



# 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*

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Monday, 20 March 2017

## Hearing Aid Sales Practices under Examination

On Thursday, 23 March 2017, the Australian Competition and Consumer Commission (ACCC) will appear before the Parliament's Committee on Health, Aged Care and Sport as part of its *Inquiry into the Hearing Health and Wellbeing of Australia*.

The ACCC recently raised concerns about the sales practices used in some hearing aid clinics in its report *Issues around the Sale of Hearing Aids: Consumer and Clinician Perspectives*. The ACCC stated that 'commissions, incentives and other mechanisms designed to drive sales can create a conflict with clinical independence, professional integrity and the primary obligation to consumers.'

Committee Chair, Mr Trent Zimmerman MP, stated that 'in view of the ACCC's recent report on the sale of hearing aids the Committee is eager to discuss what can be done to ensure that hearing clinics are primarily focussed on providing hearing impaired Australians with the highest possible health outcomes'.

Further information about the Committee's inquiry, including the public hearing program is available at [http://www.aph.gov.au/Parliamentary\\_Business/Committees/House/Health\\_Aged\\_Care\\_and\\_Sport/HearingHealth/Public\\_Hearings](http://www.aph.gov.au/Parliamentary_Business/Committees/House/Health_Aged_Care_and_Sport/HearingHealth/Public_Hearings)

### **PUBLIC HEARING DETAILS:**

**Thursday, 23 March 2017, 12.45 to 1.30 pm,  
Committee Room 1R1, Parliament House, CANBERRA.**

**Live Remote Captioning is available for this hearing. For more details please see:**  
[http://www.aph.gov.au/Parliamentary\\_Business/Committees/House/Health\\_Aged\\_Care\\_and\\_Sport/HearingHealth/Public\\_Hearings](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](mailto:Luke.Barnes@aph.gov.au)

### **Background:**

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