

# Deadly Kids | Deadly Futures 2017-2018 Action Plan



## Commitment

*Deadly Kids, Deadly Futures* is Queensland's Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Child Ear and Hearing Health Framework 2016-2026. It was released in March 2016 by the Minister for Health and Ambulance Services, the Hon. Cameron Dick MP and the Minister for Education, the Hon. Kate Jones MP. The 10 year framework is a collaborative health, early childhood development and education policy aimed to prevent and manage the impacts of conductive hearing loss due to middle ear disease for current and future generations of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander children and young people across Queensland.

## A Public Health Priority

Conductive hearing loss due to middle ear disease is a priority health condition because it can lead to long-term developmental problems for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander children. The condition can affect school readiness, communication skills, learning abilities and educational outcomes. The impacts can be lifelong, affecting the trajectory of children's lives into adolescence and adulthood.

## Partnership

Deadly Kids | Deadly Futures is supported by a partnership of government and non-government agencies across the health, early childhood and schooling sectors - represented by the logos at the bottom of this page. These agencies are committed to working together to ensure Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander children and young people in Queensland have healthy ears and can listen, learn and reach their full potential.

## Implementation

Each year an Action Plan will be released outlining what government and non-government service providers will do to reduce the prevalence, severity and impacts of middle ear disease and associated hearing loss for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander children and young people. This *2017-2018 Action Plan* is the second such annual plan to be released.

## The 2017-2018 Action Plan priorities:



### Service delivery improvements:

Enhance the services and support provided to children and families to manage the impacts of middle ear disease and associated hearing loss.



### Workforce development:

Enable healthcare professionals and educators to provide appropriate support and services to children.



### Data collection and research:

Build the evidence base to improve the planning, delivery and effectiveness of services.



## Health

### Service delivery improvements

Expanding Telehealth service delivery:

- **TeleFIT:** continue to work towards reducing the age of first-fitting of hearing aids via the new Australian Hearing/Deadly Ears integrated audiology service delivery model, and embed the model into core business
- **Teletarget:** develop a coordinated model of telehealth services (telereview, teleaudiology and teleotology) to increase access to Deadly Ears services and reduce wait times for specialist review
- **Tele-follow up trial:** conduct a one-year trial of regionally centralised, monthly tele-follow up services focussing on children fitted with hearing aids during outreach visits
- **QChild teleotology system:** enhance the state-wide hearing database (QChild) with the development of a teleotology application to enable specialist otological review to be conducted more frequently, on more children, in more locations, while reducing the need to find and fund ENT travel and labour

**Newborn CHL pathway:** Develop care pathways for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander babies identified with conductive hearing loss to ensure they receive timely and effective care.

**Best practice model of care review:** Review ear and hearing health practices in rural HHSs to identify opportunities for enhancing best practice service delivery

**Ear health care coordination:** Trial ear and hearing health coordination to facilitate service delivery for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander children with conductive hearing loss who have complex needs

**HearScreen trial:** Commence trial of HearScreen™ in a number of primary healthcare settings across urban, regional and remote locations to improve the early detection and management of middle ear disease and associated hearing loss and decrease its impacts on childhood development

**Parent-led Listening and Understanding Measure (PLUM) trial:** Develop a tool to help Child Health Nurses in primary care settings to screen listening behaviour in Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander children aged five years and under in order to detect important hearing loss and guide onwards referral

**Funding guidelines for diagnostic audiology services:** Develop a guide for funders, primary health services, ECEC providers and schools which describes best practice diagnostic audiology services for conductive hearing loss in rural and remote areas

**Engage with national stakeholders:** Liaise with stakeholders from across Australia to identify collaborative opportunities for reducing the burden of middle ear disease and associated hearing loss on Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people

### Workforce development

**Commonwealth training for health and education providers:** Promote and support access to existing workforce training and equipment for health professionals, and to online resources for health, early childhood and education professionals, to support and inform the identification and management of middle ear disease and associated hearing loss

**Primary care sector capability development:** Develop an action plan for building capability and developing the workforce in the primary care sector, plus a web-based 'one-stop shop' portal for ear and hearing health training and knowledge development resources

### Data collection and research

**DKDF performance framework:** Develop KPIs to assess the effectiveness of primary health providers in improving the ear and hearing health of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander children in Queensland.

# 2017-2018 Actions



## Early childhood development

### Service delivery improvements

**Transdisciplinary interventions:** Conduct an action research project in one local Aboriginal and Torres Strait community to trial the development and implementation of a coordinated transdisciplinary service model

### Workforce development

**Workforce development:** ECEC Sector Capability Development. Develop a Plan for building ECEC workforce capability in the area of children and families health and wellbeing, including ear and hearing health, plus a web-based 'one-stop shop' portal for related training and knowledge development resources

## Schooling

### Service delivery improvements

**Hear for School promotion:** Promote Australian Hearing's new Hear for School professional development program to schools in Queensland with high numbers of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander children and deliver free development training targeting identified needs of teachers

**Screening guidelines for school principals:** Develop guidelines on effective screening protocols for school-aged students that align with those produced in 2016-17 for providers of school screening

**Best practice action research:** Trial the development and implementation of a whole-school model for supporting students with conductive hearing loss due to middle ear disease that can be scaled up across a range of schools

**Prioritising support for the listening, communication and learning needs of Prep and Year 1 students:** Develop clear guidance for speech-language therapy and advisory visiting teacher teams working in northern Queensland about prioritising services for students with middle ear disease and associated hearing loss in Prep or Year 1, taking account of the pressures, constraints and priorities for schools and teachers

### Workforce development

**School sector capability development:** Develop a Strategy and Action Plan for building capability and developing the workforce in the state schooling sector