

# Australian Capital Territory Implementation Plan

## NATIONAL PARTNERSHIP AGREEMENT ON TREATING MORE PUBLIC DENTAL PATIENTS

### PART 1: PRELIMINARIES

1. This Implementation Plan is a schedule to the National Partnership Agreement on Treating More Public Dental Patients and should be read in conjunction with that Agreement. The objective in the National Partnership is to alleviate pressure on public dental waiting lists with a particular focus on Indigenous patients, patients at high risk of, or from, major oral health problems and those from rural areas
2. The National Partnership's outcome will be to improve the oral health of patients waiting on public dental waiting lists. In the Australian Capital Territory (ACT), this will be achieved by an additional output of 3,686 Dental Weighted Activity Units (DWAUs) over three years (2012 – 2015).

### PART 2: TERMS OF THIS IMPLEMENTATION PLAN

3. This Implementation Plan will commence as soon as it is agreed between the Commonwealth of Australia, represented by the Minister for Health, and the ACT, represented by the ACT Minister for Health.
4. As a schedule to the National Partnership Agreement on Treating More Public Dental Patients, the purpose of this Implementation Plan is to provide the public with an indication of how the project is intended to be delivered and demonstrate the ACT's capacity to achieve the outcomes of the National Partnership.
5. This Implementation Plan will cease on completion or termination of the National Partnership, including the acceptance of final performance reporting and processing of final payments against performance benchmarks or milestones.
6. This Implementation Plan may be varied by written agreement between the Commonwealth and State Ministers responsible for it under the overarching National Partnership.
7. The Parties to this Implementation Plan do not intend any of the provisions to be legally enforceable. However, that does not lessen the Parties' commitment to the plan and its full implementation.

## PART 3: STRATEGY FOR ACT IMPLEMENTATION

### Project information

8. The ACT plans to increase the number of clients removed from dental waiting lists by focussing on three specific areas, which include restorative services, denture services and general anaesthetic services for clients with complex care needs.
9. The project elements planned are as follows:
  - (a) Recruit Oral Health Professionals and administrative support staff;
  - (b) Operational costs;
  - (c) Referrals to the private sector via ACT Referral Schemes;
  - (d) External laboratory costs for dentures;
  - (e) Purchase General Anaesthetic sessions from the private sector; and
  - (f) Upgrade the current dental electronic client management system.

**Table 1: Project elements**

No.	Title	Short description	Planned start date	Planned end date
1	Recruitment of additional staff	Dentists, Oral Health Therapists, Dental Assistants, a Prosthetist and Administrative Officers will be employed to manage and treat clients removed from the restorative and denture public waiting lists.	1/1/2013	30/6/2015
2	Operational expenses	Includes, but not limited to, dental instruments, supplies, domestic services and pharmaceuticals.	1/1/2013	30/6/2015
3	Referral of clients through private sector dental schemes	Dentists currently contracted to ACT Health Directorate to provide general dental and prosthetic services will be utilised.	1/1/2013	30/6/2015
4	Laboratory costs	Current ACT Health Directorate laboratory and full capacity – additional lab work will be sent to private laboratories currently contracted with ACT Health Directorate.	1/1/2013	30/6/2015
5	General Anaesthetic Session Costs	Additional General Anaesthetic sessions for clients with special needs and children on dental waiting lists.	1/1/2012	30/6/2014
6	Upgrade Titanium	Project costs associated with the upgrade of the Titanium client electronic database.	1/3/2013	1/6/2013

### Estimated costs

10. The maximum financial contribution to be provided by the Commonwealth for the project to the ACT is \$5.47 million payable in accordance with performance benchmarks set out in Part 4 of the National Partnership. All payments are exclusive of GST.
11. The estimated overall budget (exclusive of GST) is set out in Table 2. The budget is indicative only and the ACT retains the flexibility to move funds between components and/or years, as long as outcomes are not affected. The Commonwealth contribution can only be moved between years with the agreement of the Commonwealth.

**Table 2: Estimated financial contributions**

(\$)	Year 1	Year 2	Year 3	Total
Element 1	448,608	1,907,379	1,942,187	4,298,175
Element 2	131,750	249,900	258,636	640,286
Element 3	36,020	-	-	36,020
Element 4	82,921	148,907	137,479	369,307
Element 5	20,700	20,700	-	41,400
Element 6	89,427	-	-	89,427
<b>Total Commonwealth contribution</b>	<b>809,427</b>	<b>2,326,886</b>	<b>2,338,302</b>	<b>5,474,615</b>

**Program logic**

12. The project elements detailed in this Implementation Plan will achieve the outcomes and objectives stated in the National Partnership by:
- (a) expanding the workforce capacity available to deliver the required additional dental services;
  - (b) ensuring appropriate support services and supplies are available to facility delivery of additional dental services. This includes elements such as additional instruments, supplies, pharmaceuticals and laboratory access;
  - (c) improved patient management, including upgrading a client data base and recruiting an administrative officer to coordinate the additional removals off the waiting lists, monitor performance and manage reporting requirements; and
  - (d) utilisation of private sector capacity to ensure increase dental service volume can be met.
13. The way in which these project elements will achieve the outcomes and objectives set out in the National Partnership is detailed in Table 3 below.

**Table 3: Program logic**

Project elements	Outputs	Outcomes	Project Objectives
Element 1	Recruitment of additional Dentists, Oral Health Therapists, Dental Assistants, a Prosthetist and Administrative Officers	Increased workforce capacity to deliver dental services	To improve access to public dental services for those on public dental waiting lists by delivering an additional 3,686 Dental Weighted Activity Units (DWAUs) over three years (2012 – 2015).
Element 2	Operational expenses	Ensure appropriate supplies and consumables are available to support an increased dental service delivery load.	
Element 3	Referral of clients through private sector dental schemes	Increased capacity to facilitate increased service volume.	

Element 4	Utilisation of private laboratories.	Ensure delivery of increased service volumes is not curtailed by blockages in laboratory services.	
Element 5	Additional General Anaesthetic sessions for clients with special needs and children on dental waiting lists.	Increased service delivery to target groups requiring general anaesthetic to receive care.	
Element 6	Upgrade client electronic database	Facilitate improved patient management, which will improve patient flow.	

### **Risk management**

14. Implementation of the Agreement in the ACT is overseen by the ACT Health Directorate National Health Reform Steering Committee. This committee has been established with the role of providing governance, oversight and advice in relation to negotiation and implementation of national agreements and partnerships. The committee meets monthly and is chaired by the Director-General of the ACT Health Directorate.
15. A risk management plan is in place. Risks have been actively identified, entered into a risk log and categorised in terms of impact and likelihood.
16. Having regard to the estimated costs of project elements specified in the overall project budget, the ACT will not be required to pay a refund to the Commonwealth if the actual cost of the project is less than the agreed estimated cost of the project. Similarly, the ACT bears all risk should the costs of a project exceed the estimated costs. The Parties acknowledge that this arrangement provides the maximum incentive for the State to deliver projects cost-effectively and efficiently.

### **Relevant State or Territory Context**

17. In developing this Implementation Plan consideration has been given to relevant state or territory context. Key factors that have influenced the proposed direction are listed below :
  - (a) a combination of dental activity will be completed in house by recruiting additional oral health practitioners, and externally by the private sector; and
  - (b) the three specific areas of focus that will be targeted are restorative services, denture services and general anaesthetic services for clients with complex care needs.

## Sign off

The Parties have confirmed their commitment to this agreement as follows:

Signature

*Katy Gough*

Date

20.12.12

ACT Minister for Health

Signature

*T. Lutens*

Date

21.1.13

Commonwealth Minister for Health