

**Senate Community Affairs Committee**

**ANSWERS TO ESTIMATES QUESTIONS ON NOTICE**

**HEALTH PORTFOLIO**

**Additional Estimates 2016 - 2017, 1 March 2017**

**Ref No:** SQ17-000017

**OUTCOME:** 4 - Individual Health Benefits

**Topic:** Hearing Health

**Type of Question:** Hansard, Page 32, 1 March 2017

**Senator:** Siewert, Rachel

**Question:**

Senator SIEWERT: I am sure you are aware of the campaign that the Deafness Forum is now running about making hearing health a national health priority. It is probably an issue for the department and the minister, but have you responded to their call yet, or are you intending to?

Mr Bowles: We have not as yet, and I think we would have to think about how we respond. How and if we respond.

Senator SIEWERT: I take it from that that that you are aware of their campaign, so at least that is some progress. So you do not know if you are going to be responding.

Mr Bowles: I would need to think about that.

Senator SIEWERT: Could you take in on notice?

Mr Bowles: I will take on notice about how I think about that.

**Answer:**

Deafness Forum Australia has written directly to Minister Wyatt who responded on 20 March 2017. Deafness Forum Australia has raised this issue at meetings the Department has attended.