

Media release

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ADAVB welcomes extension of National Partnership Agreement but warns system will be further strained

The Australian Dental Association Victorian Branch (ADAVB) has welcomed the announcement by the Morrison Government to extend the National Partnership Agreement on Adult Public Dental Service to support the states and territories in delivering public dental services.

The one-year extension to the National Partnership Agreement will provide \$107.8 million, which will enable around 180,000 additional public dental patients to receive care across Australia.

However, waiting times for public dental care are currently more than 20 months in Victoria. Since public dental services are only now beginning to return to usual activity levels, after several months of disruption due to the COVID-19 pandemic, it is expected that the waiting times will increase even more. The system will be further strained as unemployment rates increase and more people become eligible for public dental care.

“The Australian Dental Association has been calling for a more sustainable model for public dental care to ensure that vulnerable patients don’t continue to slip through the cracks,” said Dr Gitika Sanghvi, ADAVB President.

“Expanding the Medicare-funded Child Dental Benefits Schedule to include eligible adult patients is the next step in improving the public dental care system.

“With poor oral health linked to poor general health, including diabetes and heart disease, it is important that oral health funding is prioritised by both the State and Federal Governments,” Dr Sanghvi said.



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