

# Media Release - Child and Adult Public Dental Scheme

## Child and Adult Public Dental Scheme to be introduced from 1 July 2016

From 1 July 2016, the Australian Government will be introducing a new national Child and Adult Public Dental Scheme as part of the 2016-17 budgets.

The scheme will assist states and territories in providing improved dental care to Australians with the greatest oral health needs. The Child and Adult Public Dental Scheme will replace the Child Dental Benefits Schedule and the National Partnership Agreement on Adult Dental Services.

The new scheme will be upheld by legislation to provide long-term certainty for a period of five years. Approximately \$415 million of funding will be allocated to 2016-17, with an estimated total of \$2.1 billion invested over the duration of the scheme. The Australian Government will introduce legislation to establish capped appropriation of funds to states and territories for the public dental services provided to children and adults with concession entitlements.

Although Australian oral health has improved over the last three decades, adults on low incomes and Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people have a higher incidence of tooth decay. The cost of dental care has been identified as a major reason for many Australians not seeking treatment for a problem, rather than self-managed preventative care.

It is expected that the Child and Adult Public Dental Scheme will provide over 10 million Australians with equitable access to dental services, and improved overall oral health.

For further information on the Child and Adult Public Dental Scheme, visit [The Australian Government Department of Health »](#)

## Further Information

[Northern Territory Department of Health »](#)  
[National Oral Health Plan »](#)