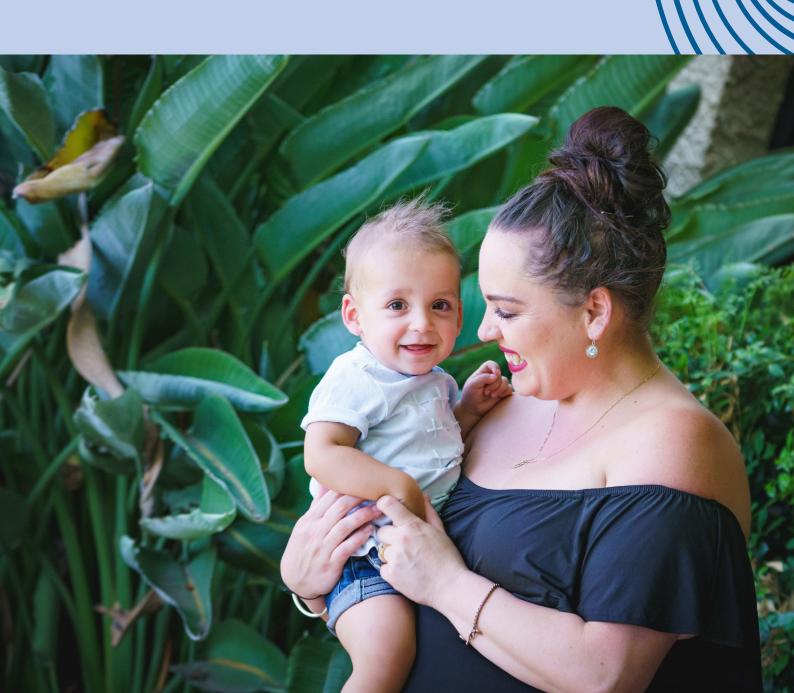


HEALTHY EARS BETTER HEARING BETTER LISTENING (HEBHBL) APRIL 2021



The HEBHBL program increases access to a range of ear and hearing health services, including expanded primary care for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander children and youth (0-21 years) for the diagnosis, treatment and management of ear and hearing health conditions. MM2 – MM7 locations are eligible for Healthy Ears services.

HEBHBL METHODOLOGY AND IARE NEEDS LOCATIONS 2021-22

The Strategy and Health Workforce Planning Team conducted a needs analysis between February and April 2021. This needs assessment used data from:

- i. The RWAV 2020 GP survey where GPs indicated a need for Ear, Nose and Throat specialists (ENTs), Audiologists and Speech Therapists in their local communities. Additionally,
- ii. The number of health practitioners by location as we had access to confidential aggregated counts of health practitioners by sa2 location (e.g., 10-20 Audiologists in Bendigo this is just an example, this data is confidential therefore the example is fictional) from the Department of Health (National Health Workforce Dataset Medical, 2019).
- **iii.** Additionally, exactly what health services are available in specific towns was utilised (via the National Health Service Directory) for all professions in the HEBHBL needs assessment.
- iv. And population sizes of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Children 0 24 years by location was also assessed.

Determining the priority areas

A need was identified for that Indigenous Area (IARE) for Audiologists and/or Speech Therapists and/or ENT specialists where:

- **1.** Number of health practitioners by location (ii) and health service availability (iii) was low, and/or
- 2. A need was indicated via the 2020 GP survey results (i), and
- **3.** There was a local Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander community in the IARE.

Priority areas for HEBHBL program

Based on the needs assessment, the priority areas identified are listed in Table 1 which presents

- 1. the needs for Audiologists, Speech Therapists, and ENT specialists. These are displayed by IARE as population data for young (0-24 years) Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander numbers was available at that geographic level,
- **2.** IAREs where Audiologists, and/or Speech Therapists, and/or ENTs are needed.

Table 1: Priority areas for HEBHBL program

Indigenous Areas (IARE)	ACCHO within IARE	Young Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander population 0-24 years	Audiologist	Speech Therapist	ENT
Ballarat	Yes	1116			
Baw Baw	No	328			
Bendigo	Yes	1321			
Campaspe - Shepparton - Moira	Yes	2426			
Castlemaine - Kerang	No	538			
Geelong - Queenscliff (MMM 2 - 4 localities)	Yes	1606			
Gippsland	Yes	1240			
Latrobe		842			
Macedon Ranges - Moorabool (MMM 2 - 5 localities)	No	451			
Mildura	Yes	1498			
South Gippsland - Bass Coast	No	360			
South-West Central Victoria (MMM 2 - 5 localities)	Yes	872			
Southern Grampians - Glenelg	Yes	501			
Swan Hill	Yes	637			
Upper Goulburn Valley	No	346			
Wallan - Seymour (MMM 4 - 5 localities)	No	473			
Warrnambool	Yes	416			
Wimmera	Yes	413			
Wodonga	Yes	1195			
Yarra Ranges (MMM 2 localities)	No	863			

Please note:

Indigenous Areas (IARE): are medium sized geographical areas designed to facilitate the release of more detailed statistics for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Peoples whilst maintaining the confidentiality of individuals. IAREs provide a balance between spatial resolution and population size, providing the ability to release more detailed data. There are 41 IAREs in Victoria for reference.

References

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