

# **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

<b>Indigenous Areas (IARE)</b>	<b>ACCHO within IARE</b>	<b>Young Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander population</b> 0-24 years	<b>Audiologist</b>	<b>Speech Therapist</b>	<b>ENT</b>
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**

Australian Bureau of Statistics. (2016, July 12). Australian Statistical Geography Standard (ASGS): Volume 1 - Main Structure and Greater Capital City Statistical Areas. ABS.

Rural Workforce Agency Victoria Limited. (2021). RWAV 2020 Regional Victoria GP Workforce Survey.

Department of Health and Human Services (2021), Specialty Workforce Counts, Australian Government (confidential aggregated counts for limited specialties).

Healthdirect (2021), Healthmap. Retrieved from: <https://studio.healthmap.com.au/>.

PHIDU (2021), Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Social Health Atlas of Australia, Data by Indigenous Area.