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MEDIA RELEASE | PwC - Review of services and technology supply in the Hearing Services Program

Australia is known globally for having one of the best Paediatric and Adult hearing Rehabilitation services available; however changes being proposed by the Australian Government could seriously impact that. A recent report commissioned by the Australian Government, and conducted by PricewaterhouseCoopers has suggested significant changes to the way Australian Pensioners and Veterans are able to obtain hearing services.

There are 13 recommendations in the report covering everything from the eligibility criteria to receive services, to the devices supplied, and costings for business. One of the recommendations of concern to the Australian College of Audiology greatly would mean that 30% fewer pensioners and veterans would be able to access the government hearing program. Vice President of the Australian College of Audiology Mr Mark Paton said “the report has recommended that Australian standards for hearing services be brought into line with those the World Health Organisation recommends for developing nations which is of great concern to us, as Australia is a developed country it means our needs differ greatly to that of a developing nation. This would mean a significant drop in numbers of who are eligible to obtain services.” Mr Paton further said “there are many clinical studies that indicate that early intervention for even mild hearing loss can mean significant improvement in client’s cognitive processing skills as they age and consequent social integration issues, and to reduce services to so many people may have serious consequences for future health costs.”

The Australian College of Audiology (ACAud) has released a full response to the report which is available

<https://www.acaud.com.au/about-us/position-papers-responses>