

SCHEDULE OF DOCUMENTS - FOI-X

ATTACHMENT A

Doc. No.	No. of Pages	Date	Author	Addressee	Description of Document	Decision ¹	Portion Exempt
1	5	30.07.18	Department of Health	Minister Hunt	Ministerial Information Request – MB18-003277 – Departmental brief to Minister Hunt. (Includes Attachment A)	REI	s 22(1)(a) – page 1 s 47B – pages 4, 5
2	2	31.07.18	N/A	Minister Hunt	Ministerial Information Request	RI	s 22(1)(a) – page 2
3	3	05.02.18	N/A	Minister Hunt	Ministerial Information Request	REI	s 22(1)(a) – page 3 s 47B – page 1
4	4	23.01.18	N/A	Minister Hunt	Ministerial Information Request	REI	s 22(1)(a) – page 4 s 47B – pages 1 and 2
5	5	11.09.18	Department of Health	Minister Hunt	Ministerial Submission	REI	s 22(1)(a) – pages 1, 4 s 47B – page 5
6	12	05.03.18	Department of Health	Minister Hunt	Ministerial Submission	REI	s 22(1)(a) – pages 1, 6, 8, 10 s 47B – pages 2-4 – part document pages 4, 11, 12 – whole document

¹ R= Release with Irrelevant information removed, REI = Release with Exemptions and Irrelevant information removed, E = Exempt in Full,

7	5	23.04.18	Department of Health	Minister Hunt	Ministerial Submission	REI	s 22(1)(a) - pages 1, 4 s 47B - page 5
8	5	22.01.18	Department of Health	Minister Hunt	Ministerial Submission	REI	s 22(1)(a) - pages 1, 4 s 47B - page 5
9	5	27.06.18	Department of Health	Minister Hunt	Ministerial Submission	REI	s 22(1)(a) - pages 1, 4 s 47B - page 5
10	5	23.05.18	Department of Health	Minister Hunt	Ministerial Submission	REI	s 22(1)(a) - pages 1, 4 s 47B - page 5
11	6	N/A	N/A	N/A	Additional Estimates Brief	REI	s 22(1)(a) - all pages s 34 - pages 4 - 5 s 47B - pages 2, 4, 5
12	2	02.08.18	N/A	N/A	Briefing Paper	REI	s 22(1)(a) - page 2 s 47B - page 1
13	2	02.08.18	N/A	N/A	Briefing Paper	RI	s 22(1)(a) - page 2
14	1	02.08.18	N/A	N/A	Briefing Paper Addendum	REI	s 22(1)(a) - page 1 s 47B - page 1
15	9	17.10.18	N/A	N/A	Dental Health Core Overview	REI	s 22(1)(a) - page 4 whole document pages 5, 6, 8, 9 part document s 47B - pages 2, 7 part document
16	4	23.01.18	N/A	N/A	Dental Health Core Overview	RI	s 22(1)(a) - page 4
17	4	N/A	N/A	N/A	Cabinet document	E	s 34 - whole document
18	2	N/A	N/A	N/A	Cabinet document	E	s 34 - whole document
19	1	N/A	N/A	N/A	Cabinet document	E	s 34 - whole document



To: Minister Hunt

Subject: PUBLIC DENTAL FUNDING AND THE NPA

Minister Hunt				Date: / /	
Comments:					
Contact Officer:	Janet Quigley	Assistant Secretary Primary Care, Dental and Palliative Care Branch	Ph: (02) 6289 5372 Mobile: s 22		
Clearance Officer:	Nick Hartland	Deputy Secretary (Acting)	Ph: (02) 6289 8776 Mobile: s 22		

Key Issues:

National Partnership Agreements for dental services

- States and Territories are the system managers of the public dental systems, and retain primary responsibility for the delivery of public dental services.
- The Turnbull Government is supporting states and territories in this, contributing \$242.5 million from 1 January 2017 to 30 June 2019 for delivery of approximately 400,000 additional public dental services to adults through a National Partnership Agreement.
 - The funding model under the current National Partnership Agreement was adjusted, following an extensive review, to more accurately reflect the true costs of providing services.
- The current National Partnership Agreement on Public Dental Services for Adults offers Queensland around \$48.8 million in funding to provide services to an additional 80,332 public dental patients. This continues a line of National Partnership Agreements under which the Commonwealth has assisted states and territories to deliver public dental services to their citizens.
- The Queensland Government signed the NPA on 18 June 2018, the last jurisdiction to sign up to the agreement. No funding has yet flowed to Queensland, and funding cannot be made available until Minister Miles agrees a project plan for this NPA with Minister Hunt.

- Despite the delay, Queensland can still potentially access the full amount allocated to it, if it delivers the additional services.

Activity Based Funding

s 22

- Under the NHRA, the Commonwealth contributes funding to states and territories for each episode of public hospital dental care. For 2016-17, the approximate Commonwealth contribution to the National Health Funding Pool, as determined by the Independent Hospital Pricing Authority for the following dental services is as follows:
 - Dental Extractions and Restorations is \$1,236.67 per service;
 - Oral and Dental Disorders, Major Complexity is \$2,189.00 per service; and
 - Oral and Dental Disorders, Minor Complexity is \$607.79 per service.
- The Commonwealth Government will also make an approximate contribution towards each non-admitted dental occasion of service provided in Queensland's public hospital of \$107.23.
- Note: These figures are "approximate" as they are the Commonwealth contribution to efficient growth for these services. The contribution for the base level of these services (the amount continued from the previous year) will differ from state to state and will not be equal to these figures.
- The Australian Institute of Health and Welfare reports that the number of Same-day Dental Services provided in Queensland's Public Hospitals is public has decreased from 19,236 to 18,046, between 2015-16 and 2016-17.
- Source: page 113, Admitted patient care 2015-16 report, AIHW and page 165, Admitted patient care 2016-17 report, AIHW
- NOTE: The Department is not able to make accurate assessments of its contribution to state public hospitals for particular services by Diagnostic Related Group (DRG). Furthermore, the number of services provided in state public hospital by DRG is not publically available information.

Background:

See Attachment A.

National Partnership Agreements for dental services

Table 1: Budget Allocations by Financial Year*								
	NPA1			NPA2		NPA3		
	2012-13	2013-14	2014-15	2015-16	2016-17	2016-17	2017-18	2018-19
Total	\$69,200,000	\$155,200,000	\$119,600,000	\$155,000,000	\$77,500,000	\$27,000,000	\$107,750,000	\$107,750,000

*Table 1 funding represents Budget allocations and the total funding available if states met 100 per cent of their performance targets.

Table 2: Actual Expenditure by Financial Year*								
	NPA1			NPA2		NPA3		
	2012-13	2013-14	2014-15	2015-16	2016-17	2016-17	2017-18	2018-19
Total	\$69,200,000	\$139,011,689	\$134,654,748	\$154,013,080#	\$77,500,000	\$0	\$106,448,396	\$0

*The funding in Table 2 represents actual expenditure and varies from the budget allocations. This is because the initial agreement (NPA 1) was delayed and unspent funds were transferred to later years. In addition, Western Australia did not meet 100 per cent of its performance target and did not receive its total funding allocation.

#NPA 2 expenditure in 2015-16 is less than the budget allocation because Western Australia did not meet its performance target.

Table 3: Breakdown by State (Actual Expenditure) by Financial Year*								Projected Expenditure
S/T	NPA1			NPA2		NPA3		NPA3
	2012-13	2013-14	2014-15	2015-16	2016-17	2016-17	2017-18	2018-19
NSW	\$22,299,183	\$50,012,040	\$38,540,204	\$49,947,592	\$24,973,796	\$0	\$42,975,941	\$34,365,800
VIC	\$17,169,311	\$36,239,902	\$31,941,119	\$38,457,272	\$19,228,636	\$0	\$33,618,324	\$26,881,936
QLD	\$13,538,006	\$30,362,698	\$23,398,057	\$30,323,570	\$15,161,785	\$0	\$0	\$48,757,509
WA	\$5,816,326	\$0	\$21,963,640	\$12,040,978	\$6,513,949	\$0	\$12,113,252	\$9,686,246
SA	\$5,571,957	\$12,496,642	\$9,630,145	\$12,480,538	\$6,240,269	\$0	\$11,732,249	\$9,381,348
TAS	\$2,470,102	\$5,539,880	\$4,269,135	\$5,534,006	\$2,767,003	\$0	\$4,236,808	\$3,387,648
ACT	\$1,101,613	\$2,470,670	\$1,903,945	\$2,364,800	\$1,182,400	\$0	\$0	\$2,174,791
NT	\$1,233,502	\$1,889,857	\$3,008,503	\$2,864,324	\$1,432,162	\$0	\$1,771,822	\$1,416,326
Total	\$69,200,000	\$139,011,689	\$134,654,748	\$154,013,080	\$77,500,000	\$0	\$106,448,396	\$136,051,604

*The funding in Table 3 represents actual expenditure and varies from the budget allocation. This is because the initial agreement was delayed and unspent funds were transferred to later years. ^{s 47B}

NPA 3 includes actual expenditure and a column for projected expenditure which includes available funding if all states and territories meet their performance targets.

Table 4: Dental Weighted Activity Units (DWAUs) Required Under NPAs and DWAUs Achieved#						
S/T	NPA1		NPA2		NPA3*	
	DWAU Required under NPA1	s 47B	DWAU Required under NPA2	s 47B	DWAU Required under NPA3	s 47B
NSW	131,620		87,746		131,666	
VIC	101,342		67,562		104,612	
QLD	79,908		53,273		80,332	
WA	34,330		22,887		34,033	
SA	32,888		21,926		34,155	
TAS	11,762		7,842		11,870	
ACT	3,686		2,457		4,119	
NT	4,464		2,976		3,381	
Total	400,000		266,667		404,168	

1 DWAU roughly equates to dental services for one patient.

*DWAUs achieved represent activity to date. The NPA is cumulative and states and territories can make up activity to meet the DWAUs required under the Agreement if not met in previous periods. QLD recently signed the NPA (on 18 June 2018) and has not yet provided a project plan, so no data on additional DWAUs is available.

Child Dental Benefits Schedule

- As at 30 June 2018, the CDBS has provided \$1.4 billion in benefits and delivered 22.6 million services to 2.3 million Australian children since it commenced on 1 January 2014. 25 per cent of all services are provided in the public sector.

MINISTERIAL INFORMATION REQUEST

MB18-003329
Date Sent to MO: 31/07/2018

MINISTER: Greg Hunt

Issue: National Partnership Agreement

Response:

Your office has requested information about the timing of aspects of the National Partnership Agreement for Public Dental Services for Adults.

S/T	Signed NPA	Project Plan Received	2013-14 Baseline Received	Project Plan & Baseline Approved
NSW	6 November 2017	18 December 2017	25 January 2018	13 March 2018
VIC	17 January 2018	2 February 2018	2 February 2018	13 March 2018
QLD	18 June 2018			
WA	16 January 2018	26 February 2018	16 April 2018	1 May 2018
SA	3 October 2017	9 January 2018	9 January 2018	13 March 2018
TAS	4 October 2017	3 January 2018	3 January 2018	9 February 2018
ACT	12 December 2017	12 June 2018	21 June 2018	28 June 2018
NT	12 January 2018	6 February 2018	15 May 2018	24 May 2018

*Commonwealth approval is contingent on each state providing project plans and baseline data. The Commonwealth and states agree project plans to provide the public with an indication of how the project is intended to be delivered and demonstrate each state's capacity to achieve the outcomes and outputs of the Agreement.

Minister Greg Hunt

PDR Number MB18-003329

Issue ****Same day turnaround** MIR - National Partnership Agreement**

Contact Officer Janet Quigley
(02) 6289 5372
s 22(1)(a)

Clearance Officer Alison Morehead
(02) 6289 5323
s 22(1)(a)

Division/Branch Primary Care and Mental Health

Adviser/DLO Comments:

Return for
Redraft ☐

MINISTERIAL INFORMATION REQUEST

MB18-000384

Date Sent to MO: 05/02/18

MINISTER: Greg Hunt

Issue: Dental Funding Allocation to QLD Health in 2017 Budget

Response:

State and territory governments are responsible for the funding, administration and delivery of adult public dental services. In recognition of the significant challenges in accessing public dental services, the Commonwealth has been providing financial assistance to states and territories to support the delivery of additional public dental services since 2013.

The 2017-18 Budget included funding of \$320 million for dental National Partnership Agreements with the states and territories. \$77.5 million of this was for a six month extension to the previous National Partnership Agreement on Adult Public Dental Services¹. The remaining \$242.5 million is for the current National Partnership Agreement on Public Dental Services for Adults, covering the period 1 January 2017 to 30 June 2019. This agreement is expected to deliver public dental services to an additional 400,000 people across Australia².

This funding is around 30%³ less than under previous dental National Partnership Agreements, however service levels remain consistent, with the funding levels adjusted to more accurately reflecting the cost of delivering dental services.

s 47B

Under this agreement, Queensland could expect to receive up to \$48.8 million to deliver services to an additional 80,300 people over the 2.5 years of the agreement⁴.

s 47B

Queensland is the only jurisdiction which has not yet signed the National Partnership, and therefore is currently unable to access any Commonwealth funding to support the delivery of adult public dental services.

¹ [Budget Paper No 3, Federal Financial Relations 2017-18 Part 2: Payments for Specific Purposes, pg 27](#)

² [National Partnership on Public Dental Services for Adults](#)

³ Internal calculations based on figures contained in the [current](#) and [previous](#) dental NPAs.

⁴ [National Partnership on Public Dental Services for Adults](#)

s 47B

Should Queensland sign the agreement, the distribution of funding to regions such as Wide Bay would be a matter for the state government as the Commonwealth does not dictate the distribution of this funding.

In addition to supporting jurisdictions to deliver additional adult public dental services, the Commonwealth also directly funds the Child Dental Benefits Schedule (CDBS). The CDBS provides eligible children aged 2 -17 years with financial assistance to access basic dental services. Eligible children may access up to \$1,000 in benefits over two years⁶. Further information on the CDBS is available from www.health.gov.au/cdbs.

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THE FREEDOM OF INFORMATION ACT 1982
BY THE DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH

⁶ [Dental Benefits Rules 2014](#)

Minister Greg Hunt

PDR Number MB18-000384

Issue Allocation to QLD Health Funding in 2017 Budget

Contact Officer Janet Quigley
(02) 6289 5372
s 22(1)(a)

Clearance Officer Natasha Cole
(02) 6289 5323
s 22(1)(a)

Division/Branch Primary Care and Mental Health

Adviser/DLO Comments:

Return for
Redraft ☐

MINISTERIAL INFORMATION REQUEST

MB18-000235

Date Sent to MO: 23/01/2018 via email

MINISTER: Greg Hunt

Issue: Ministerial Information Request: National Partnership Agreement on Adult Public Dental Services

Response:

The Commonwealth is providing states and territories with funding of up to \$242.5 million from 1 January 2017 to 30 June 2019 for the delivery of an additional 400,000 adult public dental services through the National Partnership Agreement on Adult Public Dental Services (NPA).

This includes up to \$60.5 million for Victoria to deliver services to an additional 104,600 people and up to \$48.8 million for Queensland to deliver services to an additional 80,300 people. Queensland is the only jurisdiction which has not yet signed the NPA.

Dental Weighted Activity Units

Under the terms of the NPA, performance of each jurisdiction is measured through Dental Weighted Activity Units (DWAUs). Each eligible dental service is identified using the Australian Dental Association's three digit item code and is given a DWAU weighting. For example, item 011, a comprehensive oral examination has a weighting of 0.09. Item 711, a complete maxillary denture, has a weighting of 1.65.

A DWAU of 1 is considered to be roughly equal to completed treatment for an adult patient, and is given a dollar value to determine the level of funding a jurisdiction will receive for each DWAU delivered in line with the agreement.

Under the previous two dental NPAs, the Commonwealth paid about \$850 per DWAU for the five larger states and about \$1,400 per DWAU for the three smaller states. The Department reviewed the DWAU price for the current NPA because the older DWAU price did not reflect the actual cost of delivering public dental services.

The Department used three different sources to review the price including:

- the Department of Veterans' Affairs dental schedule;
- evidence previously provided by the states; and
- data from the Australian Institute of Health and Welfare's Health Expenditure report.

Following this review, the Commonwealth offered jurisdictions a price of \$600 per DWAU s 47B

Jurisdictions argued that there were additional costs associated with delivering services in rural and remote areas. As a result, the Commonwealth modified its calculation of DWAU pricing to provide a loading for those jurisdictions with a high number of rural and remote residents.

States and Territories will receive the following price per DWAU under the NPA:

NSW	VIC	QLD	SA	WA	TAS	NT	ACT
\$587.43	\$578.33	\$606.95	\$618.17	\$640.54	\$642.33	\$942.96	\$527.99

s 47B, s 47C

Vouchers

While the NPA provides funding to jurisdictions to support the delivery of additional services, the states and territories retain responsibility for the

administration and management of the services. Jurisdictions are able to use a range of models to deliver services, and there is significant variation in how states and territories are currently choosing to deliver services.

Jurisdictions may employ dentists directly to deliver services and/or may use private sector dentists to deliver services. Some jurisdictions issue vouchers which eligible patients can then use to access services with a dentist of their choosing. Any individuals with concerns regarding the use of dental vouchers should raise those issues directly with the relevant issuing state dental service.

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BY THE DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH

Minister Greg Hunt

PDR Number MB18-000235

Issue National Partnership Agreement on Adult Public Dental Services

Contact Officer a/g AS Louise Riley
(02) 6289 5372
s 22(1)(a)

Clearance Officer a/g FAS Chris Bedford
(02) 6289 5323
s 22(1)(a)

Division/Branch Primary Care and Mental Health

Adviser/DLO Comments:

Return for
Redraft ☐



To: Minister Hunt

Subject: QUEENSLAND'S PROJECT PLAN UNDER THE NATIONAL
PARTNERSHIP AGREEMENT ON PUBLIC DENTAL SERVICES FOR
ADULTS

Critical date: 26 September 2018 – to ensure that the Project Plan is published on the Council on
Federal Financial Relations in a timely manner

Recommendation/s:

- | | |
|---|---|
| 1. Approve the Project Plan for the Queensland (QLD) submitted under the National Partnership Agreement (NPA) on Public Dental Services for Adults at <u>Attachment A</u> . | 1. Approved/Not approved/Please discuss |
| 2. Sign the Project Plan for QLD at <u>Attachment A</u> . | 2. Signed/Not signed/Please discuss |
| 3. Sign the letter to the Hon Dr Steven Miles MP, QLD Minister for Health, at <u>Attachment B</u> . | 3. Signed/Not signed/Please discuss |

Signature

Date:

16/9/18

Comments:

Contact Officer:	Emma Gleeson	A/g First Assistant Secretary, Primary Care and Mental Health Division	Ph: (02) 6289 5327 Mobile: s 22
Clearance Officer:	Alison Morehead	A/g Deputy Secretary, Health Systems Policy and Primary Care	Ph: (02) 6289 5323 Mobile: s 22

Issues:

1. The QLD Government has submitted their Project Plan and revised 2013-14 baseline Attachment C due under the NPA on Public Dental Services for Adults (the NPA).
2. The Department has assessed the Project Plan and revised 2013-14 baseline data as consistent with the requirements of the Agreement and recommends approval. Subject to your approval, your signature is sought on the final page of the Project Plan.
3. A letter to Minister Miles advising of approval of the Project Plan is at Attachment B for your signature.

Background:

States and territories are responsible for the management and delivery of adult public dental services. In recognition of the reliance of some sectors of the community on public dental services, and the wait times associated accessing the same, the Commonwealth has been providing financial assistance to jurisdictions to support the delivery of additional services since 2013.

The current NPA covers the period 1 January 2017 to 30 June 2019 and provides up to \$242.5 million for states and territories, for the treatment of around 400,000 additional patients. You offered the Agreement on 27 July 2017 and it took effect from 3 October 2017, when the first state signed.

Project Agreement and Baseline

Under the terms of the NPA, 'the Commonwealth and the States will agree Project Plans to provide the public with an indication of how the project is delivered and demonstrate each State's capacity to achieve the outcomes and outputs of the Agreement'. The Project Plans are agreed between Health Ministers.

States and Territories and the Commonwealth are also responsible for 'agreeing the 2013-14 baseline to reflect the revised weightings in Schedule B of this Agreement'. During negotiations on the Agreement, the Department sought advice from its Dental Advisers and the Australian Dental Association in relation to weightings allocated to each type of service. The Schedule was then updated to reflect the revised weightings as agreed between the Commonwealth and the states.

Data has been submitted for Dental Weighted Activity Units (DWAU) weightings from QLD totalling 187,840 for its 2013-14 baseline. The Department has analysed the 2013-14 baseline and determined that the data is consistent with the baseline agreed under the previous NPA on Adult Public Dental Services, adjusted to reflect the revision to the DWAUs applied under the current Agreement.

In accordance with the *Intergovernmental Agreement on Federal Financial Relations*, once signed by the parties, the Project Plan will be published on the Council on Federal Financial Relations website.

Attachments:

- A: Project Plan for QLD
- B: Letter to Minister Miles
- C: Minister Miles' letter to Minister Hunt



The Hon Greg Hunt MP
Minister for Health
Minister for Sport

Ref No: MS18-001754

The Hon Dr Steven Miles MP
Minister for Health
Minister for Ambulance Services
GPO Box 48
BRISBANE QLD 4001

18 SEP 2018

Dear Minister

Thank you for your recent correspondence regarding the Queensland's Project Plan under the National Partnership Agreement on Public Dental Services for Adults.

I am pleased to endorse this Project Plan and have enclosed a signed copy with this letter for your records.

I look forward to continuing to work with you on this Agreement.

Yours sincerely


Greg Hunt

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BY THE DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH

**KEEP WITH FILE COPY
- DO NOT DISPATCH-**

Contact Officer

Emma Gleeson
(02) 6289 5327
s 22(1)(a)(ii)

Clearance Officer

Alison Morehead
(02) 6289 5323
s 22

Division/Branch

Primary Care and Mental Health Division

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To: Minister Hunt

Subject: NEW SOUTH WALES, SOUTH AUSTRALIA AND VICTORIA PROJECT
PLANS UNDER THE NATIONAL PARTNERSHIP AGREEMENT ON
PUBLIC DENTAL SERVICES FOR ADULTS

Critical date: 21 March 2018

Recommendations:

That you:

- | | |
|--|---------------------------------|
| 1. Approve the Project Plans for New South Wales (NSW), South Australia (SA) and Victoria (VIC), submitted under the National Partnership Agreement (NPA) on Public Dental Services for Adults at <u>Attachments A, B and C</u> . | 1. Approved/Not approved |
| 2. Sign the Project Plans for NSW, SA and VIC at <u>Attachments A, B and C</u> . | 2. Signed/Not signed |
| 3. Sign the letter to the Hon Brad Hazzard MP, NSW Minister for Health, at <u>Attachment D</u> . | 3. Signed/Not signed |
| 4. Sign the letter to the Hon Peter Malinauskas MLC, SA Minister for Health, at <u>Attachment E</u> . | 4. Signed/Not signed |
| 5. Sign the letter to the Hon Jill Hennessy MP, VIC Minister for Health, at <u>Attachment F</u> . | 5. Signed/Not signed |

Signature

Date:

13 / 3 / 18

Comments:

Contact Officer:	Natasha Cole	First Assistant Secretary, Primary Care and Mental Health Division	Ph: (02) 6289 5323 Mobile: s 22(1)(a)
Clearance Officer:	Caroline Edwards	Deputy Secretary	Ph: (02) 6289 1235 Mobile: s 22(1)(a)

Issues:

1. The NSW, SA and VIC governments have submitted their Project Plans and revised 2013-14 baselines due under the NPA on Public Dental Services for Adults (the NPA).

2. The Department has assessed the Project Plans and revised 2013-14 baselines data as consistent with the requirements of the Agreement and recommends approval. Subject to your approval, your signature is sought on the final page of each of the Project Plans.
3. Correspondence from the NSW Government Attachments G and H ^{s 47B(a)}

^{s 47B(a)}

^{s 47B(a)}

This access allows state and territory government to provide CDBS funded services to eligible children.

4. State and territory government access to the CDBS will remain in place throughout the current NPA, and any future decisions regarding access should be made in the context of future decisions around Commonwealth support for public sector dental services.
5. ^{s 47B(a)}

6. This proposal from NSW is addressed in the response at Attachment B for your signature.
7. Further advice on Commonwealth support for dental services past the current funding period will be provided to your office in due course.

Background:

States and territories are responsible for the management and delivery of adult public dental services. In recognition of the reliance of some sectors of the community on public dental services, and the wait times associated with accessing the same, the Commonwealth has been providing financial assistance to jurisdictions to support the delivery of additional services since 2013.

This current NPA covers the period 1 January 2017 to 30 June 2019 and provides up to \$242.5 million for treatment of around 400,000 additional patients. You offered the Agreement on 27 July 2017 and it took effect from 3 October 2017, when the first state signed.

In addition to supporting public dental services through the Agreement, the Commonwealth also directly funds the CDBS, which provides financial assistance for eligible children to access basic dental services.

Project Plan and Baseline

Under the terms of the NPA 'the Commonwealth and the States will agree Project Plans to provide the public with an indication of how the project is delivered and demonstrate each State's capacity to achieve the outcomes and outputs of the Agreement'. The Project Plans are agreed between Health Ministers.

The jurisdictions and Commonwealth are also responsible for 'agreeing the 2013-14 baseline to reflect the revised weightings in Schedule B of this Agreement'. During negotiations on this Agreement, the Department sought advice from its Dental Advisers and the Australian Dental Association in relation to the weightings allocated to each type of service. The Schedule was then updated to reflect the revised weightings as agreed between the Commonwealth and the states.

Data has been submitted for Dental Weighted Activity Units (DWAU) weightings from NSW totalling 161,645; SA totalling 68,885 and VIC totalling 204,363 for their 2013-14 baselines. The Department has analysed the 2013-14 baselines and determined that the data is consistent with the baselines agreed under the previous NPA on Adult Public Dental Services, adjusted to reflect the revision to the DWAUs applied under the current Agreement.

In accordance with the *Intergovernmental Agreement on Federal Financial Relations*, once signed by the parties, the Project Plans will be published on the Council on Federal Financial Relations website.

s 47B(a)

The CDBS is an ongoing program, though state and territory ability to bill the program is at your discretion. Public sector dentists are currently able to bill the CDBS for services provided until 31 December 2019. This will remain in place until after the expiry of the NPA, noting that the CDBS is a calendar year program and the NPA usually operates over financial years.

Attachments:

- A: Project Plan for NSW
- B: Project Plan for SA
- C: Project Plan for VIC
- D: Letter to Minister Hazzard
- E: Letter to Minister Malinauskas
- F: Letter to Minister Hennessy
- G: Correspondence received from the Hon Gladys Berejiklian
- H: Correspondence received from Minister Hazzard

Consultations: The Health Economics and Research Division was consulted in the preparation of this Submission.

Rural and Regional Considerations: NSW has indicated it will use the NPA funding to enhance existing services such as the Oral Health Fee for Service Scheme and increase the provision of tertiary services from the two metropolitan tertiary centres (the Westmead Centre for Oral Health and the Sydney Dental Hospital) and other local centres with tertiary service capacity.

SA has indicated it will use the NPA funding to improve access to care for people living in regional and remote areas of the State where waiting times exceed the State average, by increasing staffing levels and targeted use of fee for service private sector schemes.

VIC has indicated it will use the NPA funding to provide additional services through public dental clinics and private dentists. Additional services in the public sector will be provided using a number of strategies, including extended operating hours and recruiting additional staff across public dental clinics. VIC will engage the private sector through its existing voucher schemes – the Victorian General Dental Scheme, Victorian Emergency Dental Scheme and Victorian Denture Scheme.

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The Hon Greg Hunt MP
Minister for Health

Ref No: MS17-001573

The Hon Brad Hazzard MP
Minister for Health
Minister for Medical Research
GPO Box 5341
SYDNEY NSW 2001

13 MAR 2018

Dear Minister Hazzard

Thank you for your recent correspondence regarding the New South Wales' Project Plan under the National Partnership Agreement (NPA) on Public Dental Services for Adults.

I am pleased to endorse this Project Plan and have enclosed a signed copy with this letter for your records.

s 47B(a)

I look forward to continuing to work with you to deliver additional public dental services under this Agreement.

Yours sincerely

Greg Hunt

Encl (1)

cc. The Hon Gladys Berejiklian MP, Premier of New South Wales

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Contact Officer

Natasha Cole
(02) 6289 5323
s 22(1)(a)

Clearance Officer

Caroline Edwards
(02) 6289 1235
s 22(1)(a)

Division/Branch

Primary Care and Mental Health

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The Hon Greg Hunt MP
Minister for Health

Ref No: MS17-001573

The Hon Peter Malinauskas MLC
Minister for Health
Minister for Mental Health and Substance Abuse
GPO Box 2555
ADELAIDE SA 5001

13 MAR 2018

Dear Minister Malinauskas

Thank you for your recent correspondence regarding the South Australian Project Plan under the National Partnership Agreement on Public Dental Services for Adults.

I am pleased to endorse this Project Plan and have enclosed a signed copy with this letter for your records.

I look forward to continuing to work with you to deliver additional public dental services under this Agreement.

Yours sincerely


Greg Hunt

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Division/Branch	Primary Care and Mental Health

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The Hon Greg Hunt MP
Minister for Health

Ref No: MS17-001573

The Hon Jill Hennessy MP
Minister for Health
Minister for Ambulance Services
Level 22, 50 Lonsdale Street
MELBOURNE VIC 3000

13 MAR 2018

Dear Minister Hennessy

Thank you for your recent correspondence regarding the Victorian Project Plan under the National Partnership Agreement on Public Dental Services for Adults.

I am pleased to endorse this Project Plan and have enclosed a signed copy with this letter for your records.

I look forward to continuing to work with you to deliver additional public dental services under this Agreement.

Yours sincerely


Greg Hunt

Encl (1)

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Contact Officer

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Primary Care and Mental Health

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To: Minister Hunt

Subject: WESTERN AUSTRALIA'S PROJECT PLAN UNDER THE NATIONAL PARTNERSHIP AGREEMENT (NPA) ON PUBLIC DENTAL SERVICES FOR ADULTS

Critical date: 11 May 2018. To finalise the WA Project Plan prior to the end of the financial year.

Recommendations:

That you:

- | | |
|---|--------------------------|
| 1. Approve the Project Plan and baseline data for Western Australia (WA), submitted under the National Partnership Agreement (NPA) on Public Dental Services for Adults <u>Attachment A</u> . | 1. Approved/Not approved |
| 2. Sign the Project Plan for WA at <u>Attachment A</u> . | 2. Signed/Not signed |
| 3. Sign the letter to the Hon Roger Cook MLA, WA Minister for Health, at <u>Attachment B</u> . | 3. Signed/Not signed |

Signature

Date: 11/5/18

Comments:

Contact Officer:	Janet Quigley	Assistant Secretary, Primary Care, Dental and Palliative Care Branch	Ph: (02) 6289 5372 Mobile: s 22(1)(a)
Clearance Officer:	Natasha Cole	First Assistant Secretary, Health Services Division	Ph: (02) 6289 5323 Mobile: s 22(1)(a)

Issues:

- The Western Australian Government (Attachment C) have submitted their Project Plan and revised 2013-14 baseline due under the National Partnership Agreement (the NPA) on Public Dental Services for Adults.
- The Department has assessed the Project Plan and revised 2013-14 baseline data as consistent with the requirements of the Agreement and recommends approval. Subject to your approval, your signature is sought on the final page of the Project Plan at Attachment A.
- A letter to Minister Cook advising of approval of the Project Plan is at Attachment B for your signature.

Background:

States and territories are responsible for the management and delivery of adult public dental services. In recognition of the reliance of some sectors of the community on public dental services, and the wait times associated with accessing the same, the Commonwealth has been providing financial assistance to jurisdictions to support the delivery of additional services since 2013.

This current NPA covers the period 1 January 2017 to 30 June 2019 and provides up to \$242.5 million for treatment of around 400,000 additional patients. You offered the Agreement on 27 July 2017 and it took effect from 3 October 2017, when the first state signed.

Project Plan and Baseline

Under the terms of the NPA 'the Commonwealth and the states will agree Project Plans to provide the public with an indication of how the project is delivered and demonstrate each state's capacity to achieve the outcomes and outputs of the Agreement'. The Project Plans are agreed between Health Ministers.

The jurisdictions and Commonwealth are also responsible for 'agreeing the 2013-14 baseline to reflect the revised weightings in Schedule B of this Agreement'. During negotiations on this Agreement, the Department sought advice from its Dental Advisers and the Australian Dental Association in relation weightings allocated to each type of service. The Schedule was then updated to reflect the revised weightings as agreed between the Commonwealth and the states.

Data has been submitted for Dental Weighted Activity Units (DWAU) weightings from Western Australia (WA) totalling 48,701 for its 2013-14 baseline. The Department has analysed the 2013-14 baseline and determined that the data is consistent with the baseline agreed under the previous NPA on Adult Public Dental Services, adjusted to reflect the revision to the DWAUs applied under the current Agreement.

In accordance with the *Intergovernmental Agreement on Federal Financial Relations*, once signed by the parties, the Project Plan will be published on the Council on Federal Financial Relations website.

Attachments:

- A: Project Plan for WA
- B: Letter to Minister Cook
- C: Minister Cook's letter to Minister Hunt

Rural and Regional Considerations:

WA has indicated it will use the NPA funding to treat all adult dental patients in line with its existing eligibility criteria. WA will enter into Grant Agreements with non-government organisations that focus on delivery of dental care to regional and remote areas of WA, Aboriginal people and people with no fixed address.



The Hon Greg Hunt MP
Minister for Health

Ref No: MS17-001580

The Hon Roger Cook MLA
Deputy Premier
Minister for Health; Mental Health
13th Floor, Dumas House
2 Havelock Street
WEST PERTH WA 6005

01 MAY 2018

Dear Minister

Thank you for your recent correspondence regarding Western Australia's Project Plan under the National Partnership Agreement on Public Dental Services for Adults.

I am pleased to endorse this Project Plan and have enclosed a signed copy with this letter for your records.

I look forward to continuing to work with you on this Agreement.

Yours sincerely

Greg Hunt

Encl (1)

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PDR No	MS18-001580
Contact Officer	Natasha Cole (02) 6289 5323 <small>s 22(1)(a)</small>
Clearance Officer	Caroline Edwards (02) 6289 1235 <small>s 22(1)(a)</small>
Division/Branch	Primary Care and Mental Health

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To: Minister Hunt

Subject: TASMANIA'S PROJECT PLAN UNDER THE NATIONAL PARTNERSHIP AGREEMENT ON PUBLIC DENTAL SERVICES FOR ADULTS

Critical date: 7 February 2018 to meet NPA requirements.

Recommendations:

That you:

1. Approve Tasmania's project plan, including the revised 2013-14 baseline, due under the National Partnership Agreement (NPA) on Public Dental Services for Adults Attachment A.
2. Sign Tasmania's Project Plan at Attachment A.
3. Sign the letter to the Hon Michael Ferguson MP, Tasmanian Minister for Health, at Attachment B.

1. Approved/Not approved

2. Signed/Not signed

3. Signed/Not signed

Signature

Date: 7 / 2 / 18

Comments:

Contact Officer:	Chris Bedford	Ag First Assistant Secretary, Primary Care and Mental Health Division	Ph: (02) 6289 5323 Mobile: s 22(1)(a)
Clearance Officer:	Caroline Edwards	Deputy Secretary	Ph: (02) 6289 1235 Mobile: s 22(1)(a)

Issues:

1. Minister Ferguson has written to you (Attachment C) seeking your endorsement of Tasmania's proposed Project Plan under the NPA on Public Dental Services for Adults (the Agreement). This is the first Project Plan submitted for endorsement under this Agreement.
2. Tasmania's Project Plan Attachment A has been developed in accordance with the requirements of the Agreement. It identifies the strategies it will use to provide treatment to an additional 11,870 public dental patients from 1 January 2017 to 30 June 2019.
3. Tasmania intends to increase its capacity to treat more patients in the priority cohorts by employing additional public dental staff in all major public dental centres around Tasmania. Services will be further increased by purchasing from the private sector.
4. The Project Plan also identifies the revised 2013-14 baseline figure, which is consistent with the baseline agreed under the previous NPA, adjusted to reflect revisions to the Dental Weighted Activity Units (DWAUs) applied under this Agreement.
5. Subject to your approval of the Project Plan, your signature is sought on the final page of the Project Plan, under 'Part 4: Sign Off'.
6. A letter to Minister Ferguson advising of approval of the Project Plan is at Attachment B for your signature.

Background:

The 2016-17 MYEFO included funding of \$320.0 million for dental NPAs with the states and territories. \$77.5 million of this amount was for a six month extension to the previous NPA on Adult Public Dental Services, with the remaining \$242.5 million available under the current NPA on Public Dental Services for Adults from 1 January 2017.

The Agreement was offered to the states and territories by you on 27 July 2017 and took effect from 3 October 2017, when the first state signed on.

Project Agreement:

Under Clause 16 of the Agreement 'the Commonwealth and the states will agree Project Plans to provide the public with an indication of how the project is intended to be delivered and demonstrate each State's capacity to achieve the outcomes and outputs of the Agreement'. The Project Plans are agreed between Health Ministers.

In accordance with the *Intergovernmental Agreement on Federal Financial Relations*, once signed by the parties, the Project Plans will be published on the Council on Federal Financial Relations website.

2013-14 Baseline:

Under Clause 14(c) of the Agreement, the states and Commonwealth are jointly responsible for 'agreeing the 2013-14 baseline to reflect the revised weightings in Schedule B of this Agreement'. During negotiations on this Agreement, advice was sought from the Department's Australian Dental Association's Dental Advisers in relation to the DWAU weightings at Schedule B of the Agreement. The Schedule was then updated to reflect revised weightings as agreed between the Commonwealth and the states.

Tasmania has submitted detailed data totalling 19,715 DWAU weightings for its 2013-14 baseline. The Department has analysed the 2013-14 baseline and determined that the data is consistent with the revised Schedule and the data submitted under the previous NPA on Adult Public Dental Services.

Attachments:

- A: Tasmania's Project Plan
- B: Letter to Minister Ferguson
- C: Minister Ferguson's letter to Minister Hunt

Consultations: No divisions or agencies were consulted in the preparation of this Submission.



The Hon Greg Hunt MP
Minister for Health

Ref No: MS17-001582

The Hon Michael Ferguson MP
Minister for Health
Minister for Information Technology and Innovation
Level 4, 111 Macquarie Street
HOBART TAS 7001

09 FEB 2018

Dear Minister *Michael*

Thank you for your recent correspondence regarding Tasmania's Project Plan under the National Partnership Agreement on Public Dental Services for Adults.

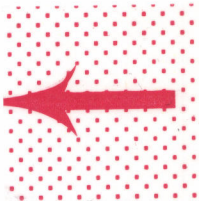
I am pleased to endorse this Project Plan and have enclosed a signed copy with this letter for your records.

I look forward to continuing to work with you to deliver additional public dental services under this Agreement.

Yours sincerely

Greg Hunt
Greg Hunt

Encl (1)



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PDR No MS17-001582

Contact Officer Chris Bedford
(02) 6289 5323
s 22(1)(a)

Clearance Officer Caroline Edwards
(02) 6289 1235
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Division/Branch Primary Care and Mental Health

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To: Minister Hunt

Subject: AUSTRALIAN CAPITAL TERRITORY'S PROJECT PLAN UNDER THE
NATIONAL PARTNERSHIP AGREEMENT (NPA) ON PUBLIC DENTAL
SERVICES FOR ADULTS

Critical date: 16 July 2018 - To enable payments to be made to ACT in a timely manner

Recommendations:

That you:

- | | |
|---|--------------------------|
| 1. Approve the Project Plan for the Australian Capital Territory (ACT) submitted under the National Partnership Agreement (NPA) on Public Dental Services for Adults at Attachment A. | 1. Approved/Not approved |
| 2. Sign the Project Plan for ACT at Attachment A. | 2. Signed/Not signed |
| 3. Sign the letter to the Hon Meegan Fitzharris M.L.A., ACT Minister for Health and Wellbeing, at Attachment B. | 3. Signed/Not signed |
| 4. Note that the NPA on Public Dental Services for Adults expires on 30 June 2019 and that the Department will provide further advice. | 4. Noted |

Signature.....

Date:

28/6/18

Comments:

Contact Officer:	<i>Alison Morehead</i>	<i>First Assistant Secretary, Primary Care and Mental Health Division</i>	Ph: (02) 6289 5323 Mobile: s 22(1)(a)
Clearance Officer:	<i>Caroline Edwards</i>	<i>Deputy Secretary</i>	Ph: (02) 6289 1235 Mobile: s 22(1)(a)

Issues:

- The ACT Government have submitted their Project Plan and revised 2013-14 baseline (Attachment C) due under the NPA on Public Dental Services for Adults (the NPA).
- The Department has assessed the Project Plan and revised 2013-14 baseline data as consistent with the requirements of the Agreement and recommends approval. Subject to your approval, your signature is sought on the final page of the Project Plan at Attachment A.
- A letter to Minister Fitzharris advising of approval of the Project Plan is at Attachment B for your signature.
- The NPA will end on 30 June 2019. After this date there is no ongoing funding allocated for another NPA. States and territories have begun to ask about what is anticipated to follow the end of the current NPA.

Background:

States and territories are responsible for the management and delivery of adult public dental services. In recognition of the reliance of some sectors of the community on public dental services, and the wait times associated with accessing the same, the Commonwealth has been providing financial assistance to jurisdictions to support the delivery of additional services since 2013.

The current NPA covers the period 1 January 2017 to 30 June 2019 and provides up to \$242.5 million, for the treatment of around 400,000 additional patients. You offered the Agreement on 27 July 2017 and it took effect from 3 October 2017, when the first state signed. The Department has now received formal notification that Queensland has signed the NPA.

Project Agreement and Baseline

Under the terms of the NPA, 'the Commonwealth and the States will agree Project Plans to provide the public with an indication of how the project is delivered and demonstrate each State's capacity to achieve the outcomes and outputs of the Agreement'. The Project Plans are agreed between Health Ministers.

The jurisdictions and Commonwealth are also responsible for 'agreeing the 2013-14 baseline to reflect the revised weightings in Schedule B of this Agreement'. During negotiations on the Agreement, the Department sought advice from its Dental Advisers and the Australian Dental Association in relation to weightings allocated to each type of services. The Schedule was then updated to reflect the revised weightings as agreed between the Commonwealth and the states.

Data has been submitted for Dental Weighted Activity Units (DWAU) weightings from ACT totalling 7,575 for its 2013-14 baseline. The Department has analysed the 2013-14 baseline and determined that the data is consistent with the baseline agreed under the previous NPA on Adult Public Dental Services, adjusted to reflect the revision to the DWAUs applied under the current Agreement.

In accordance with the *Intergovernmental Agreement on Federal Financial Relations*, once signed by the parties, the Project Plan will be published on the Council on Federal Financial Relations website.

Future Dental Funding

States and territories have begun raising concerns about dental funding after the NPA ends on 30 June 2019. The Department will provide a separate Ministerial Submission on the issues and options for dental funding beyond 30 June 2019.

Attachments:

- A: Project Plan for ACT
- B: Letter to Minister Fitzharris
- C: Minister Fitzharris' letter to Minister Hunt



The Hon Greg Hunt MP
Minister for Health
Minister for Sport

Ref No: MS17-001583

Ms Meegan Fitzharris MLA
Minister for Health and Wellbeing
Minister for Transport and City Services
Minister for Higher Education, Training and Research
PO Box 1020
CANBERRA ACT 2601

Dear Minister

Thank you for your recent correspondence regarding the Australian Capital Territory's Project Plan under the National Partnership Agreement on Public Dental Services for Adults.

I am pleased to endorse this Project Plan and have enclosed a signed copy with this letter for your records.

I look forward to continuing to work with you on this Agreement.

Yours sincerely



Greg Hunt

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Contact Officer	Alison Morehead (02) 6289 5323 <small>s 22(1)(a)</small>
Clearance Officer	Caroline Edwards (02) 6289 1235 <small>s 22(1)(a)</small>
Division/Branch	Primary Care and Mental Health

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To: **Minister Hunt**

Subject: **NORTHERN TERRITORY'S PROJECT PLAN UNDER THE NATIONAL PARTNERSHIP AGREEMENT (NPA) ON PUBLIC DENTAL SERVICES FOR ADULTS**

Critical date: **8 June 2018** - Enable payments for the Northern Territory's project to be finalised before the end of this financial year.

Recommendations:

- | | |
|---|---------------------------------|
| 1. Approve the Project Plan and baseline data for the Northern Territory (NT), submitted under the National Partnership Agreement (NPA) on Public Dental Services for Adults <u>Attachment A</u> . | 1. Approved/Not approved |
| 2. Sign the Project Plan for NT at <u>Attachment A</u> . | 2. Signed/Not signed |
| 3. Sign the letter to the Hon Natasha Fyles MP, NT Minister for Health at <u>Attachment B</u> . | 3. Signed/Not signed |

Signature

Date: **24.5.18**

Comments:

Contact Officer:	Natasha Cole	First Assistant Secretary, Health Services Division	Ph: (02) 6289 5323 Mobile: s 22(1)(a)
Clearance Officer:	Nicholas Harland	Deputy Secretary, Health Systems Policy & Primary Care Group	Ph: (02) 6289 8776 Mobile: s 22(1)(a)

Issues:

1. The NT government (Attachment A) has written to you and submitted their Project Plan and revised 2013-14 baseline due under the NPA on Public Dental Services for Adults (the NPA).
2. The Department has assessed the Project Plan and revised 2013-14 baseline data as consistent with the requirements of the Agreement and recommends approval. Subject to your approval, your signature is sought on the final page of the Project Plan at Attachment A.
3. A letter to Minister Fyles advising of approval of the Project Plan is at Attachment B for your signature.

Background:

States and territories are responsible for the management and delivery of adult public dental services. In recognition of the reliance of some sectors of the community on public dental services,

and the wait times associated with accessing the same, the Commonwealth has been providing financial assistance to jurisdictions to support the delivery of additional services since 2013. This current NPA covers the period 1 January 2017 to 30 June 2019 and provides up to \$242.5 million for the treatment of around 400,000 additional patients. You offered the Agreement on 27 July 2017 and it took effect from 3 October 2017, when the first state signed.

Project Plan and Baseline

Under the terms of the NPA 'the Commonwealth and the States will agree Project Plans to provide the public with an indication of how the project is delivered and demonstrate each State's capacity to achieve the outcomes and outputs of the Agreement'. The Project Plans are agreed between Health Ministers.

The jurisdictions and Commonwealth are also responsible for 'agreeing the 2013-14 baseline to reflect the revised weightings in Schedule B of this Agreement'. During negotiations on this Agreement, the Department sought advice from its Dental Advisers and the Australian Dental Association in relation to the weightings allocated to each type of service. The Schedule was then updated to reflect the revised weightings as agreed between the Commonwealth and the states.

Data has been submitted for Dental Weighted Activity Units (DWAU) weightings from NT totalling 7,133 for its 2013-14 baseline. The Department has analysed the 2013-14 baseline and determined that the data is consistent with the baseline agreed under the previous NPA on Adult Public Dental Services, adjusted to reflect the revision to the DWAUs applied under the current Agreement.

Attachments:

- A: Project Plan for NT & Minister Fyles's letter to Minister Hunt
- B: Letter to Minister Fyles

Rural and Regional Considerations: NT has indicated it will use the NPA funding to reduce waiting times for adult dental patients on public dental wait lists, utilising the new Top End Oral Health Service waitlist management and patient prioritisation program. NT will also increase the number of patients and services provided through the Top End Oral Health Service and Central Australia Oral Health Services.



**The Hon Greg Hunt MP
Minister for Health**

Ref No: MS17-001584

24 MAY 2018

The Hon Natasha Fyles MLA
Attorney-General and Minister for Justice
Minister for Health
GPO Box 3146
DARWIN NT 0801

Dear Attorney-General

Thank you for your recent correspondence regarding the Northern Territory's Project Plan under the National Partnership Agreement on Public Dental Services for Adults.

I am pleased to endorse this Project Plan and have enclosed a signed copy with this letter for your records.

I look forward to continuing to work with you on this Agreement.

Yours sincerely

Greg Hunt

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Contact Officer

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Clearance Officer

Caroline Edwards
(02) 6289 1235
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Division/Branch

Primary Care and Mental Health

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BRIEF

Additional Estimates 2017 - 2018

DENTAL

SUBJECT / ISSUE:

There may be criticism of Commonwealth dental programs due to funding reductions for jurisdictions and low uptake of the Child Dental Benefits Schedule (CDBS).

KEY POINTS

Child Dental Benefits Schedule

Questions on the operational promotion of the CDBS including distribution of eligibility notifications to patients and their families should be directed to the Department of Human Services

- Since its commencement on 1 January 2014, the CDBS has provided almost \$1.262 billion¹ in benefits to almost 2.2 million children² (as at 31 January 2018).
- Take-up rates continue to trend upwards, with the take up rate in the 2017 calendar year sitting at 36.1 per cent³. This figure is expected to increase as 2017 claims continue to be submitted.
- In August 2017 the Department commenced a social media campaign to promote the CDBS. The Department has also developed a flyer to promote the CDBS through GPs and will continue to look for other opportunities during 2018.

National Partnership Agreement

- \$242.5 million has been allocated to the National Partnership Agreement (NPA) on Public Dental Services for Adults, which is now in place for the period 1 January 2017 to 30 June 2019.⁴

¹ http://medicarestatistics.humanservices.gov.au/statistics/mbs_group.jsp

² Internal Department of Health data

³ Internal Department of Health data

⁴ [http://www.federalfinancialrelations.gov.au/content/npa/health/national-partnership/Adult Public Dental Services NP 2017-2019.pdf](http://www.federalfinancialrelations.gov.au/content/npa/health/national-partnership/Adult%20Public%20Dental%20Services%20NP%202017-2019.pdf) ; <http://www.health.gov.au/dental>

Subject Matter Lead:	Natasha Cole, First Assistant Secretary, Primary Care and Mental Health Division	Work Phone (02) 6289 5323	Mobile Phone s 22(1)(a)
Cleared by:	Caroline Edwards, Deputy Secretary, Health Systems Policy and Primary Care Group	Work Phone (02) 6289 1235	Mobile Phone s 22(1)(a)
Date Brief Created: 22 January 2018		Last Updated: 26 February 2018	

BRIEF

Additional Estimates 2017-18

- The NPA is expected to provide services to around 400,000 additional patients⁵. Minister Hunt signed the NPA on 27 July 2017 and it formally commenced on 3 October 2017. All jurisdictions have now signed on to the agreement with the exception of Queensland.
- The NPA includes a lower Dental Weighted Activity Unit (DWAU) price than previous NPAs, which more accurately reflects the cost of delivering services. As a consequence, funding available under the NPA is approximately 30 per cent lower than funding levels during 2015-16.

s 47B(a)

- The Commonwealth had previously calculated national waiting times for public dental patients based on data submitted by jurisdictions. However, the recently released Australian Institute of Health and Welfare (AIHW) report: *A discussion of public dental waiting times information in Australia 2013-14 to 2016-17* provides a robust independent analysis of the issues with this approach. The report highlights a significant lack of comparability of waiting time data across jurisdictions, making any consolidation of waiting times data unreliable.
- Queries regarding public dental waiting times within individual jurisdictions should be directed to those jurisdictions.

BUDGET ALLOCATION

Child Dental Benefits Schedule

Table 1- CDBS – Administered expense as at MYEFO 2017-18

	2017-18	2018-19	2019-20	2020-21	TOTAL
Budget 2017-18 (\$m) ¹	346.039	358.500	369.608	387.250	1,461.396
Variation at MYEFO ²	-14.450	-26.900	-34.447	-46.101	-121.898
MYEFO 2017-18 (\$m)³	331.589	331.600	335.161	341.149	1,339.499

Source: 1 Portfolio Budget Statements 2017-18, Budget Related Paper 1.10, Health Portfolio, p 90

⁵ [http://www.federalfinancialrelations.gov.au/content/npa/health/national-partnership/Adult Public Dental Services NP 2017-2.pdf](http://www.federalfinancialrelations.gov.au/content/npa/health/national-partnership/Adult%20Public%20Dental%20Services%20NP%202017-2.pdf); <http://www.health.gov.au/dental>

Subject Matter Lead:	Natasha Cole, First Assistant Secretary, Primary Care and Mental Health Division	Work Phone (02) 6289 5323	Mobile Phone s 22(1)(a)
Cleared by:	Caroline Edwards, Deputy Secretary, Health Systems Policy and Primary Care Group	Work Phone (02) 6289 1235	Mobile Phone s 22(1)(a)
Date Brief Created: 22 January 2018		Last Updated: 23 January 2018	

BRIEF

Additional Estimates 2017-18

² Derived

³ MYEFO 2017-18 (to be published at PAES)

- The CDBS Budget was reduced at MYEFO 2017-18 by \$121.9 million⁶ over four years. This is primarily due to a revision of the estimates due to lower estimated growth.
- The CDBS is a demand driven program and Budget forecasts are estimates only. All eligible CDBS claims will be paid regardless of the Budget allocation.
- Although the take-up rate of the CDBS remains relatively low, the most recent data from the Australian Research Centre for Population Oral Health⁷ suggests that the vast majority of Australian children do attend the dentist regularly.
- These attendances would include CDBS visits, privately funded attendances (funded by consumer and/or private health insurance), and public dental services not claimed through the CDBS (e.g. school dental clinics where CDBS support is not sought).

Table 2: percentage take-up rate of the CDBS by eligible children⁸

	2014	2015	2016	2017
Take-up rate	29.55	33.12	34.61	36.14 ⁹

Table 3: CDBS eligible population and total child population

	2014	2015	2016	2017
Notified eligible persons ¹⁰	3,062,309	3,086,278	2,997,823	2,934,221
Total children: 2 – 17yrs ¹¹	4,992,915	5,071,270	5,153,652	5,239,546

National Partnership Agreement

Table 4: National Partnership Agreement on Public Dental Services for Adults – Administered expense as at MYEFO 2017-18

	2017-18	2018-19	2019-20	2020-21	TOTAL
MYEFO 2017-18 (\$m)	107.8	134.8	-	-	242.5*

⁶ Table 1

⁷ *Oral health of Australian Children: The national child oral health study 2012-14*, indicates that 81.1 per cent of 5 to 14 year olds saw a dentist within the last twelve months (p. 163).

⁸ Internal Department of Health data

⁹ This figure will likely continue to rise as late claims for payment are submitted

¹⁰ DSS internal data

¹¹ Internal estimates based on ABS data (3222.0, population projections Australia, Table B9)

Subject Matter Lead:	Natasha Cole, First Assistant Secretary, Primary Care and Mental Health Division	Work Phone (02) 6289 5323	Mobile Phone s 22(1)(a)
Cleared by:	Caroline Edwards, Deputy Secretary, Health Systems Policy and Primary Care Group	Work Phone (02) 6289 1235	Mobile Phone s 22(1)(a)
Date Brief Created: 22 January 2018		Last Updated: 23 January 2018	

BRIEF

Additional Estimates 2017-18

Source: *MYEFO 2017-18 Annex A: Payments to the States pp 4-7.*

* Years do not sum to total due to rounding

- 2016-17 NPA funds were for the six month extension to the previous National Partnership Agreement on Adult Public Dental Services.

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SENSITIVITIES: YES

Stakeholders have been critical of the low take-up of the CDBS, citing lack of government promotion of the program. DHS writes to eligible children every calendar year to advise them of their eligibility. It is too early to tell if the Department's social media campaign is having any impact.

s 47B(a)

BACKGROUND

Child Dental Benefits Schedule

- The CDBS provides access to benefits for basic dental services for eligible children aged 2-17 years. The maximum benefit available to eligible children under the CDBS is \$1,000 over two consecutive calendar years¹³.
- Services that receive a benefit under the program include examinations, x-rays, cleaning, fissure sealing, fillings, root canals, extractions and partial dentures. Benefits are not available for orthodontic or cosmetic dental work and cannot be paid for any services provided in a hospital.
- To be eligible, a child needs to be aged between 2-17 years at some point in the calendar year, be eligible for Medicare and meet a means test. Eligibility

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¹³ *Dental Benefits Rules 2014*: <https://www.legislation.gov.au/Details/F2018C00070>;
<http://health.gov.au/internet/main/publishing.nsf/Content/childdental>

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Date Brief Created: 22 January 2018		Last Updated: 23 January 2018	

BRIEF

Additional Estimates 2017-18

for the program is assessed annually, with benefits capped over two consecutive calendar years.

- Notifications of eligibility are generally provided by DHS to eligible children at the beginning of the calendar year. Notifications continue to be provided throughout the calendar year for newly eligible children.
- Delivery of letters for the 2018 calendar year commenced in January. Most families will have received their letter by the end of February 2018.

National Partnership Agreement (NPA)

- The 2016-17 MYEFO provided total funding to the states of \$320 million under NPAs.¹⁴
- \$77.5 million was to allow for a six month extension to the previous NPA, which ended on 31 December 2016.¹⁵
- The remaining funding of \$242.5 million is for the current NPA¹⁶. This is a funding reduction of approximately 30 per cent compared to 2015-16 funding. This reduction reflects the impact of the government decision not to proceed with the proposed Child and Adult Public Dental Scheme (CAPDS). Funding notionally allocated to the CAPDS was reallocated to support the continuation of the CDBS, which is demand driven, with the remaining funds reallocated to the NPA.

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- Media continues to report on increased waiting times for public dental patients, linking this to the reduction in funding under the current NPA.

Attachments

Attachment A: Child Dental Benefits Schedule Additional Facts and Figures

¹⁴ Mid-Year Economic and Fiscal Outlook 2016-17, p 172

¹⁵ Mid-Year Economic and Fiscal Outlook 2016-17, p 172

¹⁶ http://www.federalfinancialrelations.gov.au/content/npa/health/national-partnership/Adult_Public_Dental_Services_NP_2017-2.pdf ; <http://www.health.gov.au/dental>

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BRIEF

Additional Estimates 2017-18

Attachment A

Child Dental Benefits Schedule Additional Facts and Figures

- Funding of \$163.6 million over five years was provided in Budget 2017-18 to increase the CDBS benefits cap from \$700 to \$1,000, and to extend the indexation pause on CDBS benefits for a further two years to 31 December 2020.

Table 5: 2017-18 Budget Measure: Child Dental Benefits Schedule – increased cap

	2016-17	2017-18	2018-19	2019-20	2020-21	Total
Department of Health (\$m)	5.1	38.2	42.9	38.8	37.1	162.1 *
Department of Human Services (\$m)	1.5	-	-	-	-	1.5
Total – Expense (\$m)	6.6	38.2	42.9	38.8	37.1	163.6

Source – Budget Paper No.2: Budget Measures 2017-18, Part 2 Expense Measures, page 105.

- The indexation pause component of the Budget measure results in a reduction of funding to the CDBS. This is evident in the funding profile for the Budget measure.
- 2,194,978 children have utilised the program since its commencement (to 31 January 2018).¹⁸
 - Around 905,000 children utilised the program in 2014, 29.5 per cent of the 3,062,309 notified eligible children.
 - 1.02 million children utilised the program in 2015, 33.1 per cent of the 3,086,278 notified eligible children.
 - 1.04 million children utilised the program in 2016, 34.6 per cent of the 2,997,823 notified eligible children.
 - 1,060,463 children utilised the program in 2017, 36.1 per cent of the 2,934,221 notified eligible children (claims processed to 31 January 2018).

¹⁸ Internal Department of Health data. Patients by calendar year do not sum to total patients over the life of the program as some patients receive treatment in more than one calendar year.

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Date Brief Created: 22 January 2018		Last Updated: 23 January 2018	

**Briefing Paper
COAG Health Council**

2 August 2018

Agenda Item 2.6

Public Dental Funding Arrangements

Originator - New South Wales

Purpose

NSW (and other jurisdictions) are seeking ongoing Commonwealth support for public dental services including: (1) funding for a new NPA after the expiry of the National Partnership Agreement on Public Dental Services for Adults (NPA) on 30 June 2019 and; (2) access to the Child Dental Benefits Schedule (CDBS) after expiry of access on 31 December 2019.

Commonwealth Position

1. The current NPA is in place until 30 June 2019. Funding ceases at that time. Current advice is that future funding will need to be sought through the usual Budget process.
2. Funding for the CDBS, a demand driven program, is ongoing. Access by public providers requires Ministerial authority through a legislative instrument. A new instrument can be prepared, for whatever period is desired, at any point in time.

Sensitivities and Risks

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Key Points to Raise

- The NPA is formally in place until 30 June 2019. Future funding will need to be considered in the Commonwealth Budget process. This will impact the timing of our future negotiations.
- State and territory access to the CDBS is in place until 31 December 2019. The Commonwealth is happy to consider future access arrangements.

Background

States and territories may provide CDBS services to public patients, as specified in Schedule 2 of the *Dental Benefits Rules 2014* (the Rules). Under the *Dental Benefits Act 2008* the Minister may, by legislative instrument, make or amend the Rules. Current Rules allow all states and territories to access CDBS services until 31 December 2019.

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**Briefing Paper Addendum
COAG Health Council**

2 August 2018

Agenda Item 2.6

Public Dental Funding Arrangements

Child Dental Benefits Schedule (CDBS) Facts and Figures

- As at 30 June 2018, the CDBS has provided \$1.4 billion in benefits and delivered 22.6 million services to 2.3 million Australian children since it commenced on 1 January 2014.

Background for Child Dental Benefits Schedule

- The Child Dental Benefits Schedule (CDBS) operates under the *Dental Benefits Act 2008* and is an ongoing, demand driven, program.
- Public dental providers cannot provide CDBS services unless expressly allowed under the Dental Benefits Rules.
 - Under the *Dental Benefits Act 2008* the Minister may, by legislative instrument, make or amend the Rules.
 - Current Rules allow all states and territories (states) to access CDBS services until 31 December 2019.
- A new instrument will need to be issued if state access is to continue after 2019.
- There are a range of policy reasons to continue state access to the CDBS. States and Territories currently deliver around a quarter of all CDBS services.
- While NPA negotiations (and funding) are separate issues to that of State access to the CDBS, NSW has linked both issues because uncertainty about both funding and access can impact on service delivery and the capacity to plan and maintain staffing levels to deliver additional services.

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COAG Health Council**

2 August 2018

Agenda Item 2.6

Public Dental Funding Arrangements

National Partnership Agreement on Public Dental Services for Adults (NPA) Facts and Figures

- States and territories are required to meet the objectives and outcomes under the current NPA by providing treatment to an additional 404,168 adult public dental patients with a particular focus on:
 - a. patients at high risk of, or from, major oral health problems;
 - b. **Indigenous patients**; and
 - c. patients from rural and regional areas.
- Commonwealth support is designed to provide additional services on top of those funded by states and territories. States maintain responsibility for the delivery of public dental services including funding, planning and management of waiting lists. Under these arrangements states have the ability to fund an increase in services to meet demand particularly in areas of need.

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Date QTB Fact Brief created: 23 January 2018

Last Updated by Department: 17 October 2018

Last Updated by Adviser: 21 August 2018

DENTAL HEALTH CORE OVERVIEW**BUDGET****DENTAL NATIONAL PARTNERSHIP AGREEMENTS**

	2012-13 (ACTUAL) (\$m)	2017-18 (ACTUAL) (\$m)	2018-19 (BUDGET) (\$m)	2019-20 (BUDGET) (\$m)	2020-21 (BUDGET) (\$m)	2021-22 (BUDGET) (\$m)	Total 2018-19 to 2021-22 (\$m)
PROGRAM – DENTAL NPA	69.2*	106.4**	134.8**	–**	-	-	134.8
ANNUAL INCREASE IN SPEND	–*	28.9	28.4	-	-	-	28.4
GROWTH (%)	-	37.3%	26.7%	-	-	-	-

*National Partnership Agreement on Treating More Public Dental Patients. \$69.2m was the first year of Commonwealth expenditure.
Source: 2012-13 Final Budget Outcome, Table 36.

**National Partnership Agreement on Public Dental Services for Adults (Expires on 30 June 2019).
Source: 2017-18 Final Budget Outcome, pg.65.

CHILD DENTAL BENEFITS SCHEDULE (CDBS)

	2012-13 (ACTUAL) (\$m)	2017-18 (ACTUAL) ² (\$m)	2018-19 (BUDGET) ³ (\$m)	2019-20 (BUDGET) (\$m)	2020-21 (BUDGET) (\$m)	2021-22 (BUDGET) (\$m)	Total 2018-19 to 2021-22 (\$m)
PROGRAM - CDBS	– ¹	333.9	321.2	315.6	311.4	320.9	1,269.1
ANNUAL INCREASE IN SPEND	-	-	-12.7	-5.6	-4.2	9.5	-13.1
GROWTH (%)	-	-	-3.8%	-1.8%	-1.3%	3.0%	-0.1%

¹The Child Dental Benefits Schedule commenced on 1 January 2014.

² Department of Health Annual Report 2017-18, page 96

KEY POINTS

- States and territories have primary responsibility for the funding and provision of public dental services – including determining what services they provide.
- The Liberal National Government is supporting states and territories in this, contributing \$242.5 million from 1 January 2017 to 30 June 2019 for delivery of additional public dental services to adults through a National Partnership Agreement.

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- The funding model under the current National Partnership Agreement was adjusted following an extensive review that more accurately reflects the true costs of providing services.

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- All jurisdictions have now signed on to the agreement.
- Management of waiting lists for services, as has recently been a focus in the Victorian media, is an issue for state and territory governments as the service providers. The Commonwealth will continue to support states and territories in this role under the National Partnership Agreement.
- At the 2 August COAG Health Council Meeting, noting that the current NPA will end on 30 June 2019, all Ministers agreed to commence formal negotiations to achieve long-term public dental funding arrangements.
- Furthermore, the Liberal National Government added a further \$163.6 million over 5 years from 1 January 2017 to the Child Dental Benefits Schedule, meaning around 3 million Australian children will be able to access up to \$1,000 worth of check-ups and treatments every two years.
- Take-up rates under the Child Dental Benefits Schedule continue to trend upwards.

FACTS & FIGURES

- The Department of Human Services writes directly to eligible children every calendar year to advise them of their eligibility for the Child Dental Benefits Schedule.
 - Most families received their letter for the 2018 calendar year by the end of January.
- As at end June 2018, the take up rate for 2017 sat at 36.4 per cent. This number may continue to climb as late claims are submitted.

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Child Dental Benefits Schedule – number of children accessing - 2017

State	NSW	VIC	QLD	SA	WA	TAS	NT	ACT	Australia
Number of Children	338,447	298,315	241,695	92,406	56,384	32,165	6,009	8,603	1,072,470

Notes: Patients by state do not sum to total as some patients have lived in more than one state.

Claims processed in 2017 – the child's treatment may have been provided in a previous year.

Source: Internal Department of Health data (not publicly available)

Child Dental Benefits Schedule – number of children accessing by remoteness area – 2017

Remoteness area	Major Cities	Inner Regional	Outer Regional	Remote	Very Remote	Unknown
Number of children	708,275	240,657	107,284	10,681	5,304	269

Notes: Remoteness area determined by child's address. Children only counted in one remoteness area even though they may have lived in multiple remoteness areas.

Claims processed in 2017 – the child's treatment may have been provided in a previous year.

Source: Internal Department of Health data (not publicly available)

- The 2016-17 MYEFO provided funding of \$320 million for dental National Partnership Agreements with the states and territories.
 - \$77.5 million was for the six month extension to the National Partnership Agreement on Adult Public Dental Services (to 31 December 2016).
 - The remaining \$242.5 million is for the National Partnership Agreement on Public Dental Services for Adults.
 - Under this Agreement, it is expected that around 400,000 additional public dental patients will receive services.

IMPACT ON REGIONAL AUSTRALIANS

- The Royal Flying Doctor Service (RFDS) began delivering new mobile dental outreach services from April 2017 using new Government funding. The RFDS expects to cover up to 107 locations nationally, providing about 1,900 days of dental services by 30 June 2018.
- On 29 March 2018 the Prime Minister announced an extra \$84 million in funding for the RFDS, which will extend the dental outreach program, deliver new mental health services and ensure the reach of ambulance services to rural Australia over the next four years.
- The Child Dental Benefits Schedule is available to eligible children in regional Australia. Services funded under the National Partnership Agreement may also be accessed by regional Australians eligible for public dental care.

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s 22(1)(a)

BACKGROUND

Child Dental Benefits Schedule

- Under the Child Dental Benefits Schedule, around 3 million Australian children are eligible to access up to \$1,000 worth of check-ups and treatments every two years. This covers a range of preventive and basic treatment services.
- The Government reduced the benefits cap for the Child Dental Benefits Schedule from \$1,000 over two years to \$700 over two years at MYEFO 2016-17.
- On 8 February 2017, the Government reinstated the benefits available under the Child Dental Benefits Schedule to \$1,000 per child for treatment over two years.
- Information on the Child Dental Benefits Schedule is available on the DHS website, Department of Health website and The Australian Dental Association website.

Child Dental Benefits Schedule Promotion

- The Department of Health commenced a social media campaign to promote the Child Dental Benefits Schedule in August 2017. This campaign is ongoing.
- The Department has also provided Primary Health Networks, for distribution to GPs and other primary care providers, a flyer promoting the importance of good oral health and flagging the availability of treatment for eligible children under the Child Dental Benefits Schedule.
- The Department continues to monitor the uptake rate of the Child Dental Benefits Schedule and to consider additional promotional opportunities.

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Australian Dental Association Oral Health Tracker

- On 20 March 2018 the Australian Dental Association released its Oral Health Tracker. The tracker is touted as a national report card on Australian oral health, highlighting the links between oral health and preventable chronic diseases.
- Information, such as the tracker, improves knowledge of oral health and helps to inform policy and program development. The Council of Australian Governments Health Council National Oral Health Plan 2015-24 (the Plan) supports research and evaluation to help improve oral health.
- The Government supports the Plan across a range of areas, including research and evaluation. Since 2000, the National Health and Medical Research Council has provided \$164.9 million for dental related research.

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National Partnership Agreements

- Media outlets in Victoria and Queensland have focused on National Partnership Agreement funding reductions, with jurisdictions reporting service cuts as a result of the funding offer by the Commonwealth being around 30 per cent lower than under previous National Partnership Agreements.
- Although the price per unit of activity has been reduced, the funding now more accurately reflects what it actually costs states and territories to deliver those services.

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- Victoria can expect to receive \$60.5 million under the National Partnership Agreement to deliver services to around 104,600 patients. Queensland will receive up to \$48.8 million for the delivery of services to over 80,300 patients.
- The Government sought to reform Commonwealth dental funding by introducing a new Child and Adult Public Dental Scheme.
 - This new Scheme would have replaced the Child Dental Benefits Schedule and the National Partnership Agreement for Adult Public Dental Services.
 - The Child and Adult Public Dental Scheme would have been the largest ever Commonwealth investment in public dental services, with funding guaranteed in legislation, but it was not supported by stakeholders or the Labor party.
 - The Government reversed its 2016-17 Budget measure regarding the Child and Adult Public Dental Scheme at MYEFO 2016-17.
- Although waiting times for general treatment have increased year on year between December 2014 and 2016, this partly reflects an increase in demand for services. The number of patients seeking general treatment increased by almost 35,000 in December 2016 compared to December 2015.
- States have previously advised that improvements made against waiting times encourages more patients to add themselves to the list, believing that they will access services sooner.

Medibank Better Health Index report

- Media on 12 February noted the release of the Medibank Better Health Index. The report indicated that 5.7 million Australians have at least one dental or oral health issue. The *Adelaide Advertiser* also noted that South Australians have the worst oral health in mainland Australia.
- Medibank is said to have attributed these figures to growing public dental wait times. ^{s 47B}

- South Australia was the first jurisdiction to sign up to the current National Partnership Agreement on Public Dental Services for Adults.

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National Health Reform Agreement Funding

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- Under the existing National Health Reform Agreement, the Commonwealth contributes funding to States and Territories for each episode of public hospital dental care. For 2016-17, the approximate Commonwealth contribution to the National Health Funding Pool, as determined by the Independent Hospital Pricing Authority for the following dental services was as follows:
 - Dental Extractions and Restorations is \$1,236.67 per service;
 - Oral and Dental Disorders, Major Complexity is \$2,189.00 per service; and
 - Oral and Dental Disorders, Minor Complexity is \$607.79 per service.

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- Between 2015-16 and 2016-17, the Commonwealth contribution for dental services (acute admitted dental extractions and restorations, oral and dental disorders, and non-admitted dental services) in public hospitals across all states and territories under the National Health Reform Agreement Activity Based Funding has been estimated to have increased by 37 per cent from \$106 million in 2015-16 to \$145 million in 2016-17.

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DENTAL HEALTH CORE OVERVIEW**BUDGET**

Element*	2016-17 \$ (m)	2017-18 \$ (m)	2018-19 \$ (m)	2019-20 \$ (m)	2020-21 \$ (m)
Child Dental Benefits Schedule	319.4	331.6	331.6	335.2	341.1
National Partnership Agreement on Public Dental Services for Adults**	77.5	107.8	134.8	-	-
Funding to Royal Flying Doctor Service to deliver dental services	1.8	5.5	3.7	-	-

As at MYEFO 2017-18

*The Commonwealth also spends \$100 million p.a. on dental services for veterans. Around \$700 million of the private health insurance rebate each year is spent on dental services.

** 2016-17 funds were for the six month extension to the National Partnership Agreement on Adult Public Dental Services.

KEY POINTS

- States and territories have primary responsibility the funding and provision of public dental services – including determining what services they provide.
- The Commonwealth is supporting states and territories in this, contributing \$242.5 million from 1 January 2017 to 30 June 2019 for delivery of additional public dental services to adults through a national partnership agreement (NPA).
- The NPA formally commenced on 3 October 2017. All jurisdictions have now signed on to the agreement with the exception of Queensland.
- The Commonwealth also continues to provide the Child Dental Benefits Schedule (CDBS). From January 2017 the benefit was reinstated to \$1,000 (over two years) per eligible child. All states and territories have access to the CDBS for eligible patients.

FACTS & FIGURES

- The Department of Human Services writes directly to eligible children every calendar year to advise them of their eligibility for the CDBS.
 - Delivery of letters for the 2018 calendar year commenced in January. Most families will have received their letter by the end of February.
- The 2016-17 MYEFO provided funding of \$320 million for dental NPAs with the states and territories.
 - \$77.5 million was for the six month extension to the NPA on Adult Public Dental Services (to 31 December 2016).

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- The remaining \$242.5 million is for the NPA on Public Dental Services for Adults.
- Under this Agreement, it is expected that around 400,000 additional public dental patients will receive services.
- The Royal Flying Doctor Service (RFDS) began delivering new mobile dental outreach services from April 2017 using new Government funding. The RFDS expects to cover up to 107 locations nationally, providing about 1900 days of dental services by 30 June 2018.

IF ASKED

(potential follow up questions)

- issues of the day, responses to the media etc.

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BACKGROUND

Child Dental Benefits Schedule (CDBS)

- Under the CDBS, around 3 million Australian children are eligible to access up to \$1,000 worth of check-ups and treatments every two years. This covers a range of preventive and basic treatment services.
- The Government reduced the benefits cap for the CDBS from \$1,000 over two years to \$700 over two years at MYEFO 2016-17.
- On 8 February 2017, the Government reinstated the benefits available under the CDBS to \$1,000 per child for treatment over two years.
- Information on the CDBS is available on the DHS website, Department of Health website and The Australian Dental Association (ADA) website.

National Partnership Agreements (NPAs)

- Recently, media outlets in Victoria and Queensland have focused on NPA funding reductions, with jurisdictions reporting service cuts as a result of the funding offer by the Commonwealth being around 30% lower than under previous NPAs.
- Although the price per unit of activity has been reduced, the funding now more accurately reflects what it actually costs states and territories to deliver those services.
- Victoria can expect to receive \$60.5 million under the NPA to deliver services to around 104,600 patients. Queensland will receive up to \$48.8 million for the delivery of services to over 80,300 patients, should it sign on to the NPA.
- The Government sought to reform Commonwealth dental funding by introducing a new Child and Adult Public Dental Scheme.
 - This new Scheme would have replaced the CDBS and the NPA for Adult Public Dental Services.
 - The Child and Adult Public Dental Scheme would have been the largest ever Commonwealth investment in public dental services, with funding guaranteed in legislation, but it was not supported by stakeholders or the Labor party.
 - The Government reversed its 2016-17 Budget measure regarding the Child and Adult Public Dental Scheme at MYEFO 2016-2017.
- Although waiting times for general treatment have increased year on year between December 2014 and 2016, this partly reflects an increase in demand for services. The number of patients seeking general

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treatment increased by almost 35,000 in December 2016 compared to December 2015.

- States have previously advised that improvements made against waiting times encourages more patients to add themselves to the list, believing that they will access services sooner.

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