

South Australian 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. Summary

The broad focus will be on reducing existing denture, restorative and specialist waiting times. This will apply to both metropolitan and especially country areas of South Australia.

Some South Australian regional and rural areas have waiting times significantly longer than the State Average. Improving access in country locations is multifaceted and complex. Nevertheless there will be a particular focus on reducing waiting times in country areas of the State under this NPA. The specific country locations targeted will change over the life of the Agreement. In the first year of the Agreement the focus will be on the South East, Yorke Peninsula and Riverland areas of SA.

Existing successful strategies to improve access for Indigenous people in both metro and country locations will be strengthened and expanded. In addition there will be a renewed focus on people at high risk of, and from, oral health problems including people with a disability or other special needs, those experiencing chronic disease, older people and other high risk groups.

Implementation will also incorporate the recruitment of additional SA Dental Service salaried staff as well as an increase in the use of private sector dental schemes.

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 of Health, and the State of South Australia, represented by the Minister for Health and Ageing.

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 reduction in public dental waiting lists, and increased dental treatment for public patients in South Australia is intended to be delivered and demonstrate South Australia'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 SOUTH AUSTRALIA IMPLEMENTATION

Project information

8. The project elements planned are
 - Reductions in waiting times for denture, restorative dental and specialist dental services and
 - Improved access to public dental care for South Australians living in rural areas.

These elements will incorporate a focus on:

- Further strengthening and expansion of existing strategies that have successfully improved access to dental care for Indigenous people in both metropolitan and country locations.
- Renewed focus on people with special needs, including people with disabilities, older people and those experiencing chronic disease where oral health impacts, or potentially impacts, on general health.
- Developing and implementing strategies to better utilise members of the existing dental team and to further build capacity amongst allied health providers.

Table 1: Project elements

No.	Title	Short description	Planned start date	Planned end date
1	Reductions in waiting lists in the Adelaide metropolitan area.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Reduce existing denture, restorative and specialist waiting times in metropolitan areas. • Patients on existing waiting lists will be progressively approached and offered care. • This care will be provided by: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Salaried SA Dental Service staff • Dental Students • Private dental providers under private dental schemes. • Existing strategies which have successfully targeted Indigenous clients will be strengthened and expanded. • Waiting list strategies will incorporate a renewed focus on people at high risk of, and from, oral health problems including people with disabilities and special needs, those experiencing chronic disease, older people and other high risk client groups. • The project will incorporate: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The recruitment of additional salaried public dental staff. • Optimising use of the available dental workforce and broader allied health workers • Extended use of existing purchased private dental schemes. • Development of private dental specialist schemes to reduce waiting times for specialist care. 	7/1/2013	31/03/2015
2.	Reductions in waiting lists in country areas of South Australia.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Additional resources will be allocated to country areas to reduce waiting times. This may incorporate: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Recruitment of additional salaried public dental staff. • Optimising use of the available dental workforce and broader allied health workers • Extended use of purchased private dental schemes. 	7/1/2013	31/03/2015

No.	Title	Short description	Planned start date	Planned end date
		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Improve access to specialist care in regional locations. Existing strategies which have successfully targeted Indigenous clients will be strengthened and expanded. This will include Indigenous communities in both regional and remote areas. Waiting list strategies will incorporate a renewed focus on people at high risk of, and from, oral health problems including people with disabilities and special needs, those experiencing chronic disease, older people and other high risk client groups. Work with the private dental sector and the Australian Dental Association (SA Branch) to encourage use of available Commonwealth funding to improve the dentist to population ratios in country South Australia. 	7/1/2013	31/03/2015

Estimated costs

- The maximum financial contribution to be provided by the Commonwealth for the project to the jurisdiction is \$ \$27.7m payable in accordance with milestones/performance benchmarks set out in Part 4 of the National Partnership.
- The estimated overall budget (exclusive of GST) is set out in Table 2. The budget is indicative only and South Australia 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

(\$ million)	Year 1	Year 2	Year 3	Total
Element 1 – Metro Waiting Lists	3.4	7.5	5.8	16.7
Element 2 – Country Waiting Lists	2.2	5.0	3.8	11.0
Total estimated budget	5.6	12.5	9.6	27.7

Program logic

- The way in which these project elements will achieve the outcomes and objectives set out in the National Partnership are summarised in Table 3 below.

Table 3: Program logic

Project elements	Outputs	Outcomes
Element 1 Reductions in waiting lists in the Adelaide metropolitan area.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Additional DWAU Activity. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Metropolitan waiting times are reduced
Element 2 Reductions in waiting lists in country areas of South Australia.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Additional DWAU Activity. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Country waiting times are reduced Specific targeted country location waiting times are reduced.

Risk management

12. Project Risks will be managed in line with standard SA Health and Central Adelaide Local Health Network policies and procedures. This includes the logging of identified risks, categorisation of all risks in terms of impact and likelihood and regular monitoring of risk mitigation strategies.

Relevant State Context

13. In developing this Implementation Plan consideration has been given to relevant state context. Key factors that have influenced the proposed direction are:

a) Establishment of Wallaroo Community Dental Clinic

SA Dental Service via SA Health has been awarded \$3.3M under the Commonwealth Health and Hospitals Fund (HHF) Round 2 to establish a new child and adult Community Dental Clinic for the Yorke Peninsula area to be located at Wallaroo.

This new clinic will increase the capacity in the local chairs from the current 3 dental chairs to 5 dental chairs. When complete in mid 2013 this increased capacity will contribute to reductions in local waiting times.

b) Expansion of Mt Gambier Community Dental Clinic

SA Health has been awarded \$26.7M under the Commonwealth Health and Hospitals Fund (HHF) Round 2 to re-develop the Mount Gambier Hospital.

This capital project includes the expansion of the existing Mount Gambier Community Dental Clinic from its current 6 dental chair capacity to 10 dental chairs.

When complete in mid 2014 this increased capacity will contribute to reductions in local waiting times.

c) Establishment of new Port Lincoln Community Dental Clinic

SA Health has been awarded \$39.2M under the Commonwealth Health and Hospitals Fund (HHF) Round 2 to establish a new child and adult

Community Dental Clinic in Port Lincoln as part of a broader redevelopment of the Port Lincoln Hospital.

This new clinic will increase the capacity in the local area from the current 4 dental chairs to 7 dental chairs. When complete in mid 2014 this increased capacity will enable increased local service delivery and contribute to reductions in local waiting times.

d) Establishment of Riverland Oral Health Centre

The University of Adelaide has been awarded \$6.0M under the Commonwealth Health and Hospitals Fund (HHF) Round 2 to establish a new community dental clinic in Berrri to service the Riverland population. SA Dental Service will manage the day to day operations of this new facility and its focus will be on the treatment of child and adult public dental patients.

The expanded clinic will increase the capacity in the local area from the current 6 dental chairs to 10 dental chairs. It is expected this clinic will be established during the life of this Agreement. When complete this increased capacity will contribute to reductions in local waiting times.

e) Voluntary Dental Graduate Year Program

The Commonwealth Government announced in May 2012 its intention to establish a Voluntary Dental Graduate Year Program (VDGYP).

Further announcements in August 2012 expanded this Program to include additional dentist graduates as well as oral health therapists. SA has expressed interest in hosting 16 dentist graduates under this program, with 2 graduates in the first year of the program (2013), 6 in year two and 8 in year 3. It is envisaged these graduates will contribute to activity required under this Agreement.

f) Private Sector Dental Schemes to Purchase Dental Care

Private dental schemes are in place to support the achievement of reduced denture and restorative waiting times. SA Dental Service envisages establishing a series of specialist dental schemes to support reductions in specialist waiting times in SA. The success of these is contingent on the private specialist sector agreeing to participate.

g) Aboriginal Liaison Program.

SA has a successful program to improve oral health for Aboriginal people. This program has contributed to a 260% increase in the number of Aboriginal adults treated in SA Dental Service in the past five years. The program is jointly funded by the SA and Commonwealth Governments. This program will be strengthened and expanded over the life of the project.

h) Dental Workforce in Country Areas.

The ratio of dentists to population in South Australia is more favourable in metropolitan areas than in country locations.

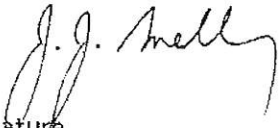
SA Dental Service will continue to work with SA Health and the Australian Dental Association (SA Branch) to increase the numbers of dental providers in rural areas. This will include:

- Use of the Public Dental Sector Workforce Scheme for overseas qualified dentists.

- Use of the VDGYP as outlined above.
- Innovative approaches with the private dental sector with respect to shared infrastructure solutions including use of Commonwealth Flexible Grants to support strategies requiring new/improved infrastructure.

Sign off

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

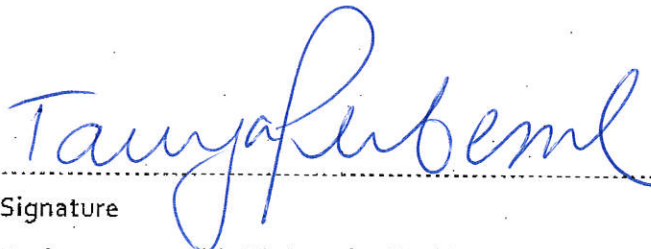


Signature

Date

6.5.13

SA Minister for Health and Ageing



Signature

Date

14.5.13

By Commonwealth Minister for Health