# How can Medicare pay for your child’s dentist?

A text-only Easy Read fact sheet

How to use this fact sheet

We are the Australian Government Department of Health and Aged Care.

We wrote this fact sheet.

We explain the words in **bold**.

There is also a list of these words on page [6](#_Word_list_1).

You can ask someone you trust for support to:

* read this fact sheet
* find more information.

This is an Easy Read summary of another fact sheet.

It only includes the most important ideas.

You can find the other document on our website.

[www.health.gov.au/stronger-medicare/ resources](http://www.health.gov.au/stronger-medicare/resources)

What’s in this document?

[About the Child Dental Benefits Schedule 3](#_Toc188521507)

[Who the program can support 4](#_Toc188521508)

[Services included in the program 4](#_Toc188521509)

[Services not included in the program 5](#_Services_not_included)

[How to take part in the program 5](#_Toc188521511)

[Word list 6](#_Word_list_1)

## About the Child Dental Benefits Schedule

Medicare has a program called the Child Dental Benefits Schedule.

This program can give you a certain amount of money for your child to go to the dentist.

The amount of money will last for 2 years.

After 2 years, you can apply for the program again.

The amount of money might change each year on 1 January.

But once your child starts the program, the amount of money you can use will last for 2 years.

For example, in 2025 you could get $1,132 from the program.

And it would last for 2 years.

Even if the amount you could get for starting the program changes in 2026.

## Who the program can support

Your child can take part in the program if they:

* are under 18 years old
* can get Medicare
* get a government support payment at least once a year.

Your child can also take part in the program if their carer, parent or **guardian** gets a government support payment at least once a year.

A guardian is a person who acts and makes decisions for a child.

A guardian might be:

* a member of the child’s family
* a friend
* chosen by the government.

## Services included in the program

The program covers most services your child can get at the dentist.

This includes:

* check-ups
* X-rays
* cleanings
* fillings to fill holes in your child’s teeth.

## Services not included in the program

The program doesn’t cover:

* services on your child’s teeth in a hospital
* **orthodontics** – to make your child’s teeth straighter
* **cosmetic work** – to make your child’s teeth look better. For example, to make their teeth whiter.

##  How to take part in the program

You will get a letter from Services Australia if your child can take part in the program.

This letter will arrive either by:

* post

or

* online through your myGov account.

You should wait until you get this letter before you make your child’s first dentist appointment.

You should also check that your dentist offers services under the Child Dental Benefits Schedule.

You can get more information on our website.

[www.medicare.gov.au/stronger](http://www.medicare.gov.au/stronger)

## Word list

This list explains what the **bold** words in this document mean.

Cosmetic work

Cosmetic work is where a dentist makes someone’s teeth look better, like whitening.

Guardian

A guardian is a person who acts and makes decisions for a child.

A guardian might be:

* a member of the child’s family
* a friend
* chosen by the government.

Orthodontics

Orthodontics is where a dentist straightens someone’s teeth, like braces.

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