

**Attorney-General
Minister for Justice
Minister for Health
Minister for Veterans' Affairs**

Level 5, 4 Salamanca Place HOBART TAS 7000 Australia
GPO Box 123 HOBART TAS 7001 Australia
Phone: +61 3 6165 7678



MIN23/2358

20 October 2023

Senator Jordon Steele-John
Chair
Select Committee into the Provision of and access
to Dental Services in Australia
dental.services.sen@aph.gov.au

Dear Senator Steele-John

Thank you for your letter requesting information on eligibility for public dental services within Tasmania. Please note the following responses to your questions.

1. What are the eligibility criteria for public, or government subsidised, dental and oral health services in Tasmania?

• Adults:

Subsidised emergency, general and denture services are available to adults who have a Services Australia Health Care or Pensioner Concession Card, or DVA Pensioner Concession, Gold, or White card holders.

There is no concession card requirement for special care dental services (on referral), asylum seekers, prison dental services and for emergency care in remote areas.

• Children:

Free, universal service for all children aged 0-17 years.

2. When were these criteria developed, and by whom?

Eligibility for public dental services was last reviewed within the 1997 Review of Publicly Funded Dental Services in Tasmania. This review was commissioned by the Tasmanian Government Department of Health and undertaken by Dr Garth Dever, Director of Westmead Hospital Dental Clinical School. The eligibility recommendations were implemented.

3. Since they were developed, have these criteria been reviewed? If so, when was this done, and what was the outcome?

Since the 1997 review there has been no broad review of eligibility criteria. There have been additional priority population groups added to the eligible client group. These are eligibility criteria for people with special needs, asylum seekers and people requiring emergency care in remote areas.

4. Does the Tasmanian Government have any plans to review these criteria in the future?

There are currently no plans to review the eligibility criteria.

5. Has the Tasmanian Government received any evidence—including significant anecdotal evidence—that these criteria may not be fit-for-purpose?

No evidence has been received indicating that the eligibility criteria are not fit-for-purpose.

Should you have any further queries, I encourage your office to contact Oral Health Services Tasmania by emailing ohstadmin@health.tas.gov.au to discuss.

Yours sincerely

Hon Guy Barnett MP
Minister for Health