



Strengthening Primary Care – Extending essential dental services

The Australian Government is committing \$115.2 million to ensure Australians can continue to access a range of essential dental services to deliver better health outcomes across our population, including:

- \$107.9 million for the National Partnership Agreement (NPA) for Public Dental Services for Adults, to help states and territories provide approximately 180,000 public dental services to adult concession card holders, and
- \$7.3 million to improve access to the Child Dental Benefits Schedule (CDBS), allowing children under 2 years old to access benefits.

Why is this important?

The Australian Government has supported public dental services through NPAs since 2013. The current NPA has funded services for 763,000 dental patients since 2017. The NPA is the only Commonwealth funding that subsidises dental services for Australians with concession cards, other than private health insurance rebates.

Through the CDBS, around 3 million Australian children are eligible to access up to \$1,013 worth of preventive and basic treatments every 2 years. Since 2014, the scheme has delivered over 36.7 million services.

Who will benefit?

The new NPA will help adult concession card holders access affordable oral health care, recognising that, generally, a range of social factors mean they have a higher risk of oral disease.

The NPA and ongoing access to the CDBS will provide funding certainty for states and territories to continue offering additional public dental services. Changes to the CDBS will also extend eligibility to children under 2 years of age.

How much will this cost?

The Australian Government is investing \$115.2 million over 4 years, from 2021–22.