



for **Australian Hearing**

Impact of a sale of Australian Hearing on hearing research

The Australian Government is investigating the future ownership of Australian Hearing. If the sale proceeds there is a risk that research undertaken by the National Acoustic Laboratories (NAL) which is part of Australian Hearing, may not continue.

NAL receives funding under the Community Service Obligations component of the Australian Government Hearing Services Program to deliver research for the public good.

It obtains additional funding from contract research, grants and from the commercialisation of some inventions. NAL research projects are also funded through the Co-operative Research Centre Program. NAL is one of five core parties that form the HEARing CRC.

NAL is a world leader in research into hearing assessment, hearing loss prevention and hearing rehabilitation. The research that NAL conducts is critical to helping people lead more fulfilling and productive lives. The results of this research are published in leading scientific journals, presented at national and international conferences and reported in the NAL Research and Development Annual Reports. The research that is undertaken with commercial organisations from the hearing rehabilitation and hearing protection industries is also generally published with appropriate safeguards to the companies sponsoring the research.

NAL works collaboratively with other institutions and individuals. Academics wishing to conduct research in areas of interest to NAL are encouraged to consider spending their sabbatical at NAL as a visiting scientist. NAL also hosts students wishing to perform research that is complementary to its own research projects.

NAL is located at the Hearing Hub at Macquarie University in Sydney. The Hub supports collaboration in research, and the co-location of organisations that specialise in hearing services maximises the use of the highly specialised facilities available at the Hearing Hub.

If the sale of Australian Hearing proceeds, it is critical that the research that is undertaken by NAL continues for the benefit of hearing impaired and Deaf people both in Australia and worldwide.

It is also essential that NAL continues as a research facility that is independent of any commercial ownership or influence.

This report was prepared by Deafness Forum, with acknowledgement to its researcher and author Margaret Dewberry.

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