

ADA NSW ENCOURAGES MORE PARENTS TO USE CHILD DENTAL BENEFITS HEALTH SCHEDULE

As cost-of-living pressures hit home for many families, Australian Dental Association NSW (ADA NSW) is calling on parents to check their child's eligibility for the Medicare-funded Child Dental Benefits Schedule (CDBS). The CDBS provides \$1095 of Medicare-funded dental treatment for eligible children aged 0-17 years over two calendar years. Many dentists support the scheme, but less than 40% of eligible children in NSW access the CDBS,¹ meaning many kids are missing out on essential dental care.

"Good oral health starts in early childhood and the Child Dental Benefits Schedule has an important role. Tooth decay is a real problem in Australia – around 4 in 10 kids aged 5 to 10 years have decay in their baby teeth¹," said ADA NSW Vice President Dr Jodie Olivier.

"Tooth decay is the most common dental disease in children, but it is preventable and more easily treated in the early stages. Delaying dental check-ups or treatment can result in pain, infection and more extensive treatment."

Statistics show that around 45% of kids in Australia haven't visited the dentist by the age of 5 according to the ADA's Children and Young People Oral Health Tracker². The ADA recommends the first dental visit when the first teeth appear in the mouth, typically before or around one year of age.

From 2021-2022, there were 8,450 potentially preventable hospitalisations of children aged zero to 14 for dental conditions in NSW.³ Your child may be eligible for the CDBS if:

- they're eligible for Medicare
- they're between 0 and 17 years old
- you or they get an eligible Centrelink payment at least once that calendar year.

The CDBS covers a range of treatments, including dental check-ups, x-rays, teeth cleaning, fissure sealing, fillings and extractions. "The CDBS helps to reduce the cost burden of dental visits, however many people are unaware of the scheme. ADA NSW aims to increase awareness of the CDBS so that children get a head start to a healthy mouth."

To find out more: talk to your dentist, visit servicesaustralia.gov.au or call Medicare on 132 011 for more information.

1. Source: Australian Institute of Health and Welfare
2. Source: Australia's Children and Young People Oral Health Tracker, ADA & AHPC, 2024
3. Source: healthstats.nsw.gov.au

About ADA NSW: ADA NSW is the peak professional association for dentists and dental students in NSW and the ACT with 4,400 members, representing 70 per cent of dentists. ADA NSW has been supporting dentists and promoting good oral health in the community since 1929.

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