

STAKEHOLDER CONSULTATION

CHILD DENTAL BENEFITS SCHEDULE

About the Child Dental Benefits Schedule

The Child Dental Benefits Schedule (CDBS) is a national program funded by the Australian Government and managed by the Department of Health and Aged Care and Services Australia. It provides children who are eligible for Medicare and who satisfy a means test up to \$1026 in benefits over a two calendar year period for basic dental services (refer to the CDBS Brochure at [Attachment A](#)).

The CDBS is legislated under the *Dental Benefits Act 2008* (the Act) and the *Dental Benefit Rules 2014* (the Rules). Under the Act, an independent review of the Act must occur one year after the Act commenced, and once every three years thereafter. Previous reviews were commenced in 2009, 2011, 2015 and 2018.

Since the CDBS commenced on 1 January 2014, more than \$2.6 billion in benefits and around 42.7 million services have been delivered to nearly 3.2 million Australian children¹.

Why are we asking questions about the Child Dental Benefits Schedule?

The fifth review of the Act is currently underway. The Fifth Review Panel, appointed by the Minister for Health and Aged Care, is considering how the CDBS program can be improved.

Additional information about the CDBS can be found on the Department's website at <https://www.health.gov.au/initiatives-and-programs/child-dental-benefits-schedule>. The Terms of Reference and the Fifth Review Panel membership are located at the end of this document (refer to [Attachment B](#)).

Consultation Process

The Fifth Review Panel is seeking views from the public on the CDBS.

There are two sets of questions – one for people who use CDBS services (consumers) and one for people who deliver CDBS services (providers). You only need to answer one set of questions. All questions are optional. You can choose to answer some or all questions.

How to make a submission

You can make a submission in several different ways:

- Online on the Department's Consultation Hub at [Australian Government Department of Health and Aged Care - Citizen Space](#)
- Via email at DAHM@health.gov.au
- Over the phone by calling the Dental Hotline on 02 6289 3800

Closing date for submissions

The closing date for submissions is Thursday, 25 August 2022.

¹ Data to 30 June 2022

Questions for Consumers

- 1) What do you like about the Child Dental Benefits Schedule?
- 2) What don't you like about the Child Dental Benefits Schedule?
- 3) How did you find out about the Child Dental Benefits Schedule?
 - a. Dentist
 - b. Website
 - c. Government letter
 - d. Family or friend
 - e. Other (please specify)
- 4) Do you think people know about the Child Dental Benefits Schedule? How could government promote it better?
- 5) Do you think the Child Dental Benefits Schedule is useful and accessible for First Nations children, children with Intellectual Disability, and/ or children in rural or remote Australia?
- 6) If your child identifies as First Nations, do they feel culturally safe seeing non-indigenous dental providers through the Child Dental Benefits Schedule?
- 7) How could the Child Dental Benefits Schedule be improved?
- 8) Do you have any further comments that you would like to make?
- 9) What state or territory do you live in?
 - a. Australian Capital Territory
 - b. New South Wales
 - c. Northern Territory
 - d. Queensland
 - e. South Australia
 - f. Tasmania
 - g. Victoria
 - h. Western Australia
- 10) Do you live in a?
 - a. Metropolitan area (major city)
 - b. Regional Centre (town with a population over 50 000)
 - c. Large rural town (town with a population between 15 000 and 50 000)
 - d. Small rural town (town with a population of between 1000 to 15 000)
 - e. Remote community (population less than 1000)
- 11) Are the answers to the questions above your individual views, or do they represent an organisations' views?
 - a. Individual
 - b. Organisation (please specify)

Questions for Dental Care Providers and Stakeholder Organisations

- 1) What do you like about the Child Dental Benefits Schedule?
- 2) What don't you like about the Child Dental Benefits Schedule?
- 3) Do you think people know about the Child Dental Benefits Schedule? If so, how could government promote it better?
- 4) Do you think the Child Dental Benefits Schedule is useful and accessible for First Nations children, children with Intellectual Disability, and/ or children in rural or remote Australia?
- 5) How could the Child Dental Benefits Schedule be improved in general, or to deliver effective dental services to First Nations children, children with intellectual disability and/ or children in rural or remote Australia?
- 6) Do you have any further comments that you would like to make?
- 7) What state or territory do you work in?
 - a. Australian Capital Territory
 - b. New South Wales
 - c. Northern Territory
 - d. Queensland
 - e. South Australia
 - f. Tasmania
 - g. Victoria
 - h. Western Australia
- 8) Do you work in a?
 - a. Metropolitan area (major city)
 - b. Regional Centre (town with a population over 50 000)
 - c. Large rural town (town with a population between 15 000 and 50 000)
 - d. Small rural town (town with a population of between 1000 to 15 000)
 - e. Remote community (population less than 1000)
- 9) Are the answers to the questions above your individual views, or do they represent an organisations' views?
 - a. Individual
 - b. Organisation (please specify)

ATTACHMENT A: Child Dental Benefits Schedule Brochure

Give your kids a reason to smile!





Australian Government
Department of Health

Child Dental Benefits Schedule

Get up to **\$1,026*** towards your kids dental care
Find out if your kids are eligible

For more information on the Child Dental Benefits Schedule:

- Visit health.gov.au/CDBS or servicesaustralia.gov.au and search for 'child dental benefits schedule'.
- Call Services Australia on 132 011.
- Ask your dentist about the CDBS!



* Amount indexed annually, this is the CDBS cap amount for 2022.
Current at October 2021

health.gov.au/CDBS

The Child Dental Benefits Schedule

The Child Dental Benefits Schedule (CDBS) covers part or the full cost of some dental services for eligible children.

WHAT IS COVERED

Eligible children can access up to **\$1,026*** for basic dental services over 2 calendar years.

The services covered include:

- dental check-ups
- cleaning
- x-rays
- fissure sealing
- fillings
- root canals
- extractions.

At your appointment check what each service will cost and if the CDBS covers the full cost of those services.

The CDBS does not cover:

- orthodontics
- cosmetic dental work
- any dental services in a hospital.

* Amount indexed annually, this is the CDBS cap amount for 2022.

Check if your child is eligible

You don't need to apply or register for the CDBS. If your child is eligible, you will automatically receive a letter to let you know.

Your child is eligible when:

- they are eligible for Medicare
- they are under 18
- they receive an eligible payment at least once that year, or you receive one as their parent or guardian.

You can find a list of eligible payments when you visit servicesaustralia.gov.au and search 'child dental benefits schedule'.

If you aren't sure if your child can access the CDBS this year, you can either:

- check your **Medicare online account** through MyGov at my.gov.au
- call Medicare on 132 011.

Finding a dentist

You can get child dental benefits for services at most dentists, whether they are public dental services provided by your State or Territory Government or private dental practices.

When you book an appointment:

- 1 let your dentist know that you want to use the CDBS, and
- 2 ask how much funding you have available under your CDBS cap.

PUBLIC OR PRIVATE?

A public dentist using the CDBS will bulk bill you and there will be no out-of-pocket expenses. Some private dentists bulk bill CDBS services.

Private dentists who do not bulk bill may charge a gap fee for services.

Ask your dentist when you book your appointment.

To find a dentist who bulk bills, use the 'find a health service' tool on the healthdirect website at:

[healthdirect.gov.au/
australia-health-services](https://healthdirect.gov.au/australia-health-services)



ATTACHMENT B: Fifth Review of the *Dental Benefits Act 2008*

Terms of Reference for the Fifth Review

The Review Panel will undertake the fifth independent review of the *Dental Benefits Act 2008* (the Act) having regard to the following Terms of Reference:

- The Review Panel will report on the administration of the Act and the extent to which it attains its purposes, including the operation of the CDBS.
- The Review Panel will assess the practical operation of the Act regarding the accessibility and delivery of services, and uptake (including barriers to uptake) of the CDBS by vulnerable cohorts, including an assessment of:
 - Service delivery to indigenous children and children in rural and/ or remote communities, and
 - Children with an intellectual disability as identified in the *National Roadmap for Improving the Health of People with Intellectual Disability*².
- The Review Panel may consider other opportunities to improve the operation and administration of the CDBS to allow for the efficient, effective and sustainable delivery of dental benefits and services.

Fifth Review Panel Membership

The Minister for Health and Aged Care has appointed the following members to the committee:

- Professor Michael Kidd AM – Deputy Chief Medical Officer, Department of Health and Aged Care [Chair]
- Professor Paul Kelly – Chief Medical Officer, Department of Health and Aged Care
- Dr Andrew Barnes – Dentist; representing private dental providers
- Dr Heather Cameron – Clinical Director of the Western NSW Local Health District; representing public dental providers
- Dr Martin Hall – Chief Oral Health Officer of Dental Health Services Victoria; representing public dental providers
- Dr Peter King – Special Needs Dentist; nominated by the Australia New Zealand Academy of Special Needs Dentistry
- Dr Jessica Manuela – Dentist; nominated by the Indigenous Dental Association of Australia and representing First Nations persons
- Mr Tan Nguyen – Oral Health Therapist; nominated by the Consumers Health Forum of Australia
- Dr Mihiri Silva – Dentist; nominated by the Australian Dental Association

² Australian Government (July 2021) *National Roadmap for Improving the Health of People with Intellectual Disability*; [National Roadmap for Improving the Health of People with Intellectual Disability | Australian Government Department of Health and Aged Care](#) (accessed 19 November 2021)