

Australia's Hearing Health Workforce Summit 2026 Submission Questions and Response Form



This picture depicts beauty and sounds. Artist Darlene Harpur.

ACAud is convening Australia's Hearing Health Workforce Summit in Adelaide in November 2026, alongside the Gala Celebration of ACAud's 30 years.

Across Australia, practical answers already exist across the hearing and community health workforce: in students, Aboriginal and/or Torres Strait Islander Health Workers and Health Practitioners, nurse audiometrists, audiometrists, audiologists, educators, employers, community programs and service providers. ACAud is convening the Summit to bring those answers together, connect what is already working, and shape the workforce pathway Australia needs.

Please use this form to respond to the key questions below. You do not need to answer every prompt under each question, but your response should be clear enough to show your view, the reasons for it, and any evidence, practical experience or examples you want ACAud to consider.

Submission Details

- Submissions open:** 6 July 2026
- Submissions close:** 14 August 2026
- Submit to:** hearingsummit@acaud.org
- Roundtable size:** A focused Adelaide roundtable of up to 24 participants.
- Attachments:** Supporting evidence, examples or reports may be attached separately.

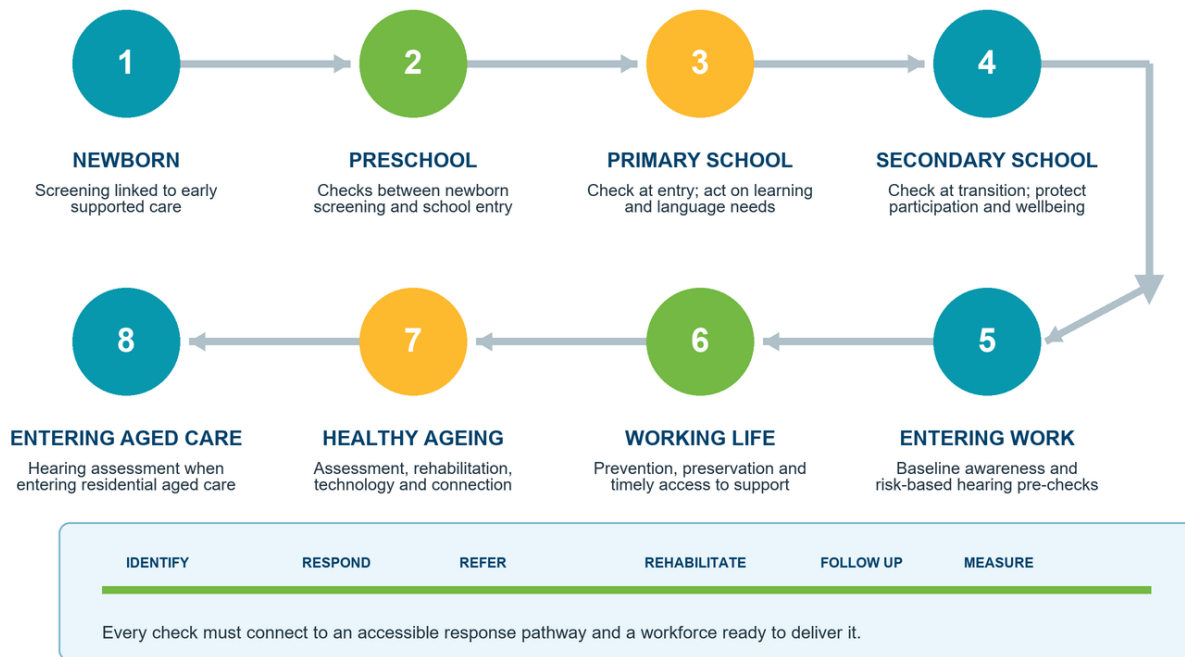
How Your Response Will Be Used

ACAud will review submissions to understand where there is already alignment, where further evidence is needed, which matters require focused discussion, and which people or organisations may need to be represented in the room.

Submitting a response does not guarantee an invitation to the roundtable. It will, however, help shape the agenda, briefing material, discussion priorities and the development of the Adelaide Hearing Health Workforce Accord.

IMAGINE THE SHIFT

Hearing health visible, connected and supported at every life stage



Respondent Details

Name

Organisation, if applicable

Role or connection to hearing healthcare

Email and phone

Response type

Attribution

1. What should Australia's hearing healthcare pathway look like by 2036?

- What should be different for children, families, workers, older people and communities?
- What would equitable access look like in rural, regional and Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander communities?
- What outcomes should the Summit seek to achieve or protect?

2. Which hearing health checks or connection points should be part of a lifelong pathway?

- Please consider newborn screening, preschool checks, primary school entry, secondary school transition, entering work, working life, adult access, healthy ageing and entering aged care.
- Which stages are most important, and are any stages missing?
- What should happen when a check identifies a possible hearing need?

3. What should happen after a hearing need is identified?

- What should the minimum response pathway include: assessment, triage, referral, intervention, rehabilitation, follow-up and outcome measurement?
- What timeframes would be reasonable and safe?
- Which funding, recognition or referral barriers currently prevent people receiving care?

4. What workforce is needed to deliver accessible hearing healthcare across Australia?

- What roles or functions should be available locally, and what should require specialist referral, outreach or telehealth?
- How should students, nurse audiometrists, audiometrists and audiologists contribute across the pathway?
- What competencies, safeguards, supervision or referral arrangements are needed to protect consumers and support access?

5. How should education and career pathways be built?

- What role could school awareness, Certificate III exposure, Certificate IV, diploma, undergraduate and masters pathways play?
- How should people be able to enter, earn, learn and progress without dead-end qualifications?
- What role should paid placements, mentoring, recognition of prior learning and supported progression play?

6. How should Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander hearing health pathways, and rural and regional pathways, be strengthened?

- What should be designed with Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples, communities, Aboriginal and/or Torres Strait Islander Health Workers and Health Practitioners, and community-controlled health organisations?
- What would make training and employment pathways viable close to home?
- Which existing programs, partners or models could support culturally safe implementation?

7. What evidence and safeguards should guide future workforce recognition?

- What evidence should be considered about safety, outcomes, complaints, shared scope, workforce need and access gaps?
- With regulation expected to apply to audiologists from around 2030-2031, what safeguards are needed for the full hearing workforce, including students, nurse audiometrists, audiometrists and audiologists?
- Where restrictions are proposed, what specific risk do they address, and what evidence supports them?
- Where restrictions may reduce access or workforce capacity, what safeguards, referral pathways, supervision, audit or continuing professional development requirements would better protect consumers?

8. Which practical changes could be implemented first?

- Which actions could be started quickly if the right organisations were aligned?
- Which changes need government, education, funding, employer or community partnership?
- What would show that the Summit has produced a practical outcome rather than another discussion?

9. Who should be at the Adelaide roundtable?

- Which people, organisations, communities, employers, educators, programs or consumer voices need to be represented?
- What expertise or lived experience would they bring?
- Are you, or is your organisation, willing to contribute to the Summit process?

10. What else should ACAud consider?

- Please provide any further evidence, concerns, ideas, examples or practical proposals that should inform the Summit.

Declaration

I confirm this response may be reviewed by ACAud for Summit planning, collation, agenda design and identification of potential roundtable participants.

I understand that submission does not guarantee an invitation to the focused roundtable.

Signature and Authority

For organisational responses, the person signing should have authority to submit the response or should state the basis on which the response is provided.

Name

Organisation

Position / authority to submit

Signature

Date