



Government  
of South Australia

Hon Stephen Wade MLC  
Minister for Health and Wellbeing

MHW-H18-2570

Ms Susan Tilley  
Manager Aboriginal Policy and Advocacy  
Advocacy Unit  
Uniting Communities  
10 Pitt Street  
ADELAIDE SA 5000

Dear Ms Tilley

Thank you for your letter dated 19 July 2018, regarding the Government's commitment to hearing health in Australia and the particular burden experienced by Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander children in remote communities.

As you outlined, the House of Representatives Standing Committee on Health, Aged Care and Sport's Report on the inquiry into the hearing health and wellbeing of Australia, 'Still waiting to be heard...' highlights the public health importance of hearing health. This report was recently discussed at COAG Health Council where it was decided that a national approach to hearing health would be considered following the Commonwealth's response, which is expected later this year.

I look forward to working through and considering the recommendations in the report with Health Ministers from other jurisdictions over the coming months. I assure you I will give serious consideration to supporting the recommendation to make Hearing Health the next national health priority.

I would like to thank you and your organisation for advocating to improve ear health and hearing of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander children.

Yours sincerely

Stephen Wade  
**Minister for Health and Wellbeing**

3 September 2018