

Implementation Plan for Indigenous mobile dental infrastructure: Alice Springs

National Partnership Agreement on Health Infrastructure

PRELIMINARIES

1. This Implementation Plan is created subject to the provisions of the National Partnership Agreement on Health Infrastructure and should be read in conjunction with that Agreement. The objective of the National Partnership is to improve the health and wellbeing of Australians through the provision of high quality physical and technological health infrastructure.
2. This initiative has been established under the 2009-10 Budget measure Closing the Gap – Indigenous dental services in rural and regional areas.

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 Ageing, and the Northern Territory, represented by the Minister for Health.
4. This Implementation Plan will cease on completion of the Project as specified in this Implementation Plan, including the acceptance of final performance reporting and processing of final payments against performance benchmarks specified in this Implementation Plan.
5. This Implementation Plan may be varied by written agreement between the Ministers.
6. Either Party may terminate this agreement by providing 30 Days' notice in writing. Where this Implementation Plan is terminated, the Commonwealth's liability to make payments to the Northern Territory is limited to payments associated with performance benchmarks achieved by the Northern Territory by the date of effect of termination of this Implementation Plan.
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 this Implementation Plan.

PROJECT OBJECTIVE

8. The objective of this Project is to improve the oral health of Indigenous communities in Alice Springs and surrounds by providing mobile dental infrastructure to the Northern Territory to assist its provision of dental services.

ROLES AND RESPONSIBILITIES

Role of the Commonwealth

9. The Commonwealth is responsible for reviewing the Northern Territory's performance against the project benchmarks specified in this Implementation Plan and providing any consequential financial contribution to the Northern Territory for that performance.

Role of the Northern Territory

10. The Northern Territory is responsible for all aspects of project implementation, including:
 - (a) fully funding the Project, after accounting for financial contributions from the Commonwealth and any third party;
 - (b) completing the Project in a timely and professional manner in accordance with this Implementation Plan;
 - (c) meeting all conditions including providing reports in accordance with this Implementation Plan;
 - (d) using this equipment for delivery of dental services for the Indigenous populations in Alice Springs and surrounding areas for a period of five (5) years;
 - (e) appropriate maintenance of the dental equipment for a period of five (5) years;
 - (f) all associated infrastructure and capital works carried out in connection with the acquisition, maintenance and utilisation of the equipment; and
 - (g) notification to the Commonwealth of the commencement date of the provision of dental services utilising this vehicle and equipment.

PERFORMANCE BENCHMARKS AND FINANCIAL ARRANGEMENTS

11. The maximum financial contribution to be provided by the Commonwealth for the Project is \$300,000.00, payable in accordance with performance benchmarks set out in Table 1. All payments are exclusive of GST.

Table 1: Performance benchmarks and associated payments

Performance benchmark	Due date	Amount
Report that procurement activity has commenced.	Expected by 7 June 2010	\$300,000

12. Any Commonwealth financial contribution payable will be processed by the Commonwealth Treasury and paid to the Northern Territory Treasury in accordance with the payment arrangements set out in Schedule D of the *Intergovernmental Agreement on Federal Financial Relations*.

BUDGET

13. The overall project budget (exclusive of GST) is set out in Table 2.

Table 2: Overall project budget

(\$ million)	2009-10
Report that procurement activity has commenced.	\$300,000
Total estimated project budget	\$300,000
<i>less</i> estimated Commonwealth contribution	\$300,000
<i>equals</i> estimated Territory contribution	\$0

14. Having regard to the estimated costs of projects specified in the overall project budget, the Northern Territory 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 Northern Territory 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 Northern Territory to deliver projects cost-effectively and efficiently.

REPORTING ARRANGEMENTS

15. The Northern Territory will provide project reports to the Commonwealth.

16. Project reports will contain the following information:

- a) an initial report that procurement activity has commenced;
- b) a report providing available baseline information on the oral health status of the communities covered under the Project, due by 1 December 2010;
- c) six-monthly progress reports on service delivery due on the 1st of June and 1st of December each year for three (3) years from 2010-11 to 2012-13. The first progress report is due 1st June 2011. These reports will report against the following items:
 - I. patient characteristics [age; Indigenous status; reason for attendance; decayed, missing and filled teeth (DMFT) status; number and type of service items received] for every patient who presents under the Project during the reporting period;
 - II. community level activity reports identifying the number of service items by service item number provided under the Project during the reporting period;
 - III. promotional activities undertaken in relation to, and media coverage of, the Project during the reporting period;
 - IV. description of the work that will be undertaken to complete the Project;
 - V. description of progress on the inclusion of additional patient characteristics in the activity reports (eg other indicators of oral health status, known risk factors such as diabetes, information relating to dental visits in the previous 12 months); and

- VI. description of any delays or difficulties in undertaking the Project and the strategies adopted to address them.
17. A final project report is due within 60 Business Days of the completion of the Project (completion date is 30 June 2013) or termination of this Implementation Plan.
18. The final project report will be a stand-alone document that can be used for public information dissemination purposes regarding the Project and must:
 - a) describe the number and type of services provided by the Northern Territory for the Project period;
 - b) describe the conduct, benefits and outcomes of the Project as a whole;
 - c) describe the extent to which the objective in this Implementation Plan has been achieved and explain why any aspects were not achieved; and
 - d) include a discussion of any other matters relating to the Project, which the Commonwealth notifies the Northern Territory should be included in the final project report at least 30 days before it is due.