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## MEDIA RELEASE | ABC Radio AM Program on 8th February 2019

## Australian College of Audiology (ACAud) Members Abide By a Code of Conduct

The Australian College Of Audiology (ACAud) is the largest Practitioner Professional Body (PPB) in Australia representing both Audiologists and Audiometrists whose members abide by a strong Code of Conduct.

There have been some recent media comments around the need for further regulation in the Australian hearing industry. Over the last 12 months ACAud have taken on board criticisms both factual and perceived within the profession of Audiology.

ACAud supported the 2017 ACCC findings that commissions linked to sales were not appropriate in Audiology. ACAud felt that employers should find alternatives to sales commissions and other sales-based incentives and reward good clinical practice. ACAud has been working together with businesses and Government wherever possible to make this happen. ACAud's full position statement can be found on our website <u>Position Paper on</u> sales commissions and other sales-based incentives

To strengthen our member commitment, Mr Michael Smith, Chair of ACAud points out that "Under our Code of Conduct the number 1 responsibility of all our members is to keep the welfare of the client uppermost at all times". Our members must agree to follow our Code of Conduct when they become a member of ACAud.

To further ensure consumer confidence an independent complaints and ethics committee was recently established enabling consumers direct contact with the committee in reference to any grievances they may have. Details of the complaints procedure can be found on our website <u>Making a Complaint</u>

We feel the steps in place are adequate to ensure ethical conduct amongst members and disagree with statement suggesting the requirement for further regulation.