



Review of Supply of Assistive Hearing Technology

As part of the [transition to the National Disability Insurance Scheme \(NDIS\)](#), we are reviewing the current arrangements for the supply of Assistive Hearing Technology (AHT) under the Hearing Services Program (the program). This review will provide an opportunity to assess options for the supply of AHT into the future.

What is the review about?

The review will include an analysis of the benefits and challenges inherent in the current voucher scheme model of supply of AHT. Options that might better support client outcomes, streamline business processes, and simplify administration while ensuring the sustainability of the program by achieving value for money for the Government, will be identified and evaluated.

Details on the scope of the review are outlined at [Review of Supply of Assistive Hearing Technology Project Scope](#). Note that the scope of the review includes, in addition to eligible voucher scheme and Communitarity Service Obligations (CSO) clients, consideration of the AHT which may be offered to NDIS providers for hearing services for children, young adults and complex adults participating in that scheme.

Why is the review happening now?

The review has been initiated to ensure there is sufficient time available to consider and implement any changes to the program prior to the full roll-out of the NDIS in 2019. Feedback from stakeholders has indicated that the review of AHT supply arrangements should occur in parallel with the Review of the Schedule of Service Items and Fees. This will give stakeholders the opportunity to comment on both pieces of work together.

Who is conducting the review?

There has not been a considered review of the supply model for AHT since the voucher scheme component of the program was established in 1997. To ensure a cohesive approach, the scope of the Review of the Schedule of Service Items and Fees has been expanded to incorporate the Review of Supply of Assistive Hearing Technology. Both reviews are being undertaken by PricewaterhouseCoopers (PwC).

What are the review milestones?

PwC's review is split into three key phases:

- Initial information gathering sessions – closed.
- Public discussion paper – closed.
 - Review of services and technology supply in the Hearing Services Program.
- Final report including recommendations - **in progress**.

Comprehensive information about the [scope](#) of this review is available on our website.

What's happening now?

The responses received during the public consultation period are now being analysed by PwC and will be used to inform a final report

The report will encompass the major review findings of the schedule of service items and fees, arrangements for the supply of assistive hearing technology, and a set of recommendations.

What's next?

A report will be published regarding the combined Review of the Schedule of Service Items and Fees and the Supply of Assistive Hearing technology.

Further information

If you have any further questions about the Review of Supply of Assistive Hearing Technology please email hearing@health.gov.au