

Hearing Health Sector Alliance

Action Plan 2023-25

1

Advocate for the very best hearing health care and support for people who experience hearing difficulty.

HHSA will:

- 1.1 continue to advocate for greater amplification of consumer voices, and improved awareness and prevention around hearing.
- 1.2 work with other stakeholders to improve state/territory & national relations for the benefit of people experiencing hearing difficulty and their communities.

2

Closing the gap in ear and hearing health for First Nations people.

Working with and advised by First Nations organisations HSSA will:

- 2.1 support culturally safe approaches to advocacy and improvements to hearing health policies, practices, and programs that are inclusive and reflect the needs of First Nations people and communities.
- 2.2 work across the sector to encourage the implementation of training and education that develops culturally safe clinicians and clinical practice to better meet the hearing and whole health needs of First Nations people and communities.

3

Increased support for vulnerable and disadvantaged Australians and communities.

HHSA will:

- 3.1 advocate to expand HSP eligibility to include low-income healthcare card holders aged 26-65, and First Nations adults aged 26-50.
- 3.2 design and implement consistent and culturally appropriate ear health screening protocols for children aged 0-6.
- 3.3 work with service providers and practitioners to improve provision and responsiveness in services for CALD consumers and communities.
- 3.4 advocate for better hearing health programs for all residents in aged care facilities, implementing a national hearing screening program on entry.

4

Significantly improve the rural and regional hearing health care workforce.

HHSA will:

- 4.1 work with providers and practitioners to enhance training, flexibility and career pathways (including multiple entry and exit points) to significantly enhance the capacity of current and future workforce.
- 4.2 identify the current sector workforce footprint, along with upcoming challenges and opportunities to help deliver the workforce required to meet Australia's hearing health needs.

5

Enhance and focus nationally funded research to achieve real, targeted impact.

HHSA will:

- 5.1 advocate making hearing health research a key priority, with targeted research funding at levels reflective of its prevalence and disease burden.
- 5.2 enhance the effectiveness and value of research through supporting translating research into effective public policy, and tangible outcomes for the Australian community.